

ReachOut™
YOUTH SOLUTIONS



**Country Leader
Christopher Ochieng**

2023 UPDATE

KENYA



A world in need of a Savior...

Reach Out's global impact in 2023



Reach Out Global Map

God moved mightily through our Reach Out team in 2023, more than we ever could have imagined! Investing into the training and equipping of youth leaders is crucial in spreading the message of the gospel to the younger generation. Our Country Leaders witnessed God's hand in allowing our team to train and equip more than **5,000 youth leaders** this past year who are now implementing the six essential characteristics taught through Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry into local churches in countries all over the world. Accounts were received about the impact of our JFYM Forums that brought newly certified Eagle Leaders (leaders who are now equipped to train other leaders), churches planted, and onlookers saved. Over **18,000 students were saved** through the ministries of those trained in **Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry**. And thousands more are currently being disciplined into disciple-makers for their generation!

JFYM Forums have sparked the establishment of **85 new churches in just one year**. These churches addressed crucial needs in areas where JFYM Forums were held. Thousands of students also participated in biblical training when our teams were allowed to enter schools in certain countries. Students were given the opportunity to participate in activities that impacted their spiritual, emotional, and relational growth. One of our Country Leaders has even been invited by their government officials to create such a program in their nation!

New opportunities were plentiful in 2023. Youth leader training started in **Pakistan** and **Belize**. Translations were completed in **Hindi** (India) and **Kirundi** (Burundi). And, we were able to add **Ukrainian** as an additional language to our JFYM online training platform! We also trained Links International missionaries from multiple countries in JFYM.

Reach Out hosted its First Annual Golf Tournament early in 2023, which was a great success and was enjoyed by all who participated. We were also able to highlight Reach Out Youth Solutions and Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry at the Southern Baptist Convention, the Texas Baptist General Convention, and Movement Day at Dallas Baptist University.

Thank you for your generosity, support and prayers throughout 2023 to help us extend God's love to the countries we serve. We would not be able to do it without you and your faithfulness in coming alongside us. **Thank you!**



Youth embarked...

on a journey that changed the trajectory of their lives...

Spring blossomed into a season of hope and renewal for the youth in Kenya. Almost **240 teens** gathered for a week-long youth event at **Ruiru Baptist Church** that turned out to be an unforgettable experience of faith, fellowship, and personal transformation.

Many of the teens were already **participating in a discipleship program** with the team so they were full of anticipation. The teens participated in team-building exercises that emphasized the importance of community and support among themselves. These activities helped to solidify friendships and build a strong foundation for future discipleship. One of the most significant outcomes of the week was over **30 new believers accepted Jesus Christ into their lives!**

This momentous decision is a testament to the power of faith and the impact of dedicated discipleship programs. There was joy and excitement among the new believers as they took their first steps in a journey that changed their lives forever!



Lifting Up in Prayer...

life
circumstances
intercepted...

March brought two urgent prayer requests to our team. The first was for a high school student named **Charles Okoth Odondo** whom Charles Juma had been sponsoring by disciplining him and providing funding for his education. On his way home from choir practice in the spring, Okoth was viciously attacked by a group of thugs, who **severely beat him within inches of his life**. Above is a “before” photo and above right is a photo of him in a coma in ICU. The doctors did not expect him to live, but we had hope when he briefly opened his eyes for the first time and then was unconscious again. We put out an urgent prayer request for God to heal him completely. **See the miraculous outcome on p. 8!**

The second was from **Charles Juma** [bottom right], who found himself **holed up in a hotel room with tear gas in his eyes as bullets raced over the building as rioters yelled outside**. This was his reality overnight as protests and riots continued against the Kenyan government. We again asked our team to pray, and Charles survived the night, but will never forget the traumatic moments and pain he endured until the sun rose once again. God preserved him to face another day!





God touched 4 schools...

in 4 hours...

Our May school ministry outreach in **Malindi** proved to be a beacon of hope and transformation. Utilizing JFYM principles, our team successfully shared the Gospel in May with **four schools in just four hours**, leading to the **salvation of 220 teenagers!** This experience not only changed lives, but also reinforces the importance of doing ministry in educational settings [left].

They continued with specialized training focused on building movements and small group formulation. **60 pastors** showed up, hungry to learn more [bottom].





Fishing for men in the least expected place...

God brought many to be saved on the shores of a lake...

In the summer, some of our leaders began a beach ministry along the shores of **Lake Victoria**. They felt led to do so when they saw in these youth what Jesus meant in Matthew 9:35–38. They saw that many teens were lost hanging out on the beaches and getting involved with destructive behaviors. Eagle Leader **Isaac Okoth** also shared the gospel with several fisherman and other young people [above] and *many of them received Jesus as their Savior on the spot!*

Our Kenya team also serves **widows and orphans** in their nation, believing that God has called them to care for them. Throughout the year, they host a meal

gathering, hold worship, provide them with basic necessities, provide an eye clinic, do Bible study, and minister to them [left].



God gave us favor...

in hosting an unexpected, indigenously funded JFYM Forum...

In August, Western Regional Leader **Enock Ambokah** hosted an *indigenously funded* and highly successful JFYM Forum in **Butere, Kenya**. **16 teens renewed their commitment to Christ**. 34 leaders were trained in all, and our team was highly encouraged because this was an *answer to prayer*. This training was promoted as a model for leaders throughout the country, so there is potential to significantly advance the multiplication of youth ministry training in Kenya because of it.





Our Kenya school ministry continued the reach thousands of students within a few months after our team's May dash of 4 schools in 4 hours...

Western Regional Leader Pastor **Joseph Chiteri** shared the gospel with more than **90 students** in western Kenya at a school ministry event in July.

Then in August, Eagle Leader **Isaac Okoth** and his team shared the gospel using JFYM principles during evangelistic youth rallies at schools and more than **600 students** received Jesus as their Savior in **Homa Bay!**



Finding Jesus at school...

thousands of students ministered to...





God further equipped and qualified...

our leaders for the future...

When our leaders recognized that, in order to minister, the Kenyan government may soon change the requirements for religious leaders to have proper education credentials. So our team got a head start. **Logos Bible College in India** offered to *travel to Kenya, train and certify our leaders with a youth ministry degree for FREE!* We are more than ecstatic to say they all “passed.”

Also in August, our Kenyan team donated time to a local orphanage, by *repainting the entire facility* [bottom right]!



God's redemption...

and goodness from what the enemy meant for harm...



Hundreds of students are sponsored by our leaders who provide them with clothing, school supplies and/or fees for school. Many of these students are orphaned or missing one parent and **would not be able to attend school without this help.** These students are also being disciplined by our leaders who help them share their faith with others. Here's a snapshot of a dinner our Kenya team held for several of these students to celebrate all that God has done. **AND...**

One of those students was high school student **Charles Okoth**. Just six months earlier, the doctors did not expect him to live. Trapped in a coma in ICU, our team continued to visit him in the hospital and pray. He didn't just open his eyes, but he was **almost completely healed** and in full swing once again on his journey with Christ. He gathered with his peers in October [left center] to celebrate all God has done for them!



God opened doors... others couldn't...

Nairobi Regional Leader **Mark Juma**, Kenya Country Leader **Christopher Ochieng**, and Eagle Leader **Thomas Chacha** prayed for months asking God to open the door to minister to and train a hard-to-reach **warrior tribe** near the Tanzanian border. In October, they held a meeting at the only local church, and 60 members of the tribe unexpectedly attended to hear what our team had to say. When they heard the message of the gospel, they realized they had failed their youth by bringing them up to steal, beat, and take advantage of people. Numerous members of the tribe **repented and received Jesus as their Savior**. So many other Christians had tried to reach them before. God's timing is always perfect. Their hearts were finally ready to receive Him.



Collage of year-end blessings...

God ended the year with fruitful beginnings...

Just in December [starting top left going clockwise]...

- Our JFYM Soccer Team baptized 19 peers [upper left 1 and 2]
- Five of our Eagle Leaders are blessed to be mentoring 1200 high school students in 12 high schools [3 above]
- Our team held a youth conference that brought together over 500 high school and university students, and 18 were baptized [top right down]
- Western Regional Leader Pastor Joseph Chitieri used music to penetrate the culture and then share the gospel and it was a huge community success [2 bottom middle]
- Eagle Leader Joseph Omondi held a school ministry event, and 45 high school students gave their lives to Christ [bottom left]
- 4th quarter Homa Bay JFYM Forum [left]





The JFYM Forum in May brought so many people – **72 to be exact** – that our team needed 4 of our Eagle Leaders to lead the training! And even more blessing came when **17 of those attendees became certified as JFYM Eagle Leaders** [2 upper left].

In November, Eagle Leader **James Mwenda** led the man in the black t-shirt [center] to the Lord using JFYM principles! We have been receiving more and more stories about how God is mightily using our leaders. Much has been happening as a result of our Forums.

Also in November, James' father, Eagle Leader **Rev. Samuel Mwenda**, used JFYM principles to reach young people and pastors at **Karama Baptist Church in Meru County**. He led the two teens beside him to receive Jesus as their Savior [fourth on left].

And then Eagle Leader **Jerusha Washuka** visited surrounding communities after attending a JFYM Forum to share the gospel with all of the youth she could and, on the side of the road, led this teen to the Lord after he heard about Jesus [bottom].

So many stories came from our Kenyan team this year that we are not even able to share them all. But we are so grateful and give all glory to the Lord for opening doors and providing a way for so many to be trained, equipped, saved, and discipled.

We appreciate your kindness, support, prayers and gifts in helping the impossible happen in a nation that is facing great economic challenges. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us and for all that God is going to do through our team in Kenya as we follow His lead!

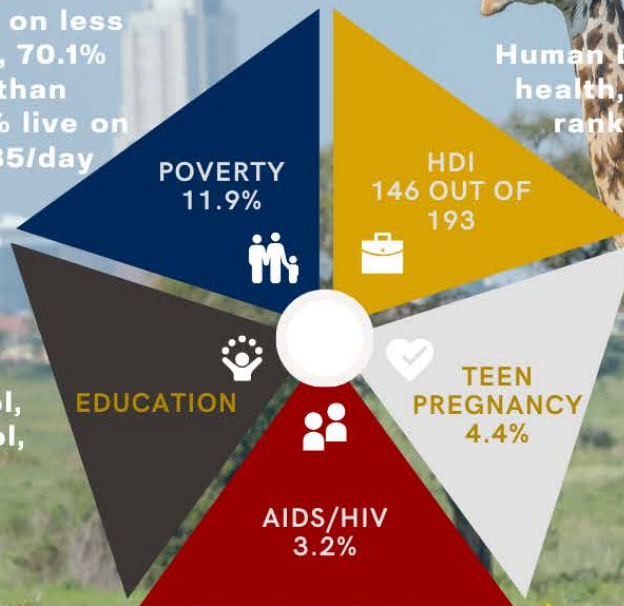


COUNTRY STATISTICS KENYA

POPULATION = 15.1 million

36.1% are living on less than \$2.15/day, 70.1% live on less than \$3.65/day, 91.3% live on less than \$6.85/day

Human Development Index = health, education, income rankings in the world



of girls ages 15-19

women higher at 4.3% than men at 2.1%

85% attend primary school, 42% attend lower secondary school, 36% attend upper secondary school, 79% complete primary school

Challenges

- 42% of the population is under 17 years old
- 125 political violence events and 175 deaths occurred from anti-government protests due to increased costs of living happened from July 29-Sept 15
- 30 people died suffocating from tear gas or shootings during protests between March-July
- Only 42% of students attend lower secondary school and 36% attend upper secondary school because though public schools are free, parents must pay for textbooks, uniforms, and teachers' salaries
- 31% have access to safe sanitation, 5% have access to basic sanitation, ZERO access to safe drinking water and basic water, 63% have access to at least basic water
- Drought from years prior brought severe famine. The U.S. provided an additional \$126m in food assistance
- Half of the population is multidimensionally poor, including nutrition, education, and services
- Cholera outbreak of over 7k people in the north, 122 deaths

Reach Out

- A gift of \$1,000 helps indigenous leaders train 50 youth pastors through an "in-person" forum in their country.
- A gift of \$500 helps provide scholarships to train and mentor 20 youth pastors online.
- A gift of \$200 (\$3.85 per week) helps us equip 1 leader for 1 year, with the goal of that leader moving from being introduced to JFYM to implementing and multiplying JFYM. As a result, that new leader will begin training 3 additional leaders, so that from those 4 new leaders, there are a total of 12 young people disciplined and praying for opportunities to influence 36 of their friends to follow Jesus.
- A monthly gift of \$100 helps us continue current ministry to leaders around the world who are trained and resourced through Reach Out.

Sources:

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