

ReachOut™
YOUTH SOLUTIONS



**Country Leader
Billy Banda**

2023 UPDATE

MALAWI



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!**



51 youth leaders and youth pastors from the surrounding area attended our first quarter JFYM training [right]. Two attendees shared testimonial videos of how the training helped them gain insight for going forward in reaching their local youth for Christ.

Samuel [above] shared that he learned we need to respect leaders and learn from them, not just do things on our own. Leaders should also spend more time with their disciples and help them to carry the mantle of God. As leaders, we should also take time to pray and to teach the youth how to pray.

This pastor felt that the JFYM principles are so simple yet so profound. He recommends that JFYM equip many in the coming months. We need to spread the principles



God kicked off the year... equipping many for the coming months...

all over Malawi because it is one of the teachings that is bringing revival in their country and Africa at large.





**God still moving...
when disaster struck the
nation and our leaders...**

**Read about Cyclone Freddy and how it
affected our team on p. 8**



Malawi's JFYM Forum in June created a vibrant atmosphere filled with enthusiasm, dedication, and a shared commitment to make a difference in the lives of young people. One of the core pillars of these trainings is the emphasis on a Jesus-focused approach to youth ministry, fostering a deeper connection with the youth, and how to guide them on their faith journey. The principles also focus on leaders' spiritual growth and equip them with practical tools and strategies to effectively engage the younger generation.

**and equipping them
for the kingdom...**

**Pressing on
with impacting
leaders...**

God's unexpected blessings...

how doubt changed to devotion to Jesus in these teens' hearts...

Our JFYM Forum in September took place in the Thyolo District. Eagle Leaders Patrick Msoyo and Moses Dzonzi led the Forum, which was attended by **62 participants from 10 denominations**. The photos are of **31 teens who made the decision to get baptized** just after the Forum despite Malawi still recovering from the aftermath of Cyclone Freddy.





God continued moving...

through our team to the end of an “impossible” year...

Imagine a gathering where the energy and passion of over 35 youth leaders converged to learn, grow, and deepen their understanding of how to lead with a Jesus-focused approach. This was the scene at the last JFYM Forum of the year in Chilonga, where God's hand was evident in bringing together these young minds for a common purpose -- reaching the younger generation for Jesus. The impact of this Forum extended far beyond the event itself. As these young leaders returned to their homes and churches, they carried with them a renewed sense of purpose and vision. Their ministries were infused with a fresh perspective, inspired by the teachings and spiritual growth made during the Forum.



The impact of Cyclone Freddy in Malawi was devastating and could potentially take years for the region to recover. Some things are gone for good...lives, hopes, and properties. Still, there are those whose lives the Lord spared and who are now living in camps in deplorable conditions.



Billy Banda became responsible for many people who suffered from the cyclone. Some are pastors, while others are his relatives, many of whom have been trained in JFYM. Our team sent us catastrophic videos of just one out of the thousands of homes that literally slid down a mountain right in front of them. Another video of what appeared to be a “river” but was a flash flood caused by the cyclone that came so suddenly, people needed to be saved because they were caught in the rushing water. The destruction has impacted hundreds of thousands who were at the mercy of the cyclone. Praise God for Billy and his team who were quick to act as the body of Christ and minister to those who desperately needed it.

[Screenshots of the two videos upper right, with a link to the videos at the bottom of the page.]

Blessings continued when Billy Banda was invited to speak directly to the Malawi Baptist Convention about Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry in August. We are so grateful for God opening doors of opportunity for our team to empower others in extending the Good News.

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

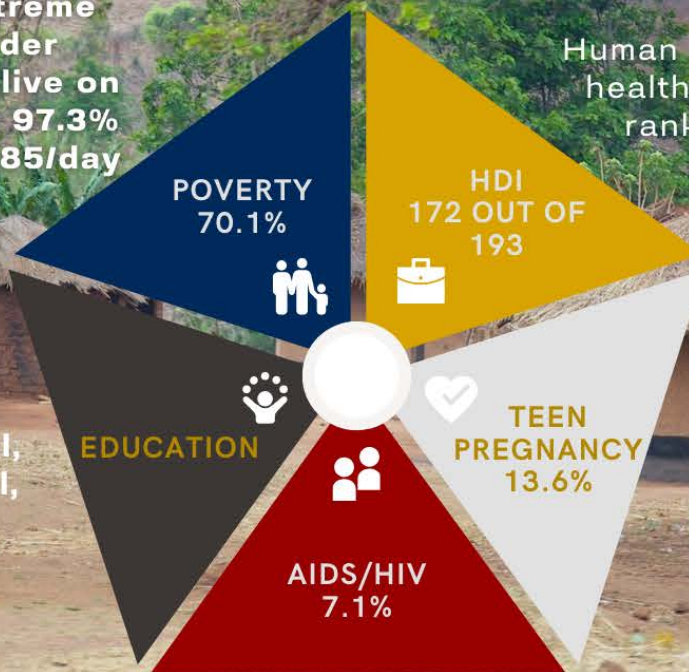
Videos: bit.ly/cyclonefreddymalawi

COUNTRY STATISTICS MALAWI

POPULATION = 20.9 million

70.1% live in extreme poverty of under \$2.15/day, 89.1% live on under \$3.65/day, 97.3% live on under \$6.85/day

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



7.1% for population ages 15-49, with women much higher at 8.9% than men at 5.2%

Challenges

- High inflation for food at 47.1% and non-food at 22.2%
- Estimated that 31% of children are unidentified and untreated with HIV
- Tropical Cyclone Freddy in Feb-March caused 659,000 people to be displaced, killed over 679, destroyed over 104,000 homes, affected over 440,000 acres of land, 1.4 million livestock were drowned, starved or lost
- After Cyclone Freddy by mid-December, a considerable portion of Malawi had not received sufficient rains to start the planting season
- Malawian Kwacha was devalued by 44% in addition to the 25% devaluation implemented in May, and 45% increase in fuel prices
- Human trafficking high in Malawi for forced labor in agriculture
- 42.6% of the population is under 14 years old
- Deadliest outbreak of Cholera with 59,000 cases and over 1,700 deaths
- 24% have access to safe sanitation, 2% have access to basic sanitation, no safe drinking water is available, 70% have access to basic water

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 (cont'd):

UNAids at: <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/malawi>

UNESCO at: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/p0000396984>

Yale Environment 360 at: <https://e360.yale.edu/feature/cyclone-freddy-malawi-aftermath>

UNFPA at: <https://www.unfpa.org/data/mw>

UNICEF at: <https://data.unicef.org/country/mw/> AND

<https://www.unicef.org/media/152266/file/Malawi-2023-COAR.pdf>

WHO at: <https://www.cdc.gov/global-health/countries/malawi.html#~:text=Malawi%20experienced%20the%20deadliest%20cholera,and%20supporting%20emergency%20operations%20centers>

World Bank at: <https://triedocs.worldbank.org/eng/doc/bae48f2efc5a869546775b3f010735-0500062021/related/rp0-mw.pdf>