

ReachOut™
YOUTH SOLUTIONS



**Country Leader
Edouard Laba**

2023 UPDATE

NIGER



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!**



**Even with a
coup d'état...**

**God still continued to
show up for His people...**



**JFYM Forum in the capital
city of Niamey in November
after borders reopened**

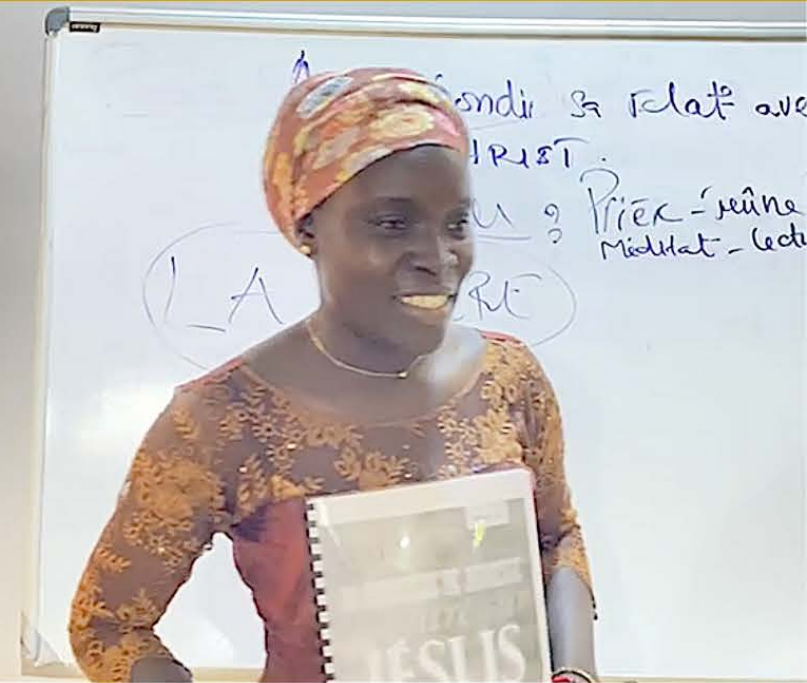
Feedback from these leaders encouraged our team.

Pastor Rebekah from Church of the Morning Star expressed that she and her team had been receiving youth ministry training since the prior year but felt they could not apply what they learned. However, after our JFYM training, she expressed how excited she was because she felt she would **use everything she was taught** at our training, and that **she felt edified by the training** she had received. She is looking forward to sharing it with others. Pastor Rebekah is incredibly grateful for those who brought the training to her church.

The youth pastor in the red shirt is from Hosanna Church. He thanked our team for training them on how to teach the youth and what God wants from them. He shared that through the JFYM Forum he was personally encouraged to **grow in his walk with Jesus** and was **impacted by the “Praying with Passion” session**. He found that when you pray with passion, Jesus will do great things in the life of the youth. He said that the JFYM book is something they will continue to use and that they will work to implement it in their own lives and teach it to the students.

Youth leaders felt equipped...

to have new ways to minister to their youth...



So many circumstances of the seemingly impossible, yet God showed Himself to be more powerful than just circumstances.

Niger is in the **top five poorest nations in the world**, ranking 189 out of 193 countries. More than half of its population are living in extreme poverty of under \$2.15 per day. Less than 4% of teens attend high school. More than 15% of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 have already had a baby, the sixth highest adolescent pregnancy rate in the world. And out of 27 million people in its population, it has the highest percentage of teens in the world with over 56% of its entire population under 18 years old. And lastly, at least 80% of its residents are of the Islamic faith [thought to be up to as high as 98%!]. It seems that it is a nation under huge scrutiny even with its quality of life appearing to be less than “abundant.”

And as if that wasn't enough, in July, the government was overthrown with a military coup d'état which triggered a landslide of events - from the borders being closed for months, to inflation for food and basic necessities, funding being cut off, and its own citizens unable to move in and out of the country. **God's vision, through Reach Out, still prevailed.**

Just after the borders opened, our team held a JFYM Forum with leaders whose hearts were thirsty, craving direction from their Lord in guiding them on how to minister to their youth. They gave them materials to use, easy steps to take, and direction for exactly how Jesus modeled ministry to us. They were encouraged and felt equipped after their training, and shared how happy they were to have some of the tools they really needed.

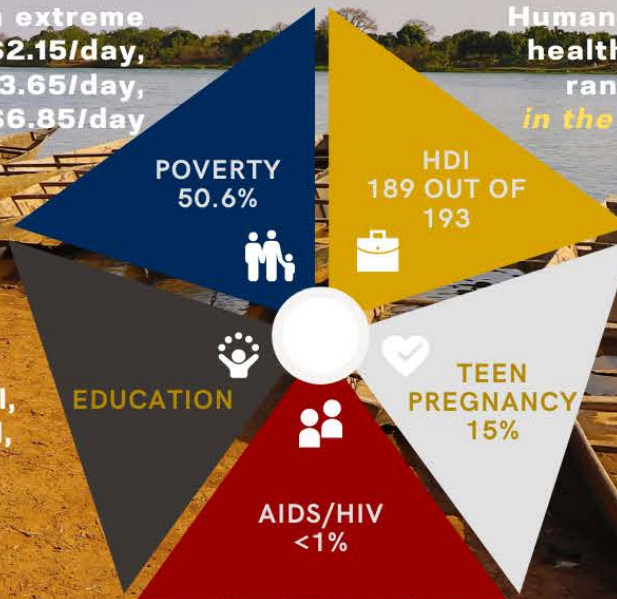
We appreciate your kindness, support, prayers and gifts in helping the impossible happen in a nation that is facing crucial circumstances all around them. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us and for all that God is going to do through our team in Niger as we follow His lead!

COUNTRY STATISTICS NIGER

POPULATION = 27.2 million

50.6% are living in extreme poverty of under \$2.15/day, 83.1% live under \$3.65/day, 96.3% live under \$6.85/day

Human Development Index = health, education, income rankings in the world
in the top 5 poorest in the world



of girls ages 15-19 as the 6th highest in the world

women twice as high at .2% as men at .1%

Challenges

- Only 4% of youth attend high school
- 8% have access to safe sanitation, 8% have access to basic sanitation, no safe drinking water is available, 49% have access to basic water
- 6th highest country for adolescent pregnancies in the world
- 56.9% of the population is under 18 years old which makes it the highest percentage in the world
- 8 children on average are born to every woman
- Military coup d'état on July 26 caused sanctions of ECOWAS and suspension of funding from several donors
- Borders were closed for several months after the coup
- 734,000 displaced people due to attacks by non-state armed groups
- 170,858 people were affected by flooding
- Measles, meningitis and diphtheria epidemics
- Regional sanctions led to a sharp increase of food and basic necessities
- 937 schools closed due to insecurity from the political crisis
- More than 80% [thought to be as high as 98%] practices Islam

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):

UNICEF at: <https://data.unicef.org/country/niger/> AND
<https://www.unicef.org/media/152956/file/Niger-2023-COAR.pdf>
WHO at: <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/indicators/indicator-gho?locations=IN>
World Atlas at: <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-youngest-populations-in-the-world.html>
World Bank at: <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/bae882f6c5a869546775b3010735-0500062021/related/mpo-niger.pdf>