



GLOBAL
YOUTH CULTURE

THE DISCONNECTED GENERATION

An exploration of teens with limited internet access in Africa

ABOUT



463
YOUTH



12
COUNTRIES

BURKINA FASO  56

CHAD  77

CÔTE D'IVOIRE  21

DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO  39

GHANA  28

KENYA  29

LESOTHO  73

SENEGAL  28

SOUTH AFRICA  6

UGANDA  65

ZAMBIA  10

ZIMBABWE  31

How much does access to information shape you as a person? This was a question OneHope set out to answer through researching today's young people—known as Generation Z.

Most youth today have grown up with the Internet and mobile phones which allow them to be constantly connected to the digital world. However, not all young people have access to these technologies.

After researching digitally connected youth across Africa,¹ OneHope was curious about trends of beliefs and behaviors among young people with limited or no internet access. Youth were surveyed in 12 African countries.

Limited internet access was defined as being online less than monthly or never. Most youth surveyed said they never access the Internet. Of those who do, more than half use a personal device such as mobile phone, tablet, or computer.

INTERNET ACCESS



DEVICE USED

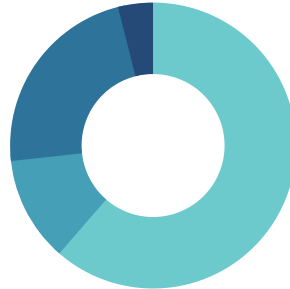


Data was collected Sep-Oct 2021

1. Access the Africa reports at: [GLOBALYOUTHCULTURE.NET](https://www.globalyouthculture.net)

Religion

Most limited internet access teens surveyed identified as Christian, although rates varied widely by country.



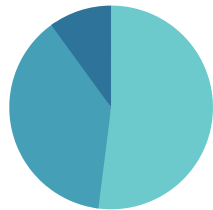
- CHRISTIAN 62%
- MUSLIM 12%
- OTHER RELIGION 23%
- NO RELIGION 4%

RELIGIOUS HABITS

- At least weekly
- Several times a year or monthly
- Never



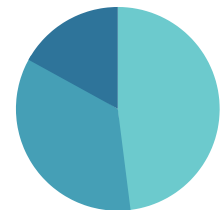
Attending Religious Services



10% 38% 52%



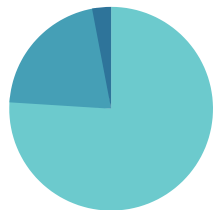
Reading Religious Scriptures on Their Own



17% 35% 48%



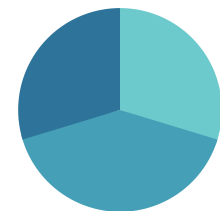
Praying



3% 21% 76%



Having Spiritual Conversations



30% 41% 30%

Most teens report praying regularly, but only around half attend religious services or read Scripture at least weekly. Fewer say they often have conversations about their faith with others who do not share their beliefs. These religious habits were very similar among both Christians and non-Christians surveyed.

Personal Struggles

MENTAL HEALTH

Some teens are struggling with their mental health, reporting feelings of loneliness, high anxiety, or depression within the past three months. These rates are much lower than their Internet-connected peers across Africa. But sadly, the number of reported suicide attempts is identical to the global average for their generation.

Loneliness



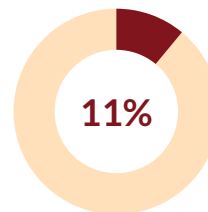
Depression



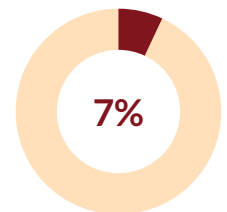
High Anxiety



SUICIDAL THOUGHTS



SUICIDE ATTEMPTS



These struggles seem to affect youth equally regardless of religion, gender, or age. The one exception was feelings of loneliness, which increased with age. More than half (53%) of older teens (ages 18-19) reported being lonely compared to 28% of 13-15 year olds.

OTHER STRUGGLES



Had enough alcohol to be drunk



Used drugs other than those required for medical reasons



Youth reported on their lives and experiences within the past three months.

Gender and Sexuality

We asked youth a series of questions about gender identity and sexuality. These limited internet access youth were half as likely as their African peers to say they have recently experienced same-sex attraction. However, quite a few report gender identity confusion or even a desire to be a different gender.

Rates of sexual activity among these teens were lower than the global average for their generation and much lower than their digitally connected peers across Africa.

Unmarried boys were nearly three times more likely to be sexually active than unmarried girls. Boys were also twice as likely as girls to have recently viewed pornography.

Felt sexually attracted to someone of the same gender  **9%**

Gender identity confusion  **17%**

Would feel most myself as a different gender  **21%**

Been sexually active  **17%**



BOYS  **26%**

GIRLS  **9%**

Viewed pornography  **25%**



BOYS  **33%**

GIRLS  **17%**

INFLUENCES

Youth reported on their lives and experiences within the past three months.

Where do you go most often for information or guidance about gender, sexuality, or other sexual issues?

1 FAMILY MEMBERS 35%

2 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS 21%

3 FRIENDS/PEERS 19%

4 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 11%

5 SOCIAL MEDIA 8%

6 OFFLINE MEDIA 6%

Influences

AMBITIONS

Who influences your ambitions in life?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 PARENTS/GUARDIANS 63% | 5 EXTENDED FAMILY 15% |
| 2 TEACHERS 31% | 6 SIBLINGS 13% |
| 3 FRIENDS 24% | 7 CELEBRITIES/MEDIA 11% |
| 4 RELIGIOUS LEADERS 16% | |

MEANING OF LIFE

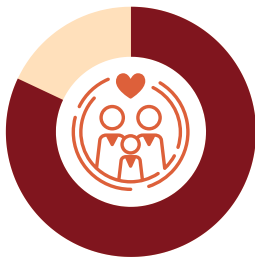
Where do you go most often for information or guidance about the meaning of life?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 FAMILY MEMBERS 50% | 4 FRIENDS/PEERS 8% |
| 2 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 19% | 5 OFFLINE MEDIA 7% |
| 3 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS 11% | 6 INTERNET/SOCIAL MEDIA 5% |

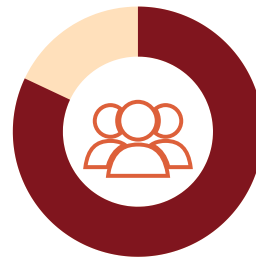
RIGHT AND WRONG

Where do you go most often for information or guidance about what is right and wrong?

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 FAMILY MEMBERS 46% | 4 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS 11% |
| 2 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 19% | 5 SOCIAL MEDIA 7% |
| 3 FRIENDS/PEERS 12% | 6 OFFLINE MEDIA 4% |



Overall, my family experience has been good
82%



I have close friends who know me well
77%

Committed Christians

Across the research project, OneHope observed that Christian youth who are committed to their faith are often struggling less than their peers. Among limited internet access youth in Africa, this was apparent in areas including sexual activity rates and suicide risk. Youth who did not display the traits of Committed Christians were called Nominal Christians.

6 TRAITS OF COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

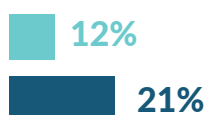
- Believe God exists and they can have a personal relationship with Him
- Pray at least weekly
- Read Scripture on their own at least weekly



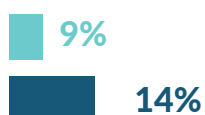
- Believe Jesus is the Son of God
- Believe that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ
- Believe the Bible is the Word of God

■ COMMITTED CHRISTIANS ■ NOMINAL CHRISTIANS

Been sexually active



Suicidal thoughts



Suicide attempt

