



Benin



Introduction to BENIN

THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN, a slim country in West Africa, was once the seat of the powerful kingdom of Dahomey. Independent from the French since 1960, evidences of its opulent former kingdom, history of the slave trade, and the prevalent influence of voodoo are still common in Benin.

The BENINESE people

Total population:	8,791,832
Children under 15:	3,796,846
Average Life Expectancy:	59 years
Per capita annual income:	\$1,500
% children in primary school:	80.17%
Average years of education:	7 years
Literacy rate:	34.7%
Internet users:	160,000
Cell phones in use:	3.435 million
Major/official language(s):	

French

Fon and Yoruba

Tribal languages

Risk issues impacting children:

-Only half of all children complete primary school, and those that do travel a long distance for education.

-Poverty is widespread.

More about BENIN

Capital city:	Porto-Novo
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	112,622
General terrain:	Mostly flat or undulating plains, some hills and mountains
Major industries/jobs:	Textiles, food processing, construction materials, cement
National motto:	"Fellowship, Justice, Labour"
Major airport(s):	Cotonou

Reaching BENIN

Currently classified as World B: Somewhat Reached

Major religions:

Christian - 42.8%

Muslim - 24.4%

Vodoun - 17.3%

Other - 15.5%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic - 60.4%

Independent - 20.2%

Protestant - 16.7%

Other - 2.8%

Unreached People Groups: 13 (10.2% of pop)

Average annual Christian growth: 0.059

Average annual baptisms: 163,472

Foreign missionaries: 630

Per million: 74.20

National Christian workers/pastors: 1,600

Per million: 188.45

Number of churches/congregations: 3,500

Children's ministry in BENIN

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Benin. The following information regards general children's ministry in West Africa, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

Overview: • Children's ministry has been growing in some regions of West Africa, with many pastors coming to understand the importance of ministry to children as part of a church's role. These churches are giving some space, resources and priority to work with children. In outlying areas and villages, a strategic focus on children is less common.

- Some nations in the region have strong Muslim or indigenous religious influences which present significant challenge to reaching and discipling children.
- Lack of finances, resources, and training continue to slow the growth of children's ministry in this area.
- A substantial number of outside teams do ministry to children.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
3,500 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
3,796,846 children for Christ