



# Cape Verde



## Introduction to CAPE VERDE

THE REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE, an island nation off the west coast of Africa, was uninhabited until the Portuguese settled it in the 1500s. Though it gained independence in 1975, the tiny country is still a hybrid of African and Portuguese cultures. Cape Verde is politically stable, but frequent droughts often cause economic hardships for citizens.

## The CAPE VERDEAN people

Total population:	429,474
Children under 15:	151,005
Average Life Expectancy:	71.61 years
Per capita annual income:	\$3,800
% children in primary school:	84.51%
Average years of education:	12 years
Literacy rate:	76.6%
Internet users:	102,800
Cell phones in use:	277,700

### Major/official language(s):

Portuguese  
Crioulo

### Risk issues impacting children:

- Children from poor households, especially girls, often drop out of school. Many of these children enter the labor market without training or skills.
- There are large educational disparities between men and women.

## More about CAPE VERDE

Capital city:	Praia
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	4,033
General terrain:	Steep, rugged, rocky, volcanic
Major industries/jobs:	Agriculture, fish processing, shoes and garments
National motto:	N/A*
Major airport(s):	Sal Praia

## Reaching CAPE VERDE

Currently classified as World C: Christian

### Major religions:

Mainly Christian, some Indigenous beliefs

### Christian groups:

Roman Catholic - 92.1%  
Protestant - 5%  
Independent - 2.9%

Unreached People Groups:	0 (0.0% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.019
Average annual baptisms:	13,655
Foreign missionaries:	110
Per million:	217.05
National Christian workers/pastors:	200
Per million:	394.63
Number of churches/congregations:	219

## Children's ministry in CAPE VERDE

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Cape Verde. 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.
- There are a substantial number of outside teams doing ministry to children in this region.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**219** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**151,005** children for Christ