



# Central African Republic



## Introduction to CAR

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC is, as its name suggests, a landlocked country directly in the center of the continent. Surrounded by nations fraught with instability, CAR suffers from similar woes: poverty, a lack of unity, and government corruption. Rich in natural beauty and resources, this country once ruled by France has yet to use its assets to improve the lives of its impoverished people.

## The CENTRAL AFRICAN people

<b>Total population:</b>	4,511,488
<b>Children under 15:</b>	1,846,016
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	44.47 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$700
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	56.2%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	N/A*
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	48.6%
<b>Internet users:</b>	19,000
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	154,000
<b>Major/official language(s):</b>	French, Sangho, tribal languages

### Risk issues impacting children:

- One-third of the population completely lack access to safe water and sanitation, meaning infectious disease is common.
- 67% of people live on less than a dollar a day.
- HIV/AIDS rates are very high.
- Malnutrition, child soldiers and child labor are all common problems. Violence is rampant.

## More about CAR

<b>Capital city:</b>	Bangui
<b>Type of government:</b>	Republic
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	622,984
<b>General terrain:</b>	Vast, flat to rolling monotonous plateau, some hills in northeast and southwest
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Agriculture, gold and diamond mining, assembly
<b>National motto:</b>	"Unity, Dignity, Work"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Bangui

## Reaching CAR

Currently classified as World C: Christian

### Major religions:

- Christian - 50%
- Indigenous - 35%
- Muslim - 15%

### Christian groups:

- Protestant - 35%
- Roman Catholic - 26.6%
- Other - 21%
- Independent - 17.4%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	7 (9.9% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.107
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	81,453
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	1,100
<b>Per million:</b>	262.44
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	5,000
<b>Per million:</b>	1,192.91
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	8,433

## Children's ministry in CAR

**Overview:** • There are a number of leaders interested in children's ministry in Central African Republic, but they remain untrained.

- Many children are illiterate or under-educated, making it more difficult to minister via written materials. French, the national language, is not widely spoken in many outlying areas and resources are significantly limited in indigenous languages.
- Though Christianity is the majority religion of the populace, syncretism is common.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**8,433** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**1,846,016** children for Christ