



Congo



Introduction to CONGO

THE REPUBLIC OF CONGO is home to some of Africa's densest forests and famous for its abundant primate population. A peace accord between warring groups was signed in 2003, though violence and humanitarian crises are still prevalent. This west-central African country has an oil- and agriculture-based economy that has a difficult time supporting its large population of refugees.

The CONGOLESE people

Total population:	4,012,809
Children under 15:	1,843,139
Average Life Expectancy:	54.15 years
Per capita annual income:	\$4,000
% children in primary school:	53.82%
Average years of education:	9 years
Literacy rate:	83.8%
Internet users:	155,000
Cell phones in use:	1.807 million

Major/official language(s): French, Lingala, Monokutuba, others

Risk issues impacting children:

- 54% of children live in poverty.
- 26% of children under 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition.
- Communicable disease rates are very high.
- Many children are orphans, and about half will not complete school.

More about CONGO

Capital city:	Brazzaville
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	342,000
General terrain:	Coastal plain, southern basin, central plateau, northern basin
Major industries/jobs:	Petroleum, cement, lumber
National motto:	"Unity, Work, Progress"
Major airport(s):	Brazzaville Kinshasa (in DRC)

Reaching CONGO

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

- Christian - 50%
- Animist - 48%
- Muslim - 2%

Christian groups:

- Roman Catholic - 53.4%
- Other - 18.9%
- Independent - 15.6%
- Protestant - 12.1%

Unreached People Groups:	3 (0.2% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.057
Average annual baptisms:	115,696
Foreign missionaries:	840
Per million:	232.70
National Christian workers/pastors:	7,000
Per million:	1,939.14
Number of churches/congregations:	2,919

Children's ministry in CONGO

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

Overview: • Established churches tend to have an evangelistic heart towards children. Those in cities and towns have easier access to training for leaders, materials for outreach and other resources.

- Rural areas face more obstacles to children's ministry, including a lack of training for leaders, few resources in indigenous languages and lack of education. Syncretism is another obstacle for children's ministry workers.
- Civil war and political instability in some Central African nations put children at risk and make establishing organized, consistent ministry difficult. Travel into some of these nations by outside ministry groups is dangerous.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
2,919 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
1,843,139 children for Christ