



Eritrea



Introduction to ERITREA

THE STATE OF ERITREA has been engaged in a long struggle with Ethiopia, its southern neighbor, from whom it gained independence in 1993. Despite violent disputes with Ethiopia and occasional droughts, Eritrea's government has worked to stabilize the nation's economy. Many social problems, such as illiteracy and unemployment, persist.

The ERITREAN people

Total population:	5,647,168
Children under 15:	2,415,088
Average Life Expectancy:	61.78 years
Per capita annual income:	\$700
% children in primary school:	41.19%
Average years of education:	5 years
Literacy rate:	58.6%
Internet users:	200,000
Cell phones in use:	108,600
Major/official language(s):	

Afar
Arabic
Tigre and Kumana

Risk issues impacting children:

- More than 10% of children under age 5 are severely underweight.
- Access to clean water and basic sanitation has declined significantly in recent years.
- Many children remain displaced in Ethiopia.

More about ERITREA

Capital city:	Asmara
Type of government:	Transitional
Square kilometers:	117,600
General terrain:	Mostly north-south trending highlands, some hills and plains
Major industries/jobs:	Food processing, beverages, clothing and textiles, light manufacturing, salt, cement
National motto:	N/A*
Major airport(s):	Asmara

Reaching ERITREA

Currently classified as World B: Somewhat Reached

Major religions:

Muslim
Coptic
Other Christian

Christian groups:

Orthodox - 86.4%
Roman Catholic - 7.9%
Protestant - 2.8%
Other - 2.4%
Independent - 0.3%

Unreached People Groups: 9 (40.7% of pop)

Average annual Christian growth: 0.034

Average annual baptisms: 109,905

Foreign missionaries: 210

Per million: 46.39

National Christian workers/pastors: 800

Per million: 176.73

Number of churches/congregations: 1,126

Children's ministry in ERITREA

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

- Overview:**
- The nations of North Africa, almost exclusively Muslim, are some of the most unreached and closed countries on the planet.
 - Conversion to Christianity is discouraged. In some countries, converts may be rejected by their families and communities, or face arrest or execution.
 - Nations closed to missionary activity may only have covert children's ministry opportunities.
 - A few leaders have been mobilized and trained by organizations to conduct some children's ministry. Though there is some training available for children's leaders, there are far fewer workers than there are children to be reached.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
1,126 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
2,415,088 children for Christ