



Gabon



Introduction to GABON

THE GABONESE REPUBLIC had only one leader since its 1960 independence from France until President Bongo died in 2009. The west African nation has prioritized conservation and national parks, and is known as one of the most stable and prosperous countries in Africa. Regardless, little of the country outside the capital has been accessed by outsiders until recently.

The GABONESE people

Total population:	1,514,993
Children under 15:	638,441
Average Life Expectancy:	53.11 years
Per capita annual income:	\$14,200
% children in primary school:	N/A*
Average years of education:	N/A*
Literacy rate:	62.3%
Internet users:	90,000
Cell phones in use:	1.3 million

Major/official language(s):

French
Fang
Myene
Nzebi
Other tribal languages

Risk issues impacting children:

- HIV/AIDS rates are very high, orphaning many children.
- Many female students do not continue their education.

More about GABON

Capital city:	Libreville
Type of government:	Republic; Multiparty presidential regime
Square kilometers:	267,667
General terrain:	Narrow coastal plain, hilly interior, Savanna in the west
Major industries/jobs:	Agriculture, petroleum, food and beverages, gold
National motto:	"Union, Work, Justice"
Major airport(s):	Libreville

Reaching GABON

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

Christian - 55-75%
Animist
Muslim <1%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic - 69.6%
Protestant - 12.6%
Independent - 9.7%
Other - 8.1%

Unreached People Groups:	4 (1.6% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.04
Average annual baptisms:	36,599
Foreign missionaries:	420
Per million:	325.41
National Christian workers/pastors:	2,000
Per million:	1,549.56
Number of churches/congregations:	922

Children's ministry in GABON

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Gabon. 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
922 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
638,441 children for Christ