



The Gambia



Introduction to THE GAMBIA

THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA is a slim country claiming only a few miles of land north and south of the Gambia River. Completely surrounded by Senegal, except for its small western coast on the Atlantic Ocean, Africa's smallest nation gained its independence from Britain in 1965.

The GAMBIAN people

Total population:	1,782,893
Children under 15:	777,978
Average Life Expectancy:	55.35 years
Per capita annual income:	\$1,300
% children in primary school:	66.5%
Average years of education:	7 years
Literacy rate:	40.1%
Internet users:	114,200
Cell phones in use:	1.166 million
Major/official language(s):	English, Mandinka, Wolof, Fula

Risk issues impacting children:

- Approximately 69% of the population is below the poverty line.
- In rural areas, 60% of households are extremely poor.
- HIV/AIDS is prevalent

More about THE GAMBIA

Capital city:	Banjul
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	11,295
General terrain:	Flood plain of the Gambia River flanked by low hills
Major industries/jobs:	Agriculture, tourism, peanut and fish processing
National motto:	"Progress, Peace, Prosperity"
Major airport(s):	Banjul

Reaching THE GAMBIA

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

Major religions:

- Muslim - 90%
- Christian - 8%
- Indigenous - 2%

Christian groups:

- Roman Catholic - 63.4%
- Independent - 12%
- Protestant - 10.7%
- Other - 8.3%
- Anglican - 5.6%

Unreached People Groups:	14 (73.9% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.028
Average annual baptisms:	4,343
Foreign missionaries:	180
Per million:	111.32
National Christian workers/pastors:	500
Per million:	309.21
Number of churches/congregations:	106

Children's ministry in THE GAMBIA

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for The Gambia. 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.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
106 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
777,978 children for Christ