



Guinea-Bissau



Introduction to GUINEA-BISSAU

THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU is located on the tip of West Africa, made up of a mainland segment and the Arquipélago dos Bijagós, rimmed by white-sand beaches, just off the coast. The small nation has a history of military and political instability. It ranks as one of the globe's five poorest countries, and has some of the most unequally distributed wealth in the world.

The GUINEAN people

Total population:	1,533,964
Children under 15:	625,862
Average Life Expectancy:	47.9 years
Per capita annual income:	\$600
% children in primary school:	N/A*
Average years of education:	5 years
Literacy rate:	42.4%
Internet users:	37,100
Cell phones in use:	500,200

Major/official language(s):

Portuguese
Crioulo
Tribal

Risk issues impacting children:

- Malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrhea and malnutrition remain the major killers of children.
- 23% of children suffer from malnutrition.
- Child trafficking is common between Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, where borders are poorly guarded. These children do not have access to school and health care.

More about GUINEA-BISSAU

Capital city:	Bissau
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	36,125
General terrain:	Mostly low coastal plain rising to savanna in east
Major industries/jobs:	Agriculture and agricultural processing
National motto:	"Unity, Struggle, Progress"
Major airport(s):	Bissau

Reaching GUINEA-BISSAU

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

Major religions:

Muslim - 50%
Indigenous - 40%
Christian - 10%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic - 81.8%
Other - 11.5%
Protestant - 6.2%
Independent - 0.6%

Unreached People Groups:	14 (33.2% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.035
Average annual baptisms:	5,022
Foreign missionaries:	200
Per million:	125.24
National Christian workers/pastors:	40
Per million:	25.05
Number of churches/congregations:	167

Children's ministry in GUINEA-BISSAU

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Guinea-Bissau. 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.
 - A substantial number of outside teams do ministry to children.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
167 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
625,862 children for Christ