



Liberia



Introduction to LIBERIA

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, a small West African nation, is alive with celebrated artistry and dense forests that are filled with unique wildlife. The country's contemporary history began as a settlement of freed American slaves. Today, it is governed by Africa's first female president, ruling during a time of peace after many years of violence. The war-torn nation is currently in the rebuilding process.

The LIBERIAN people

Total population:	3,441,790
Children under 15:	1,519,543
Average Life Expectancy:	41.84 years
Per capita annual income:	\$500
% children in primary school:	30.9%
Average years of education:	10 years
Literacy rate:	57.5%
Internet users:	20,000
Cell phones in use:	732,000
Major/official language(s):	English, others

Risk issues impacting children:

- Preventable diseases are among the leading killers of children. Malnutrition and respiratory infections also kill thousands of children each year.
- Nearly 40% of the population does not have access to safe water, and most do not have access to adequate sanitation.
- Armed conflict, HIV/AIDS and other diseases have orphaned an estimated 230,000 children.

More about LIBERIA

Capital city:	Monrovia
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	111,369
General terrain:	Mostly flat-to-rolling coastal rising to rolling plateau and low mountains in the northeast
Major industries/jobs:	Rubber, palm oil, timber, diamonds
National motto:	"The love of liberty brought us here"
Major airport(s):	Monrovia

Reaching LIBERIA

Currently classified as World B: Somewhat Reached

Major religions:

- Christian - 40%
- Indigenous - 40%
- Muslim - 20%

Christian groups:

- Protestant - 36.4%
- Other - 34.2%
- Independent - 18%
- Roman Catholic - 9.1%
- Anglican - 2.3%

Unreached People Groups:	4 (14.7% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.035
Average annual baptisms:	48,396
Foreign missionaries:	530
Per million:	153.99
National Christian workers/pastors:	2,400
Per million:	697.31
Number of churches/congregations:	4,492

Children's ministry in LIBERIA

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Liberia. 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
4,492 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
1,519,543 children for Christ