



Mali



Introduction to MALI

THE REPUBLIC OF MALI is part Sahara desert, part fertile land fed by the Niger River, and a standout example of democracy and growth in Africa. Independent since 1960, this West African nation is known for its fair elections and for being home to the legendary city of Timbuktu. Mali is still one of the poorest nations in the world.

The MALIAN people

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| Total population: | 12,666,987 |
| Children under 15: | 6,112,747 |
| Average Life Expectancy: | 50.35 years |
| Per capita annual income: | \$1,100 |
| % children in primary school: | 63.02% |
| Average years of education: | 7 years |
| Literacy rate: | 46.4% |
| Internet users: | 200,000 |
| Cell phones in use: | 3.267 million |
| Major/official language(s): | French, Bambara, others |
| Risk issues impacting children: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -High illiteracy rates lead to poverty. -Female genital mutilation is still commonplace. In the Timbuktu region, two-thirds of girls have been mutilated. -Education is not compulsory. |

More about MALI

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| Capital city: | Bamako |
| Type of government: | Republic |
| Square kilometers: | 1,240,192 |
| General terrain: | Mostly flat to rolling northern plains covered in sand; savanna in south, rugged plains in northeast |
| Major industries/jobs: | Food processing, construction, gold |
| National motto: | "One people, one goal, one faith" |
| Major airport(s): | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanao International Mopti Gao |

Reaching MALI

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

Major religions:

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|------------|-------|
| Muslim | - 90% |
| Indigenous | - 9% |
| Christian | - 1% |

Christian groups:

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Roman Catholic | - 53.3% |
| Protestant | - 46.2% |
| Other | - 0.5% |

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| Unreached People Groups: | 37 (91.8% of pop) |
| Average annual Christian growth: | 0.061 |
| Average annual baptisms: | 12,459 |
| Foreign missionaries: | 630 |
| Per million: | 54.26 |
| National Christian workers/pastors: | 400 |
| Per million: | 34.45 |
| Number of churches/congregations: | 991 |

Children's ministry in MALI

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Mali. 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.
- There are a substantial number of outside teams doing ministry to children in this region.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
991 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
6,112,747 children for Christ