



Mauritania



Introduction to MAURITANIA

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF MAURITANIA, independent from France since 1960, is divided between African and Arab populations. The mix creates both ethnic tension and one of the most unique cultures on the continent. Mauritania's former democracy was recently usurped by a military junta.

The MAURITANIAN people

Total population:	3,129,486
Children under 15:	1,282,229
Average Life Expectancy:	60.37 years
Per capita annual income:	\$2,100
% children in primary school:	80.44%
Average years of education:	8 years
Literacy rate:	51.3%
Internet users:	45,000
Cell phones in use:	2.092 million
Major/official language(s):	Arabic, Pulaar, Soninke, Wolof, French, Hassaniya

Risk issues impacting children:

- Alarming numbers of children are severely malnourished. Poverty, natural disasters and a lack of basic nutritional knowledge have worsened the crisis.
- Only 53% of households have access to safe drinking water.
- Landmines and unexploded ordnance remaining from the Saharawi war pose a hazard to children in the northern part of the country.

More about MAURITANIA

Capital city:	Nouakchott
Type of government:	Parliamentary Junta
Square kilometers:	1,030,700
General terrain:	Mostly barren, flat plains of the Sahara, some central hills
Major industries/jobs:	Agriculture, fish, mining, oil
National motto:	"Honor, Fraternity, Justice"
Major airport(s):	Nouakchott, Nouadhibou, Atar

Reaching MAURITANIA

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

Major religions:

Muslim - over 99%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic - 87.5%

Protestant - 12.5%

Unreached People Groups:	14 (99.6% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.049
Average annual baptisms:	236
Foreign missionaries:	55
Per million:	18.56
National Christian workers/pastors:	10
Per million:	3.37
Number of churches/congregations:	12

Children's ministry in MAURITANIA

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Mauritania. The following information regards general children's ministry in North Africa, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

- Overview:** • The nations of North Africa, almost exclusively Muslim, are some of the most unreached and closed countries on the planet. There is a great need to reach out to Muslim children and families.
- Conversion to Christianity is discouraged. In some countries, converts may be rejected by their families and communities, or face arrest or execution.
 - Nations closed to missionary activity may only have covert children's ministry opportunities, including significant radio and media exposure to the gospel.
 - A few leaders have been mobilized and trained by organizations to conduct some children's ministry. Though there is some training available for children's leaders, there are far fewer workers than there are children to be reached.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
12 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
1,282,229 children for Christ