



Afghanistan



Introduction to AFGHANISTAN

THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN, settled between Pakistan and Iran, is a nation of unrest. Years of extremist governments and foreign occupation have only recently given way to a struggling, fledgling democracy. Afghanistan is one of the world's top producers of opium, and corruption and violence are commonplace. Foreign military forces hope to bring order, stability and hope to its impoverished citizens.

The AFGHAN people

Total population:	28,396,000
Children under 15:	14,965,116
Average Life Expectancy:	44.64 years
Per capita annual income:	\$800
% children in primary school:	N/A*
Average years of education:	8 years
Literacy rate:	28.1%
Internet users:	500,000
Cell phones in use:	8.45 million
Major/official language(s):	Dari, Pashto, Turkic Languages, others

Risk issues impacting children:

- 25% of children die before reaching their fifth birthday.
- Access to basic health and education is limited.
- Many are malnourished or die from preventable diseases.
- Landmines pose a safety risk.

More about AFGHANISTAN

Capital city:	Kabul
Type of government:	Islamic Republic
Square kilometers:	652,230
General terrain:	Mostly rugged mountains; plains in north and southwest
Major industries/jobs:	Small-scale production, opium, agriculture
National motto:	N/A
Major airport(s):	Kabul International

Reaching AFGHANISTAN

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

Major religions:

- Muslim - 99%
- Other - 1%

Christian groups:

- Independent - 39.6%
- Roman Catholic - 22.5%
- Protestant - 19%
- Other - 13.2%
- Orthodox - 3.8%
- Anglican - 1.9%

Unreached People Groups:	71 (99.9% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.046
Average annual baptisms:	222
Foreign missionaries:	55
Per million:	2.19
National Christian workers/pastors:	20
Per million:	0.80
Number of churches/congregations:	N/A*

Children's ministry in AFGHANISTAN

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

Overview: • There is a great need to reach out to Muslim children and families.

- In some countries, leaders have been mobilized and trained by organizations to conduct Bible clubs in homes and churches, and resources are available. Though there is some training available for children's leaders, there are far fewer workers than there are children to be reached.
- Most nations in the Middle East are predominantly Muslim, and conversion to Christianity is discouraged. In some countries, converts may be rejected by their families and communities, or face arrest or execution.

Focus for Prayer

Strategies for reaching and discipling
14,965,116 children for Christ