



# Japan



## Introduction to JAPAN

JAPAN boasts a culture that is simultaneously one of the most modern and ancient in the world. A multi-island nation off Asia's eastern coast, Japan honors its traditional past while investing heavily in the future, becoming one of the world's leading economies.

## The JAPANESE people

<b>Total population:</b>	127,078,679
<b>Children under 15:</b>	17,149,265
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	82.12 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$34,100
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	99.8%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	15 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	99%
<b>Internet users:</b>	90.91 million
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	110.395 million

**Major/official language(s):** Japanese

### Risk issues impacting children:

UNICEF does not currently offer children at risk statistics for this country.

## More about JAPAN

<b>Capital city:</b>	Tokyo
<b>Type of government:</b>	Parliamentary government with a Constitutional Monarchy
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	377,915
<b>General terrain:</b>	Mostly rugged and mountainous
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Motor vehicles, electronics, machine tools, steel, agriculture
<b>National motto:</b>	N/A*
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Nagoya Niigata Osaka/Kansai Tokyo Narita Chubu Fukuoka

## Reaching JAPAN

*Currently classified as World B: Unreached*

### Major religions:

Shintoism	- 83.9%
Buddhism	- 71.4%
Other	- 7.8%
Christianity	- 2%

### Christian groups:

Other	- 31.4%
Protestant	- 26.9%
Roman Catholic	- 23.1%
Independent	- 14.1%
Anglican	- 3.2%
Orthodox	- 1.3%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	23 (98.9% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.026
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	36,198
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	7,900
<b>Per million:</b>	61.77
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	16,000
<b>Per million:</b>	125.10
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	15,594

## Children's ministry in JAPAN

**Overview:** • Many churches will host outreach teams that reach out to children using the context of English teaching. Though there are many English-speaking ministry teams that come to minister to children, there is a lack of Japanese-speaking children's workers.

- Emphasis on children's ministry within the church varies according to the views of church leadership. When the leadership invests in children's ministry, there are plenty of resources available to reach children.
- The educational culture in Japan is very structured, and not conducive to outside learning.
- Some Christian parents don't see the need for discipling their children.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**15,594** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**17,149,265** children for Christ