



South Korea



Introduction to SOUTH KOREA

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, the southern half of the Korean peninsula off China's northeast edge, is the progressive, open, and stable version of its northern counterpart. The fast-paced, modern lifestyle of Koreans here is balanced by the ever-present influence of its ancient culture.

The KOREAN people

Total population:	48,508,972
Children under 15:	8,166,097
Average Life Expectancy:	78.72 years
Per capita annual income:	\$27,700
% children in primary school:	98.57%
Average years of education:	17 years
Literacy rate:	97.9%
Internet users:	37.476 million
Cell phones in use:	45.607 million
Major/official language(s):	

Korean
English

Risk issues impacting children:

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

More about SOUTH KOREA

Capital city:	Seoul
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	99,720
General terrain:	Mostly hills and mountains; wide coastal plains in west and south
Major industries/jobs:	Electronics, telecommunications, automobiles
National motto:	"Benefit all mankind"
Major airport(s):	

Incheon International
Gimhae International
Jeju International

Reaching SOUTH KOREA

Currently classified as World B: Somewhat Reached

Major religions:

None	- 49.3%
Christian	- 26.3%
Buddhist	- 23.2%
Other	- 1.3%

Christian groups:

Protestant	- 79.3%
Roman Catholic	- 17.8%
Independent	- 2.5%
Anglican	- 0.4%

Unreached People Groups: 0 (0% of pop)

Average annual Christian growth: 0.06

Average annual baptisms: 239,660

Foreign missionaries: 3,000

Per million: 62.67

National Christian workers/pastors: 50,000

Per million: 1,044.5

Number of churches/congregations: 55,822

Children's ministry in SOUTH KOREA

Overview: • Just 100 years ago, South Korea was a Buddhist nation. Early mission work focused on establishing Christian schools, which led to the development of strong Christian leaders as the children grew to adulthood.

- Most churches have strong ministry to children.
- Challenges include those faced by other modern, western nations, as the influence of media, sports, secular education, materialism, etc. entice young people away from following Christ wholeheartedly.
- South Korea challenges the global church with its strong example as a major mission-sending force, and its strong emphasis on the potential of children.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
55,822 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
8,166,097 children for Christ