



# Tajikistan



## Introduction to TAJIKISTAN

THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN is an oddly-shaped, former Soviet state in Central Asia. Among the poorest nations in the region, it is also one of the more diverse, hosting dozens of clans instead of one unified national identity. Though still recovering from a bloody civil war in the 1990s, Tajikistan is now experiencing a time of peace, stability and growth.

## The TAJIKISTANI people

<b>Total population:</b>	7,349,145
<b>Children under 15:</b>	2,521,288
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	65.33 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$1,800
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	97.2%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	11 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	99.5%
<b>Internet users:</b>	600,000
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	3.5 million
<b>Major/official language(s):</b>	

Tajik

Russian

## Risk issues impacting children:

- Many adults must work abroad, leaving children abandoned or institutionalized, or forced into prostitution.
- Schools are underfunded and lack necessary materials.
- Infant/childhood mortality are high.

## More about TAJIKISTAN

<b>Capital city:</b>	Dushanbe
<b>Type of government:</b>	Republic
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	143,100
<b>General terrain:</b>	Mountains dominate landscape, valleys in the north and southwest
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Aluminum, zinc, lead, fertilizers, agriculture
<b>National motto:</b>	N/A*
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Dushanbe

## Reaching TAJIKISTAN

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

### Major religions:

Muslim - 90%

Other - 10%

### Christian groups:

Orthodox - 87%

Roman Catholic - 8%

Protestant - 4.3%

Other - 0.7%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	27 (96.8% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.029
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	2,471
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	40
<b>Per million:</b>	6.11
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	30
<b>Per million:</b>	4.58
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	67

## Children's ministry in TAJIKISTAN

*Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Tajikistan. The following information regards general children's ministry in Central Asia, and may not all be applicable to this nation.*

- Overview:** • Central Asia faces significant challenges in the spread of the gospel, especially the predominantly Muslim governments which forbid evangelism and Christian work. These obstacles extend to children. Persecution is a common reality for believers in this region.
- The mountainous terrain and seemingly endless number of local languages also makes ministry in this area a challenge.
  - A small handful of mission and church leaders see the strategic importance of focus on children and are offering camps, outreach opportunities, and focusing on discipleship and leadership development among the youth.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**67** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**2,521,288** children for Christ