



Turkmenistan



Introduction to TURKMENISTAN

TURKMENISTAN is a Central Asian nation north of Iran and bordering the Caspian Sea. Independent since the Soviet dissolution in 1991, Turkmenistan remains underdeveloped despite an abundance of oil resources. The citizens of this largely desert nation are mostly descended from nomadic people groups.

The TURKMEN people

Total population:	4,884,887
Children under 15:	1,410,920
Average Life Expectancy:	67.87 years
Per capita annual income:	\$6,500
% children in primary school:	N/A*
Average years of education:	N/A*
Literacy rate:	98.8%
Internet users:	75,000
Cell phones in use:	810,000
Major/official language(s):	Turkmen, Russian, Uzbek, others

Risk issues impacting children:

- Acute respiratory infections and diarrhea are the leading causes of infant mortality.
- The school year is short due to farming, and many basic subjects are not learned well.

More about TURKMENISTAN

Capital city:	Ashgabat
Type of government:	Republic; Authoritarian presidential rule
Square kilometers:	488,100
General terrain:	Flat-to-rolling sandy dunes rising to mountains in south; low mountains along Iranian border; Caspian Sea in the west
Major industries/jobs:	Cotton, grain, natural gas, oil, petroleum
National motto:	N/A*
Major airport(s):	Saparmurat Turkmenbashi

Reaching TURKMENISTAN

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

Major religions:

- Muslim - 89%
- Eastern Orthodox - 9%
- Unknown - 2%

Christian groups:

- Orthodox - 95.1%
- Other - 4.1%
- Independent - 0.4%
- Protestant - 0.4%

Unreached People Groups:	22 (95.4% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.027
Average annual baptisms:	1,870
Foreign missionaries:	55
Per million:	11.38
National Christian workers/pastors:	20
Per million:	4.14
Number of churches/congregations:	61

Children's ministry in TURKMENISTAN

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Turkmenistan. 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
61 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
1,410,920 children for Christ