



# Azerbaijan



## Introduction to AZERBAIJAN

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN regained its independence in 1991 after the Soviet collapse. Continued disputes with Armenia and political corruption are major problems for this nation bordering the Caspian Sea, Russia and Iran. Still, a recent influx of wealth came to the nation after it began investing in oil, though the economic benefits have yet to reach citizens at every level of society.

## The AZERBAIJANI people

<b>Total population:</b>	8,238,672
<b>Children under 15:</b>	1,968,627
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	66.66 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$9,500
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	95.31%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	11 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	98.8%
<b>Internet users:</b>	1.485 million
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	6.548 million
<b>Major/official language(s):</b>	Azeri, Lezgi, Russian, Armenian

## Risk issues impacting children:

- High infant mortality plagues rural and impoverished areas.
- Children with disabilities are often institutionalized.
- There are large numbers of internally displaced people and large populations of migrant workers from countries with higher HIV/AIDS rates.

## More about AZERBAIJAN

<b>Capital city:</b>	Baku
<b>Type of government:</b>	Republic
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	86,600
<b>General terrain:</b>	Lowlands below sea level, Caucasus Mountains to the north, western uplands, Apsheron Penninsula juts into the Caspian Sea
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Petroleum and natural gas, steel, iron ore, chemicals, textiles, cotton
<b>National motto:</b>	N/A*
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Heydar Aliyev in Baku

## Reaching AZERBAIJAN

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

### Major religions:

- Muslim - 93.4%
- Orthodox - 4.8%
- Other - 1.8%

### Christian groups:

- Orthodox - 93.8%
- Roman Catholic - 2.5%
- Other - 1.8%
- Independent - 1.2%
- Protestant - 0.8%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	25 (95.4% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.0033
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	2,037
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	110
<b>Per million:</b>	13.17
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	50
<b>Per million:</b>	5.99
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	58

## Children's ministry in AZERBAIJAN

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

- Overview:**
- Some Eastern European countries still face political restrictions that can limit the reach of children's ministry, or halt the gospel from reaching unreached children.
  - Most European countries are historic homes to Christianity, especially the Orthodox Church. Children's leaders in many areas, especially areas that are more developed, have access to resources and a vision to reach children.
  - Significant regions remain isolated from Evangelical Christianity.
  - The church in post-Soviet countries is very young and in need of training and vision to reach and disciple its children.

## Focus for Prayer

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

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**1,968,627** children for Christ