



Bulgaria



Introduction to BULGARIA

THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA is a Balkan state lying north of Greece on the Black Sea. After foregoing communism for democracy in 1990, Bulgaria has grown significantly, though it is still subject to corruption, crime and high inflation. Much of the mountainous regions of the nation remain untouched by outside influence.

The BULGARIAN people

Total population:	7,204,687
Children under 15:	994,360
Average Life Expectancy:	73.09 years
Per capita annual income:	\$12,900
% children in primary school:	94.59%
Average years of education:	14 years
Literacy rate:	98.2%
Internet users:	2.647 million
Cell phones in use:	10.633 million

Major/official language(s): Bulgarian, Turkish

Risk issues impacting children:

- Poverty, lack of immunization, and less education remain high in the Roma community.
- Accidents and injury remain the primary cause of death among children.

More about BULGARIA

Capital city:	Sofia
Type of government:	Parliamentary Democracy; EU member
Square kilometers:	110,879
General terrain:	Mountains with lowlands north and southeast
Major industries/jobs:	Electricity, gas, water, food, beverages, tobacco, machinery and equipment, base metals, chemical products, coke, petroleum, nuclear fuel
National motto:	"Union makes strength"
Major airport(s):	Sofia International Burgas International Varna International

Reaching BULGARIA

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

Christian	- 83.8%
Muslim	- 12.2%
Other	- 4%

Christian groups:

Orthodox	- 88.7%
Independent	- 8.4%
Protestant	- 1.3%
Roman Catholic	- 1.3%
Other	- 0.3%

Unreached People Groups:	8 (9.5% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.0078
Average annual baptisms:	57,297
Foreign missionaries:	210
Per million:	27.12
National Christian workers/pastors:	3,000
Per million:	387.37
Number of churches/congregations:	5,646

Children's ministry in BULGARIA

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Bulgaria. 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
5,646 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
994,360 children for Christ