



The Bahamas



Introduction to THE BAHAMAS

THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS has prospered since its independence in 1973, mostly due to tourism and international banking. This chain of hundreds of Caribbean islands lies settled between Cuba and Florida, and is known for bright colors and equally bright sunshine. It has been known as a major transit point for illegal drug smuggling.

The BAHAMIAN people

Total population:	309,156
Children under 15:	80,044
Average Life Expectancy:	65.78 years
Per capita annual income:	\$30,700
% children in primary school:	90.47%
Average years of education:	N/A*
Literacy rate:	95.6%
Internet users:	106,500
Cell phones in use:	358,000

Major/official language(s):

English
Creole

Risk issues impacting children:

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

More about THE BAHAMAS

Capital city:	Nassau
Type of government:	Parliamentary Democracy
Square kilometers:	13,880
General terrain:	Long, flat coral formations with some low rounded hills
Major industries/jobs:	Tourism, banking, cement, oil transshipment, salt, rum, aragonite, pharmaceuticals, spiral-welded steel pipe
National motto:	"Forward, upward, onward together"
Major airport(s):	Nassau International Grand Bahama International

Reaching THE BAHAMAS

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

Christian - 96.3%
None or unspecified - 2.9%
Other - 0.8%

Christian groups:

Protestant - 62.3%
Roman Catholic - 17.2%
Anglican - 9.6%
Independent - 6.5%
Other - 4.2%
Orthodox - 0.3%

Unreached People Groups: 1 (0.3% of pop)

Average annual Christian growth: 0.0165

Average annual baptisms: 5,170

Foreign missionaries: 320

Per million: 989.81

National Christian workers/pastors: 420

Per million: 1,299.12

Number of churches/congregations: 872

Children's ministry in THE BAHAMAS

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for the Bahamas. The following information regards general children's ministry in the Caribbean, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

Overview: • The nations of this region are largely Christian.

- Though there are many missionaries working in these nations (including those focused on children), the local church does not always realize the importance of ministry to children. Leaders do not always get the organizational support they need to move forward with children's ministry initiatives.
- Those denominations and churches that have recognized the importance and value of including children in ministry often lack of training and resources, especially in rural areas.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
872 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
80,044 children for Christ