



Colombia



Introduction to COLOMBIA

THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA was once rife with violence, as insurgents and guerilla groups battled all over the country. Violence has decreased in recent years and citizens are slowly adjusting to a more peaceful way of life, though the drug trade is still active. Colombia is set in the northwest corner of South America.

The COLOMBIAN people

Total population:	45,644,023
Children under 15:	13,202,677
Average Life Expectancy:	72.81 years
Per capita annual income:	\$9,200
% children in primary school:	90.26%
Average years of education:	12 years
Literacy rate:	90.4%
Internet users:	17.117 million
Cell phones in use:	41.365 million

Major/official language(s): Spanish

Risk issues impacting children:

- Violence has internally displaced millions of people, many of them children. These people have little access to health care, education and other services.
- Although illegal, there are many child soldiers.
- Strong discrimination exists against Native American and Afro-Colombian populations.

More about COLOMBIA

Capital city:	Bogotá
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	1,138,914
General terrain:	Flat coastal lowlands, central highlands, high Andes Mountains, eastern lowland plains
Major industries/jobs:	Textiles, food processing, oil, clothing and footwear, beverages, chemicals, cement; gold, coal, emeralds
National motto:	"Freedom and Order"
Major airport(s):	El Dorado Airport in Bogotá, Rafael Nuñez airport in Cartagena, Ernesto Cortissoz airport in Barranquilla

Reaching COLOMBIA

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

- Roman Catholic - 90%
- Other - 10%

Christian groups:

- Roman Catholic - 93.9%
- Protestant - 2.9%
- Independent - 2.8%
- Other - 0.3%

Unreached People Groups:	4 (negligible% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.025
Average annual baptisms:	827,537
Foreign missionaries:	7,400
Per million:	164.64
National Christian workers/pastors:	35,000
Per million:	7,783.72
Number of churches/congregations:	17,084

Children's ministry in COLOMBIA

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

- Overview:**
- The nations of this region are predominately Christian, mostly of Roman Catholic background. There is also a steadily growing, active Protestant minority.
 - There is a strong missionary presence in South America, with much of the outreach focused on children.
 - In some areas (usually the more developed), churches have access to resources and have some sort of ministry for children in the community.
 - Rural churches often have little or no access to resources or training for its children's ministry leaders.
 - Even though the evangelical church is growing, some young churches do not recognize the potential of children's ministry.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
17,084 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
13,202,677 children for Christ