



Costa Rica



Introduction to COSTA RICA

THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA is a small, ecologically-blessed nation located north of Panama between the Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean. The country is a popular destination for many, and tourism has become a large part of the economy, as has technological production. Costa Ricans enjoy abundant tropical wildlife, plenty of natural beauty, and high standards of living.

The COSTA RICAN people

Total population:	4,253,877
Children under 15:	1,137,132
Average Life Expectancy:	77.58 years
Per capita annual income:	\$11,600
% children in primary school:	N/A*
Average years of education:	12 years
Literacy rate:	94.9%
Internet users:	1.46 million
Cell phones in use:	1.887 million
Major/official language(s):	Spanish English

Risk issues impacting children:

-1 in 5 children are born to teenage mothers.

More about COSTA RICA

Capital city:	San Jose
Type of government:	Democratic Republic
Square kilometers:	51,100
General terrain:	Coastal plains separated by rugged mountains including over 100 volcanic cones of which several are major volcanoes
Major industries/jobs:	Microprocessors, food processing, medical equipment, textiles and clothing, construction materials, fertilizer, plastic products
National motto:	"Long live work and peace"
Major airport(s):	Aeropuerto Internacional Juan Santamaría in San Jose

Reaching COSTA RICA

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

Christian	- 92%
Other	- 4.8%
None	- 3.2%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic	- 77.4%
Protestant	- 10.4%
Other	- 8.4%
Independent	- 3.7%

Unreached People Groups:	1 (0.1% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.025
Average annual baptisms:	97,995
Foreign missionaries:	1,500
Per million:	346.64
National Christian workers/pastors:	3,600
Per million:	831.94
Number of churches/congregations:	3,895

Children's ministry in COSTA RICA

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Costa Rica. The following information regards general children's ministry in the Central 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 many Central American countries, with much of the outreach focused on children. A variety of children's work already exists, with a strong emphasis on Sunday School and Bible memorization.
- Most of the resources and trainings are centered in the larger cities and bigger church denominations.
- Ongoing violence in some regions of Central America can hinder the growth of work with children.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
3,895 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
1,137,132 children for Christ