



Ecuador



Introduction to ECUADOR

THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR, a country with high government turnover, Inca heritage and an Andean center, is a small nation set south of Colombia on South America's northwest coast. The country has approved twenty different constitutions since independence in the early 1800s. Ecuador faces high poverty rates despite finding some wealth in petroleum reserves.

The ECUADORIAN people

Total population:	14,573,101
Children under 15:	4,532,988
Average Life Expectancy:	75.3 years
Per capita annual income:	\$7,500
% children in primary school:	96.9%
Average years of education:	N/A*
Literacy rate:	91%
Internet users:	1.31 million
Cell phones in use:	11.95 million
Major/official language(s):	Spanish, Amerindian languages (especially Quechua)

Risk issues impacting children:

- Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian children are more likely to grow up in poverty.
- Many workers emigrate, leaving their children behind.
- Education is severely underfunded, leaving families to cover many educational costs. Only about half of all children will graduate secondary school.

More about ECUADOR

Capital city:	Quito
Type of government:	Republic
Square kilometers:	283,561
General terrain:	Coastal plain, inter-Andean central highlands, and flat to rolling eastern jungle
Major industries/jobs:	Petroleum, food processing, textiles, wood products, chemicals
National motto:	"God, Homeland, and Liberty"
Major airport(s):	Aeropuerto Mariscal Sucre in Quito, Aeropuerto Simón Bolívar in Guayaquil

Reaching ECUADOR

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

- Roman Catholic - 95%
- Other - 5%

Christian groups:

- Roman Catholic - 84.5%
- Other - 9.1%
- Protestant - 4.9%
- Independent - 1.4%

Unreached People Groups:	2 (negligible% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.021
Average annual baptisms:	209,558
Foreign missionaries:	3,700
Per million:	283.29
National Christian workers/pastors:	7,000
Per million:	535.95
Number of churches/congregations:	5,037

Children's ministry in ECUADOR

- Overview:** • Ecuador is a predominantly Christian nation, mostly of Roman Catholic background. There is also a steadily growing, active Protestant minority.
- While the evangelical, Protestant church is growing (in some places it makes up 15 to 30% of the population), there are very few efforts to reach and disciple children.
 - A small contingent of churches in Ecuador include Sunday School programs as part of their ministry, but overall the church needs to be envisioned on the strategic potential of ministry to children.
 - The church leaders who do place value on reaching children have a growing desire for their leaders to be better equipped and are open to receiving outside help.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
5,037 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
4,532,988 children for Christ