



# Guatemala



## Introduction to GUATEMALA

THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA exists in homage to its Mayan heritage, as relics of the ancient culture remain scattered across this nation lying just south of Mexico. Decades of guerilla warfare and a penchant for street crime have ruled Central America's most-populated country; though crime is still common, the country has been at relative peace since 1996.

## The GUATEMALAN people

<b>Total population:</b>	13,276,517
<b>Children under 15:</b>	5,237,064
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	70.29 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$5,300
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	95%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	10 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	69.1%
<b>Internet users:</b>	1.96 million
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	14.949 million
<b>Major/official language(s):</b>	Spanish, Amerindian

### Risk issues impacting children:

- About half of all children live in poverty (mainly in rural areas). Many suffer from malnutrition.
- Kidnapping and trafficking have increased dramatically.
- There is low school retention, mainly due to families needing children to work from a young age.

## More about GUATEMALA

<b>Capital city:</b>	Guatemala City
<b>Type of government:</b>	Constitutional Democratic Republic
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	108,889
<b>General terrain:</b>	Mostly mountains with narrow coastal plain and rolling limestone plateau
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Sugar, textiles and clothing, furniture, chemicals, petroleum, metals, rubber, tourism
<b>National motto:</b>	"Grow free and fertile"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Aeropuerto La Aurora in Guatemala City Flores

## Reaching GUATEMALA

Currently classified as World C: Christian

### Major religions:

- Christian
- Indigenous Mayan beliefs

### Christian groups:

- Roman Catholic - 63%
- Protestant - 19%
- Other - 9.5%
- Independent - 8.4%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	1 (negligible% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.019
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	359,038
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	3,700
<b>Per million:</b>	291.12
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	4,000
<b>Per million:</b>	314.72
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	23,053

## Children's ministry in GUATEMALA

*Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Guatemala. 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. Children's workers in the outlying areas frequently struggle with lack of teachers, lack of space, and lack of materials.
  - 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  
**23,053** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**5,237,064** children for Christ