



Panama



Introduction to PANAMA

THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA is a thin country linking the continents of North and South America. Home to the famous Panama Canal, it has both the largest and fastest growing economy in Central America. Despite its relatively safe cities, Panama still has a lot of street crime, and its border with Colombia continues to be negatively affected by the drug trade.

The PANAMANIAN people

Total population:	3,360,474
Children under 15:	983,700
Average Life Expectancy:	77.25 years
Per capita annual income:	\$11,800
% children in primary school:	98.29%
Average years of education:	13 years
Literacy rate:	91.9%
Internet users:	934,500
Cell phones in use:	3.805 million
Major/official language(s):	

Spanish
English

Risk issues impacting children:

- 19% of children are malnourished and over 50% live in poverty. Both these figures are higher in indigenous areas.
- Children in indigenous and rural areas have less access to quality education.

More about PANAMA

Capital city:	Panama City
Type of government:	Constitutional Democracy
Square kilometers:	75,420
General terrain:	Interior mostly steep, rugged mountains and dissected, upland plains; coastal areas largely plains and rolling hills
Major industries/jobs:	Construction, brewing, cement, sugar, agriculture
National motto:	"For the benefit of the world"
Major airport(s):	Tocumen International in Panama City

Reaching PANAMA

Currently classified as World C: Christian

Major religions:

Christian – 100%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic - 77.5%
Protestant - 15%
Independent - 5.3%
Other - 1.3%
Anglican - 0.9%
Orthodox - 0.1%

Unreached People Groups:	1 (0.2% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.026
Average annual baptisms:	63,330
Foreign missionaries:	2,200
Per million:	680.80
National Christian workers/pastors:	700
Per million:	216.62
Number of churches/congregations:	2,932

Children's ministry in PANAMA

Overview: • Panama is a predominantly Christian nation of Roman Catholic background. There is also a steadily growing, active Protestant minority.

- Children's ministry in Panama has been growing steadily, with more churches offering Sunday School programs, more teacher training opportunities being made available, and even several large outreach opportunities such as Kids Crusades and VBS.
- Still, 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. Many of the smaller churches simply resort to babysitting children instead of working to build up disciples of Christ.

Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in
2,932 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
983,700 kids for Christ