



# Iraq



## Introduction to IRAQ

THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ, located in the heart of the Middle East, is built on some of the greatest nations in antiquity: the Babylonians, Sumerians, Assyrians and Mesopotamians. Due to the current threat of terrorism and war, and a past history of human rights abuses, this country is listed as one of the most dangerous in the world as it attempts to rebuild.

## The IRAQI people

<b>Total population:</b>	28,945,657
<b>Children under 15:</b>	11,241,047
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	69.94 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$3,200
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	87.3%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	10 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	74.1%
<b>Internet users:</b>	300,000
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	17.529 million
<b>Major/official language(s):</b>	Arabic, Kurdish, Turkoman, Assyrian, Armenian

## Risk issues impacting children:

- Violence has led to less children in school, more orphans, and more psychological stress due to the witnessing of violent events.
- Access to safe water and immunizations are limited in many areas.

## More about IRAQ

<b>Capital city:</b>	Baghdad
<b>Type of government:</b>	Parliamentary Democracy
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	438,317
<b>General terrain:</b>	Mostly broad plains; reedy marshes in south with large flooded areas; mountains in north and northeast
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Petroleum, leather, chemicals, textiles
<b>National motto:</b>	"Allah is great"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Baghdad International

## Reaching IRAQ

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

### Major religions:

- Muslim - 97%
- Christian/other - 3%

### Christian groups:

- Roman Catholic - 67.1%
- Orthodox - 30.3%
- Protestant - 1.9%
- Independent - 0.6%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	21 (96.9% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.013
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	5,438
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	85
<b>Per million:</b>	3.04
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	1,500
<b>Per million:</b>	53.58
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	219

## Children's ministry in IRAQ

*Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Iraq. The following information regards general children's ministry in the Middle East, and may not all be applicable to this nation.*

- Overview:**
- In more open countries, children's ministry can be vital, and churches, parents and para-church organizations see its importance.
  - In some countries, leaders have been mobilized and trained by organizations to conduct Bible clubs in homes and churches, and resources are available. There tends to be far fewer workers than there are children to be reached.
  - Most nations in the Middle East are predominantly Muslim, and conversion to Christianity is discouraged. In some countries, converts may be rejected by their families and communities, or face arrest or execution.
  - Nations closed to missionary activity may only have covert children's ministry opportunities, including significant radio and media exposure to the gospel.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**219** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**11,241,047** children for Christ