



Saudi Arabia



Introduction to SAUDI ARABIA

THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, the largest country on the Arabian Peninsula, is the birthplace of Islam. This mysterious and historic country of Bedouin travelers and Arabian kingdoms is home to the Muslim holy sites of Mecca and Medina, and the world's largest expanse of sand known as the Empty Quarter.

The SAUDI people

Total population:	28,686,633
Children under 15:	10,898,067
Average Life Expectancy:	76.3 years
Per capita annual income:	\$20,500
% children in primary school:	84.5%
Average years of education:	N/A*
Literacy rate:	78.8%
Internet users:	7.7 million
Cell phones in use:	36 million
Major/official language(s):	Arabic

Risk issues impacting children:

UNICEF does not currently offer children at risk statistics specific to this country. Below is children at risk information regarding many nations in this region, and all statements may not be directly applicable to this nation.

- Abuse of women and children, low minimum age for marriage and quality of school curricula are issues of concern, though statistics are limited on the subject.
- Injuries and accidents are the leading cause of death for children.
- There are large disparities in wealth distribution.

More about SAUDI ARABIA

Capital city:	Riyadh
Type of government:	Monarchy
Square kilometers:	2,149,690
General terrain:	Mostly uninhabited, sandy desert
Major industries/jobs:	Petroleum and petrochemicals, crude oil
National motto:	"There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet"
Major airport(s):	King Abdul Aziz International, King Fahd International, King Khaled International

Reaching SAUDI ARABIA

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

Major religions:

Muslim - >99%

Christian groups:

Roman Catholic - 40.3%

Other - 20.7%

Protestant - 14.8%

Orthodox - 12.1%

Independent - 11.9%

Unreached People Groups:	24 (86.4% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	0.099
Average annual baptisms:	30,895
Foreign missionaries:	110
Per million:	4.66
National Christian workers/pastors:	30
Per million:	1.27
Number of churches/congregations:	128

Children's ministry in SAUDI ARABIA

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Saudi Arabia. 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
128 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
10,898,067 children for Christ