



# Syria



## Introduction to SYRIA

THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, a Middle Eastern nation bordering Iraq and Turkey, has spent its last decade modernizing, and has grown economically as a result, though it is currently learning how to adjust to declining oil production. Some cities in Syria are among the oldest in the world.

## The SYRIAN people

<b>Total population:</b>	20,178,485
<b>Children under 15:</b>	7,234,952
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	71.19 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$4,600
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	N/A*
<b>Average years of education:</b>	N/A*
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	76.9%
<b>Internet users:</b>	3.565 million
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	7.056 million
<b>Major/official language(s):</b>	Arabic, Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, French, others

## Risk issues impacting children:

- Many girls drop out of primary school.
- Children can be subject to abuse and child labour.

## More about SYRIA

<b>Capital city:</b>	Damascus
<b>Type of government:</b>	Republic under an authoritarian military-dominated regime
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	185,180
<b>General terrain:</b>	Primarily semiarid and desert plateau; narrow coastal plain; mountains in west
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Petroleum, agriculture, textiles
<b>National motto:</b>	"Unity, Freedom and Socialism"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Damascus Lattakia Aleppo

## Reaching SYRIA

*Currently classified as World B: Somewhat Reached*

### Major religions:

- Muslim - 90%
- Christian - 10%
- Jewish

### Christian groups:

- Orthodox - 60.5%
- Roman Catholic - 35.2%
- Protestant - 3.1%
- Independent - 0.6%
- Anglican - 0.4%
- Other - 0.2%

**Unreached People Groups:** 16 (95.2% of pop)

**Average annual Christian growth:** 0.013

**Average annual baptisms:** 27,131

**Foreign missionaries:** 110  
**Per million:** 5.82

**National Christian workers/pastors:** 700  
**Per million:** 37.05

**Number of churches/congregations:** 589

## Children's ministry in SYRIA

*Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Syria. 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.

## Focus for Prayer

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

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**7,234,952** children for Christ