



Turkey



Introduction to TURKEY

THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY, the former stronghold of the powerful Ottoman Empire, is a large nation bridging Europe and the Middle East. With a centuries-long history of war and struggle, Turkey is now a modern nation with much global clout. It is currently fighting insurgencies in Kurdistan and is under consideration for acceptance into the European Union.

The TURKISH people

Total population:	76,805,524
Children under 15:	20,924,891
Average Life Expectancy:	71.96 years
Per capita annual income:	\$11,900
% children in primary school:	93.9%
Average years of education:	11 years
Literacy rate:	87.4%
Internet users:	24.483 million
Cell phones in use:	65.824 million
Major/official language(s):	Turkish, Kurdish, others
Risk issues impacting children:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of quality education plagues rural regions. -Child labor remains widespread, as does child marriage.

More about TURKEY

Capital city:	Ankara
Type of government:	Republican Parliamentary Democracy
Square kilometers:	783,562
General terrain:	High central plateau, narrow coastal plain, several mountain ranges
Major industries/jobs:	Textiles, food processing, agriculture, autos and electronics
National motto:	"Sovereignty rests unconditionally with the nation;" "Peace in the homeland, peace in the world"
Major airport(s):	Ataturk International in Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen International Antalya Bodrum

Reaching TURKEY

Currently classified as World A: Unreached

Major religions:

Muslim - 99.8%
Other - 0.2%

Christian groups:

Orthodox - 65.6%
Roman Catholic - 15.6%
Protestant - 9.4%
Independent - 6.3%
Other - 3.1%

Unreached People Groups:	38 (99.4% of pop)
Average annual Christian growth:	-0.025
Average annual baptisms:	2,138
Foreign missionaries:	530
Per million:	7.26
National Christian workers/pastors:	400
Per million:	5.48
Number of churches/congregations:	289

Children's ministry in TURKEY

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Turkey. 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
289 congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling
20,924,891 children for Christ