



# Papua New Guinea



## Introduction to PAPUA NEW GUINEA

THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA shares half of the island of New Guinea with Indonesia; it is additionally spread across many smaller islands of the South Pacific. Ecologically and ethnically diverse, Papua New Guinea is home to numerous and varied tribal cultures, in addition to a host of unique animal species. Urban crime and HIV/AIDS are growing concerns.

## The PAPUA NEW GUINEAN people

<b>Total population:</b>	6,057,263
<b>Children under 15:</b>	2,237,161
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	66.34 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$2,300
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	N/A*
<b>Average years of education:</b>	N/A*
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	57.3%
<b>Internet users:</b>	120,000
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	600,000

**Major/official language(s):** Tok Pisin, English, Hiri Motu, some 860 indigenous languages spoken

### Risk issues impacting children:

- A prevalence of natural disaster leads to displacement and a lack of social services for children.
- The mortality is high for many preventable diseases due to lack of immunizations and low sanitation standards in many areas of the country.
- Access to clean water is limited in some rural areas.

## More about PAPUA NEW GUINEA

<b>Capital city:</b>	Port Moresby
<b>Type of government:</b>	Constitutional Parliamentary Democracy and a Commonwealth realm
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	462,840
<b>General terrain:</b>	Mostly mountains with coastal lowlands and rolling foothills
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Copra crushing, palm oil processing, plywood production, gold, silver, and copper, crude oil production, petroleum refining
<b>National motto:</b>	"Unity in diversity"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Jackson's Airport in Port Moresby

## Reaching PAPUA NEW GUINEA

*Currently classified as World C: Christian*

### Major religions:

- Christian - 96.4%
- Indigenous beliefs and other - 3.3%
- Baha'i - 0.3%

### Christian groups:

- Protestant - 59.9%
- Roman Catholic - 28.7%
- Anglican - 5.7%
- Independent - 5.7%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	3 (0.6% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.05
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	162,634
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	3,800
<b>Per million:</b>	648.89
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	14,000
<b>Per million:</b>	2,390.65
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	16,524

## Children's ministry in PAPUA NEW GUINEA

- Overview:**
- Some international ministries, such as AWANA, have programs in Papua New Guinea.
  - A strong missionary presence reaches parts of PNG's varied populace, but aside from a few Sunday School classes, there is little ongoing, local ministry to children. Many Sunday School teachers lack training.
  - Children are content with more simple presentations, which is helpful when fewer resources are available for ministry.
  - Because of deeply ingrained indigenous beliefs, many children or families will accept Christ as an addition to their religion.
  - A lack of education in some areas can make learning, reading and writing difficult for some children.

## Focus for Prayer

Training children's leaders for outreach in  
**16,524** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**2,237,161** children for Christ