



# Tonga



## Introduction to TONGA

THE KINGDOM OF TONGA is the only remaining kingdom in the Pacific, and the only nation in the region to have never fully lost its independence. The archipelago of over 150 islands has a fairly developed infrastructure and economy, but must import the majority of its food.

## The TONGAN people

<b>Total population:</b>	120,898
<b>Children under 15:</b>	39,698
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	70.73 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$4,600
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	99%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	13 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	98.9%
<b>Internet users:</b>	8,400
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	50,500

**Major/official language(s):** Tongan, English

### 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.

- Poverty forces many children to drop out of school because their parents can't afford school fees.
- Poverty, illiteracy, sexual exploitation of children and the prevalence of unsafe sex practices all contribute to difficult conditions for children, and create an environment ripe for contagious disease.
- High suicide rates, drug and alcohol addiction deteriorate many families.

## More about TONGA

<b>Capital city:</b>	Nuku'alofa
<b>Type of government:</b>	Monarchy
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	747
<b>General terrain:</b>	Most islands have limestone base formed from uplifted coral formation; others have limestone overlying volcanic base
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Tourism, construction, fishing
<b>National motto:</b>	"God and Tonga are my inheritance"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Nuku'alofa

## Reaching TONGA

Currently classified as World C: Christian

### Major religions:

Christian

### Christian groups:

Protestant - 42.6%  
Other - 21.5%  
Independent - 20.3%  
Roman Catholic - 14.9%  
Anglican - 0.7%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	0 (0% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.015
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	726
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	420
<b>Per million:</b>	4,227.01
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	600
<b>Per million:</b>	6,038.59
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	552

## Children's ministry in TONGA

Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Tonga. The following information regards general children's ministry in the Pacific Islands, and may not all be applicable to this nation.

- Overview:**
- Most inhabitants of the Pacific Islands are Christian and have some kind of established church.
  - Most nations and territories in the Pacific Islands are spread across thousands of kilometers. Therefore, it is difficult to uncover all pockets of children who still need Jesus.
  - Though larger, more populated islands are better resourced, thousands live in locales that are difficult to supply with training materials and resources. Many remote islands remain isolated to outside influence.
  - Animism and traditional religions still influence Christianity on some islands.

## Focus for Prayer

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

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**39,698** children for Christ