



# Vanuatu



## Introduction to VANUATU

THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU came to independence in 1980 after millennia of rule by various foreigners. Today, this small group of islands off the northeast coast of Australia is a popular tourist destination, which is one of the country's main sources of income. However, most native inhabitants live off of small-scale agriculture.

## The NI-VANUATU people

<b>Total population:</b>	218,519
<b>Children under 15:</b>	67,096
<b>Average Life Expectancy:</b>	63.98 years
<b>Per capita annual income:</b>	\$4,600
<b>% children in primary school:</b>	86.45%
<b>Average years of education:</b>	10 years
<b>Literacy rate:</b>	74%
<b>Internet users:</b>	17,000
<b>Cell phones in use:</b>	36,000

**Major/official language(s):** Local languages, Pidgin

### 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 VANUATU

<b>Capital city:</b>	Port-Vila
<b>Type of government:</b>	Parliamentary Republic
<b>Square kilometers:</b>	12,189
<b>General terrain:</b>	Mostly mountainous islands of volcanic origin; narrow coastal plains
<b>Major industries/jobs:</b>	Food and fish freezing, wood processing, meat canning, beef
<b>National motto:</b>	"Let us stand firm in God"
<b>Major airport(s):</b>	Bauerfield International in Port Vila

## Reaching VANUATU

*Currently classified as World C: Christian*

### Major religions:

Christian	- 82.5%
Indigenous beliefs	- 5.6%
Other	- 9.6%
Unspecified	- 1.3%
None	- 1%

### Christian groups:

Protestant	- 61.1%
Anglican	- 17.6%
Roman Catholic	- 16.1%
Other	- 3.1%
Independent	- 2.1%

<b>Unreached People Groups:</b>	0 (0% of pop)
<b>Average annual Christian growth:</b>	0.026
<b>Average annual baptisms:</b>	5,860
<b>Foreign missionaries:</b>	320
<b>Per million:</b>	1,485.84
<b>National Christian workers/pastors:</b>	400
<b>Per million:</b>	1,857.30
<b>Number of churches/congregations:</b>	954

## Children's ministry in VANUATU

*Specific children's ministry information has not been provided for Vanuatu. 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  
**954** congregations

Strategies for reaching and discipling  
**67,096** children for Christ