

Algerian Arab



Quick Facts

Population: 27,000,000

Algeria: 25,000,000

France: 800,000

Tunisia: 220,000

Morocco: 200,000

Religion: Sunni Islam

Believers: 0.001%

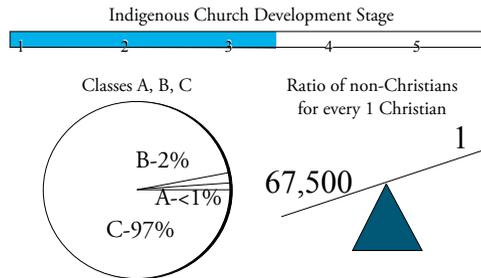
Scriptures: Portions

Ministry Tools: JRGT

Church Status: 2

Mission Status: 2

MS Subgroups: 20+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

Identity: The Algerian Arabs originate from the 8th century Arabic conquest of North Africa. Since that time there has been considerable mixing with the Berber population, resulting in an Arabic language and culture that is quite distinct from others in Middle East.

Lifestyle: Most of Algeria is desert and arid mountains. The exception is the coastal area which has a nice Mediterranean climate and fertile soil. Ninety percent of the population lives on the coast. The high rate of urbanization has made for one of the highest levels of “per-housing occupancy” in the world, and the government is now trying to discourage people from moving to the cities. The urban unemployment rate is as high as 30% in most cities.

Customs: Interaction between men and women is strictly regulated. Typically, men socialize in coffee houses and around the mosque, whereas women socialize primarily in the

home. Women and men eat separately and seldom attend the mosque together. Some women attend religious services in homes led by and organized exclusively by female religious leaders.

Religion: The Algerian Arabs are strongly Sunni Muslim, with a high percentage of fundamentalist followers. In 1991 the Islamic Salvation Front won the national elections on a platform of converting the whole country into an Islamic state. The more secular military leadership then seized power and banned the ISF, resulting in a ten year civil war in which an estimated 100,000 people have died. The increasing power of the Islamists has forced the government to make many concessions that have lessened the civil liberties of most Algerians, especially women.

Christian Outreach: The unstable environment in Algeria has made long-term resident missionary work difficult. Radio and Satellite TV broadcasting

has been incredibly successful in reaching thousands of seekers, several hundred of which are now being disciplined in underground fellowships. The potential for rapid growth, and the expectations for a strong indigenous church in the near future are high.

How to Pray:

☞ The majority of urban Algerians have access to Satellite TV. Pray for the effective use of this medium and for God’s continued blessing on the existing evangelistic programing.

☞ There is yet no culturally sensitive Bible translation into Algerian Arabic. Pray for the development and effective distribution of this important discipleship resource.

☞ Intercede for the political situation in Algeria, and ask God for his will to be done, and especially that conditions would be ideal for the rapid expansion of the Church.

☞ Pray for effective outreach among the easily accessible 2 million Algerian Arabs in Europe, and for the training of many future evangelists and leaders.

Every year 240,000 Algerian Arabs die without Christ.