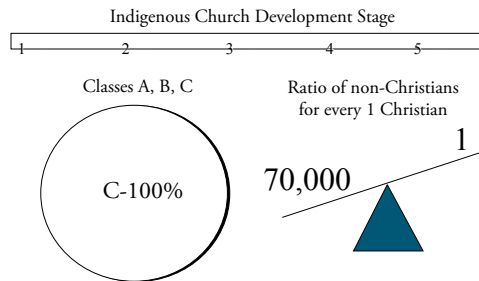




Quick Facts

Population: 1,400,000
 Russia: 1,300,000
 Kazakhstan: 30,000
 Turkey: 7,000
 Jordan: 4,000
Religion: Islam
Believers: 0.001%
Scriptures: Portions
Ministry Tools: JT
Church Status: 0
Mission Status: 1
MS Subgroups: 6



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 Chechens are the second largest ethnicity in the Caucasian people cluster, which includes such groups as the Georgians and Avars. They are closely related culturally and linguistically to the Ingush tribe, and also share a common history.

Lifestyle: Chechnya has been devastated by a decade of civil war with Russia, resulting in mass-unemployment as high as 70% in some areas. A black-market economy based on bartering and smuggling has emerged, and separatists are advocating the introduction of their own national currency—the Nahar. In rural areas, which comprise about 60% of the population, a traditional agricultural economy persists. Trading between sheepherding mountain communities and grain-producing lowland villages has formed a perfect economic symbiosis for centuries.

Customs: Marriage by arrangement is the socially acceptable norm, but a

tradition of elopement with the cooperation of the girl's mother has become commonplace. There are two main reasons for this, either the groom cannot afford the brideprice (so he “kidnaps” the bride) or the girl doesn't like the arranged match chosen for her by the men in her family, and so with her mother's help makes arrangements of her own.

Religion: The Chechens began to convert in mass to Islam around the 18th century as part of an anti-Russian movement in the Caucasus. Muslim brotherhoods (*tariqas*) were influential in the spreading of the faith, and today are organized along clan divisions. Persecution by the Soviets, including mass-deportation and the closure of mosques, served only to strengthen Islamic fervor and devotion, which was largely channeled and organized by the network of “underground” and clandestine *tariqas*.

Christian Outreach: There has been much effort by Christian organizations

to bring aid to the Chechens, especially those in refugee camps. A few have responded to the gospel, but the impermanence of the population has made it difficult to establish ongoing fellowships.

How to Pray:

✚ For the Chechens, to become Christian is to deny one's ethnicity and join the enemy. Pray for those who have embraced Christ that they might be able to demonstrate their love for their people and the true nature of Biblical faith.

✚ Over 50,000 Chechens have lost their lives due to the civil war. Pray for God's peace to come, both physically and spiritually, and for favorable conditions that will allow the Church to grow and prosper.

✚ Wahhibi Islam, with its strong fundamentalist bent, is spreading among the Chechens and is now embraced by over 10% of the population. Ask God to deliver the Chechens from ideologies of legalism, hate and bigotry that will only perpetuate their plight.

✚ Intercede for the completion of a culturally sensitive Bible translation in the Chechen language.

Every year 12,000 Chechen die without Christ.