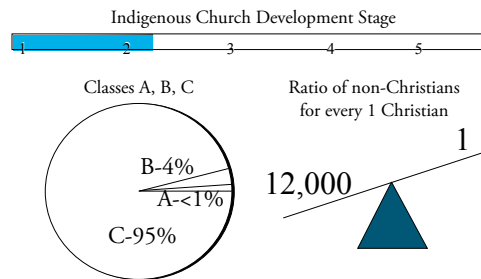




Quick Facts

Population: 30,000,000
 Pakistan: 20,000,000
 Afghanistan: 9,700,000
 Iran: 120,000
 UAE: 100,000

Religion: Sunni Islam
Believers: 0.0083%
Scriptures: NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JRGT
Church Status: 2
Mission Status: 2
MS Subgroups: 40+



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

Christian workers are more pre-occupied with distributing the massive amounts of aid donated to the country than with building an indigenous church. However, many Afghans hired to work with Christian aid agencies are coming to faith in Christ.

How to Pray:

🙏 Pray for the development of several Pashtun fellowships now meeting in Kabul, that these believers would grow into maturity and Christian leadership.

🙏 Pray for stability to come to rural areas where it is still dangerous for Christian witness, and for thousands of Pashtun evangelists to be thrust out into the Harvest.

🙏 Intercede for the new government of Afghanistan, that they would preserve religious freedom and promote ethnic harmony.

🙏 Ask God to work in the hearts of the 30 tribal leaders which rule over all the Pashtun, that they would seek the Prince of Peace.

🙏 Pray for the production and effectiveness of Bible translations into every Pashtun dialect, and for their mass distribution.

Every year 270,000 Pashtun die without Christ.

Identity: Traditionally, the Pashtun claim descent from the Israelite tribe of Joseph. Genetic and linguistic research suggests that they are related more closely to the Iranian ethno-linguistic cluster. They are regarded as the largest tribe in the world due to their sophisticated clan structure which unites the entire group.

Lifestyle: The last thirty years have been turbulent for the Pashtun in Afghanistan. Hundreds of thousands have been killed or maimed, and millions have been displaced. Almost every city, town and village economy is in need of rebuilding. Most farmers now prefer to illegally grow opium as their cash crop, resulting in criminal syndicates that further destabilize and terrorize the country.

Customs: An important part of the Pashtun ethnic identity is following an ancient code known as *Pashtunwali*. This code of honor includes lavish

hospitality for guests (and defending one's guests even to the point of death); avenging dishonor against the clan (especially when involving a woman); and willingness to accept a truce when offered. The ideal of every Pashtun is to be a warrior-poet—someone who is both culturally refined, as well as loyal and courageous.

Religion: Occupying a strategic location along the ancient silk-road, the Pashtun have been influenced by many religions. The 8th century Arab conquest of the region resulted in mass-conversions to Islam. Muslim saints are revered and shrines in their honor can be found all over the country. The war with the Soviets resulted in the importation of Jihadist from all over the Muslim world, and the adoption of many fundamentalist Muslim teachings.

Christian Outreach: The American invasion of Afghanistan has resulted in a flood of missionary work, though most