

Seek the welfare of the place where I have sent you...pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. Jeremiah 29:7

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Population: 778,000

Human Development Index Rating: 136
(1-187, high to low)

Gross National Income: \$ 34,900 per person per year

Life Expectancy: 64.6 years

HIV Prevalence: 6.2%

Adult Literacy: 95%

Women in Parliament: 9.7%

Child Labor: 28%

Infant mortality 65 deaths/1000 live births (US 6/1000)

Number of Orphans: 46,000

Major Religions:

Christian (predominantly Roman Catholic) 90%
Indigenous beliefs 10%

Government: Presidential Republic

Internet users: 23.8%

Population living below poverty level: 44%

Seek the welfare of the place where I have sent you...pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. Jeremiah 29:7

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Population: 778,000

Human Development Index Rating: 136
(1-187, high to low)

Gross National Income: \$ 34,900 per person per year

Life Expectancy: 64.6 years

HIV Prevalence: 6.2%

Adult Literacy: 95%

Women in Parliament: 9.7%

Child Labor: 28%

Infant mortality 65 deaths/1000 live births (US 6/1000)

Number of Orphans: 46,000

Major Religions:

Christian (predominantly Roman Catholic) 90%
Indigenous beliefs 10%

Government: Presidential Republic

Internet users: 23.8%

Population living below poverty level: 44%

Economy:

Despite becoming the richest country, per capita, in sub-Saharan Africa since the discovery of oil and natural gas reserves in the 1990s, the majority of people remain extremely poor.

Access to health and education has deteriorated as the country's economy has boomed. Twenty percent of children under five are chronically malnourished and stunted in their growth. Less than half the population has access to clean drinking water and 20 percent of children die before reaching age five.

According to Human Rights Watch, the government has used an oil boom to entrench and enrich itself further at the expense of the country's people. Transparency International has ranked Equatorial Guinea 171 out of 180 in its list of most corrupt states

Brief Political History:

Equatorial Guinea gained independence in 1968 after 190 years of Spanish rule. This tiny country, composed of a mainland portion plus five inhabited islands, is one of the smallest on the African continent. The current president has ruled the country since 1979 when he seized power in a coup and was reelected in 2016. Although nominally a constitutional democracy since 1991, elections since 1996 were widely seen as flawed. The president exerts almost total control over the political system and has discouraged political opposition.

Presbyterian Church (USA) Partner Churches:

Iglesia Reformada Presbiteriana de Guinea Equatorial

Challenges:

Economic justice. Millions of dollars of oil money enrich a minority, but little trickles down to the masses. The drop in global oil prices has placed significant strain on the national budget. Unemployment is problematic, with low public spending on education and health care.

Political freedoms. In over 30 years, the country has had only two rulers. Freedom of the press is limited and opposition parties are discouraged.

Trafficking in persons. Equatorial Guinea is primarily a destination country for children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor. Women may also be trafficked to Equatorial Guinea from Cameroon, and Benin, heading en route to China for exploitation.

Pray as you are led. Pray for the Tumekutana speakers, the steering committee, and for the women attending the conference.

Resources:

Economy:

Despite becoming the richest country, per capita, in sub-Saharan Africa since the discovery of oil and natural gas reserves in the 1990s, the majority of people remain extremely poor.

Access to health and education has deteriorated as the country's economy has boomed. Twenty percent of children under five are chronically malnourished and stunted in their growth. Less than half the population has access to clean drinking water and 20 percent of children die before reaching age five.

According to Human Rights Watch, the government has used an oil boom to entrench and enrich itself further at the expense of the country's people. Transparency International has ranked Equatorial Guinea 171 out of 180 in its list of most corrupt states

Brief Political History:

Equatorial Guinea gained independence in 1968 after 190 years of Spanish rule. This tiny country, composed of a mainland portion plus five inhabited islands, is one of the smallest on the African continent. The current president has ruled the country since 1979 when he seized power in a coup and was reelected in 2016. Although nominally a constitutional democracy since 1991, elections since 1996 were widely seen as flawed. The president exerts almost total control over the political system and has discouraged political opposition.

Presbyterian Church (USA) Partner Churches:

Iglesia Reformada Presbiteriana de Guinea Equatorial

Challenges:

Economic justice. Millions of dollars of oil money enrich a minority, but little trickles down to the masses. The drop in global oil prices has placed significant strain on the national budget. Unemployment is problematic, with low public spending on education and health care.

Political freedoms. In over 30 years, the country has had only two rulers. Freedom of the press is limited and opposition parties are discouraged.

Trafficking in persons. Equatorial Guinea is primarily a destination country for children trafficked for sexual exploitation and forced labor. Women may also be trafficked to Equatorial Guinea from Cameroon, and Benin, heading en route to China for exploitation.

Pray as you are led. Pray for the Tumekutana speakers, the steering committee, and for the women attending the conference.

Resources: