

Kazakhstan



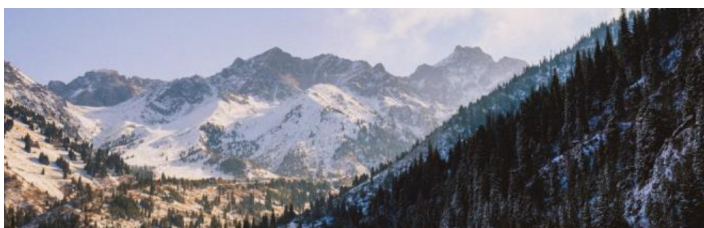
POPULATION: 12,199,000

PROGRESS: 0.1% Christian

BIBLE TRANSLATION: Complete

PEOPLE GROUP

The Kazakhs, a Turkic people, are the second largest Muslim people group of Central Asia. In times past, they may have been the most influential of the various Central Asian ethnic groups. Large communities can also be found in Mongolia, Ukraine and Russia.



The Kazakhs developed a distinct ethnic identity in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Several of their clans formed a federation that would provide mutual protection. As other clans joined the federation, its political influence began to take on an ethnic character. During the nineteenth century, the Russians acquired Central Asia through a steady process of annexation. They eventually claimed the entire territory of Kazakhstan. Tragically, about half of the Kazakh population was killed during the Russian Civil War of the 1920s and 1930s.

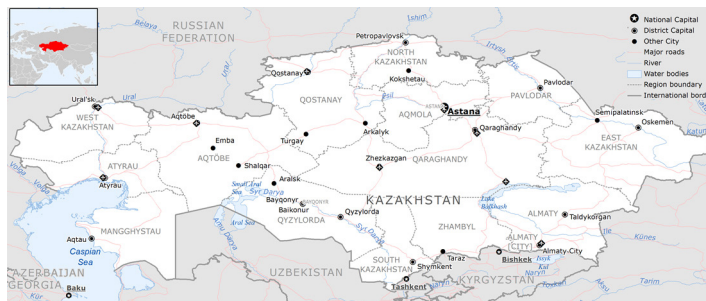
Since the collapse of Soviet Communism, Kazakhs have been searching for their identity. Traditionally, they were nomadic shepherds; however, under Soviet rule, much of their land was seized and used for collective farming. As industry developed, their economy and culture became dependent entirely on the Russians. Today, however, there is a widespread movement to redevelop their own cultural identity.

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION & PLATFORM

We have a unique opportunity for a platform in Kazakhstan in partnership with an NGO. It has had an environmental focus but is registered with a broad description spanning from the environment into education so there is a wide array of possibilities. Having project management skills would be essential. Our Country Coordinator is Kazakh and lives in (a major city) and we also have a local team based in (another city). You would be part of pioneering a movement to Christ among the Kazakh people..

If you are a follower of Christ, have a heart for those who have not yet been reached, are ready and willing to relocate and learn a second language, are excited to build a team in the field with people from other cultures and if you are ready to respond to God's call to go, we are ready to send you.

Email Jenny at mobilization@global-teams.org or visit <https://www.global-teams.org/letsgo>



Joint Research Centre, ECHO, European Commission, CC BY 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons

The foundation of Kazakh culture is hospitality, which always starts with a cup of tea. The host offers tea to any person who comes to his house. Guests must accept the kindness, or the host will be offended.

WHAT ARE THEIR BELIEFS?

Kazakhs embraced Islam during the sixteenth century and still consider themselves Muslim today. Changes in Kazakh society (mainly from a nomadic to a settled lifestyle) and an attempt by the Soviets to suppress religious freedoms have led the people to adopt Islam more closely. However, their Islamic practices have been combined with traditional folk religions.

WHAT ARE THEIR NEEDS?

Kazakhs are facing ecological catastrophe due to the mismanagement of natural resources. This has caused the near desolation of the Aral Sea and contamination of much of their drinking water. As a result, the infant mortality rate is very high. The Kazakh church is young, but the church is growing. Over 40 Kazakh speaking churches exist, but in a people group of over eight million, that is a small number. Many churches are located in the major cities like Almaty, but Christian workers are also needed in the rural areas.



Orphaned ship in former Aral Sea, near Aral, Kazakhstan. Photo by Staeker, Public Domain