



**STATE ^{OF THE}
NATIONS**

Mission Intelligence for
Everyday Christians

Weekly
Briefing

Issue 004 • July 2026

MEET THE PEOPLE GROUPS SHAPING THE UNFINISHED TASK

A closer look at the world's largest
unreached people groups.



2.1 Billion in Just 100 People Groups

The **100 largest unreached people groups** alone contain **2.1 billion people**—roughly **one-quarter of the world's population**. This shows that the unfinished task is concentrated among a relatively small number of very large communities.

The Largest Unreached People Group

The **Bengali Muslims** of Bangladesh number approximately **134.9 million people**, making them the world's largest unreached people group. Reaching this single people group would impact more people than the population of many nations.

Where Most Unreached People Live

The majority of the world's largest unreached people groups are concentrated in:

South Asia

The Middle East

North Africa

These regions remain the heart of the unfinished task.

Statistics adapted from Joshua Project's global people group research. Figures are updated periodically and may change as new information becomes available.

MEET THE PEOPLE GROUPS SHAPING THE UNFINISHED TASK

More than **3.62 billion** people still live in **7,162 unreached people groups**, according to Joshua Project. Even more striking, the **100 largest unreached people groups alone account for over 2.1 billion people**—about one-quarter of the world's population. This means the unfinished task is concentrated among a relatively small number of massive communities rather than thousands of tiny, isolated tribes.

These largest unreached people groups are found primarily in **South Asia**, **the Middle East**, and **North Africa**. Many belong to Muslim or Hindu communities, while others come from Buddhist-majority societies.

Among the largest are the **Bengali Muslims of Bangladesh** (134.9 million), **Egyptian Arab Muslims** (68.3 million), **Brahmins in India** (62.1 million), **Algerian Arabic-speaking people** (34.9 million), and the **Burmese of Myanmar** (30.1 million).

One of the most surprising findings is that many of these communities already have the Bible translated into their language. Yet they remain unreached because the challenge extends beyond Scripture availability. Social barriers, cultural identity, legal restrictions, limited Christian witness, and the absence of strong disciple-making movements continue to prevent millions from encountering the gospel through trusted relationships.

This also helps explain the difference between **unreached** and **frontier** people groups. An unreached people group lacks a sufficiently strong indigenous church capable of reaching its own people. Frontier people groups represent an even greater challenge, with fewer than one follower of Christ for every 1,000 people,

making them some of the least-accessible populations in the world.

The data also challenges a common misconception about global missions. The unfinished task is no longer defined mainly by remote villages or isolated tribes.

Increasingly, it is found among large, urbanizing populations connected to major cities, trade routes, migration networks, and global economies. Many live in countries where Christianity is present, yet their own communities remain largely untouched by the gospel because of language, caste, clan, or religious identity.

For Christians, this changes how we think about the Great Commission. Missions is not simply about reaching countries—it is about reaching people groups.

Understanding where the largest unreached communities are located helps believers pray more strategically, give more intentionally, and support efforts that bring the gospel to those who still have little opportunity to hear and respond to the message of Christ.

KEY TAKEAWAY

Many of the world's largest unreached communities live in countries where churches already exist, yet they still have little opportunity to hear the gospel through someone from their own people. Until every people group has a growing community of believers, the unfinished task remains unfinished.



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Pray for the
top 120
Unreached peoples
(UPGs) in Africa

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Bengali Muslim

IN BANGLADESH & 8 OTHER COUNTRIES

POPULATION: **135,045,000**

LANGUAGE: **BENGALI**

RELIGION: **ISLAM**

ABOUT THE BENGALI MUSLIM

The Bengali Muslims are the world's largest unreached people group. Their culture blends centuries of Islamic faith with rich Bengali traditions. Although many live in growing cities, millions still reside in rural communities. Despite having the Bible in their language, they remain unreached because there is not yet a strong, self-sustaining movement of believers among them.

PRAY NOW

- Pray that God would raise disciple-makers among the world's largest unreached people groups, especially Bengali Muslims, and strengthen believers already serving faithfully among them.
- Pray for the growth of the Christian church among the Muslim Bengalis, and for boldness, wisdom and love for local Christian believers.
- Pray for peace and stability in Bangladesh, especially in regions prone to natural disasters and communal tensions.

Profile source: Joshua project

🌍 Top 120 African Frontier Peoples

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ABOUT

State of the Nations Weekly Briefing is a free publication designed to help everyday Christians understand God's heart for the nations through clear, biblical, and data-informed missions education.

This briefing is produced by the ministry of **Joe & Precious Olayinka**.

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see God's heart for the nations.*

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