
Greece

**Total area:**

131,957 km²

Population:

10,955,000 (2015)

Literacy:

95%

Official languages:

Greek

GDP (PPP) per capita:

\$26,669 (2016 est.)

Life expectancy:

81 years

Religions:

95% Greek Orthodox, 2% Catholic, 2% Agnostic or Atheist,
1% other religions

Prayer points

Women at risk in "the worst refugee camp in the world"

Moria refugee camp in Lesbos, has been described as "the worst refugee camp in the world". People are living in very difficult crowded conditions and the atmosphere in the camp is highly charged. Living conditions are basic and frustrations bubble over quickly. Moria is a particularly dangerous place for women. There is a closed section for women who are alone, but after 11pm the door is open, and anyone can come in because there is no security guard at night. Safety is a big issue. Pray for a solution to this massive problem and for the Christians working with refugees on Lesbos, that their compassion will bring hope. Pray that they would share God's love with gentleness and respect. (Reach Beyond - April 2019)

Help for refugees

In 2017, 68.5 million people were displaced as a direct result of persecution, conflict or violence. People make treacherous journeys by foot and by sea, with few possessions. They arrive exhausted. Many are traumatised and feel unsafe and they often face resentment and extremist threats. Pray for the victims of human trafficking, who were promised hope and a future. Pray for safety and protection for people making treacherous journeys. Pray for Bible-believing churches and Christian migrants to have opportunities to respond in practical ways with the love and message of Jesus Christ. (Serving In Mission - December 2018)

Europe Needs Evangelising

In Europe there is a huge amount of humanitarian aid but very little gospel outreach. Yet there are

many opportunities to take the gospel to those who have never heard it in emerging migrant communities. In Italy, most migrants are African, but there is great gospel need. There is enormous potential for sports ministries, teaching and practical training. In Athens also, there is a huge need for Arabic speakers to connect with migrants; however the Greek Evangelical Church is small and underfunded, existing in a climate with a total ban on evangelism in official centres. The only way to reach people in these communities is through unofficial ministries and programmes. Pray that many migrants may hear the gospel in Europe while we have this open door of opportunity like never before. Pray for the budding Christian ministries that are joining together to help bring Christ to refugees. May the Western Church also be open to the evangelisation and blessing Christian migrants bring. (Serving In Mission - January 2017)

Exploitation of Refugees

Greece has a population of 11 million and has suffered as a result of the crippling burden of national debt and austerity measures, and now the additional crisis of 50,000 refugees who are stranded in the country. In Athens, many problems arise from the exploitation of refugees with a steep rise in prostitution, people-smuggling and drug addiction. One Christian ministry Nea Zoi (New Life) has for two decades reached out to children and adults trapped in prostitution offering care, information and practical support. Since prostitution is legal in Greece, brothels are open for 24 hours, 7 days a week and literally become prisons for vulnerable women forced into what is called the 'first profession'. Teams of dedicated volunteers walk the streets of Athens at night up to five times a week offering hot and cold drinks, a smile, love and acceptance. Pray for their work and practical help given to set these women free. (Transform Europe Now) (Transform Europe Network (TEN) - January 2017)

On the brink of disaster

As Greece teeters on the brink of economic disaster, large numbers of the middle class and poor are increasingly desperate: "Many are forced to leave their homes because they cannot afford the rent. Salaries have been decreased to the minimum 400 Euros per month while the cost of goods and services remains high or is rising. Athens News reports increases in break-ins and robberies of homes, shops and banks. The numbers of people begging on the streets have increased. Thousands of Greeks are leaving the country in search of greener pastures." (Operation Mobilisation - July 2012)

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