

MADAGASCAR

Population: 18,595,469

HIV Prevalence: 1.7%

Life Expectancy at birth: 57.34 years

Number of **Orphans:** 1,000,000 (all causes)

Gross National Income: \$300
yearly rate per person

Adult Literacy: Male: 75.5% **Female:** 62.5%

Human Development Index Rating: 143
Scale of all countries 1-177 from
highest quality of living to lowest

Major Religions:

Indigenous beliefs	52%
Christian	41%
Muslim	7%

Economy: Madagascar has since the mid 1990s followed a World Bank- and IMF-led policy of privatization and liberalization. This strategy placed the country on a slow and steady growth path from an extremely low level. Agriculture, including fishing and forestry, is a mainstay of the economy. It is also known for exportation of spices, such as Vanilla.



Political Situation

Current: Republic

Brief History: Formerly an independent kingdom, Madagascar became a French colony in 1896, but regained its independence in 1960. During 1992-93, free presidential and National Assembly elections were held, ending 17 years of single-party rule. Then, in 2001 elections were held, though voting was rigged. It was only 7 months later after public protest and international pressure that the now former president was removed from office, and the current President Ravalomanana, (vice president of the PC(USA) partner church in Madagascar), took office.

Presbyterian Church (USA) Partner Church:
Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar (FJKM)

Challenges:

The FJKM, (Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar) was formed by the union of three churches in 1968. The country and the church, with limited resources, are facing the challenges of depleted forests and the need to respond to and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS which is currently affecting 2–2.5 percent of the population. PC(USA) personnel are working in these areas and assisting with feeder theological schools preparing students for the seminary in the capital city and with literacy programs, church officer training, and leadership development.

Resources:

Operation World 2005
CIA World Factbook 2006
UNDP 2006 Human Development Index
Unicef- *State of the World's Children*
www.pcusa.org/worldwide