

# SOMALIA

## November Missions Spotlight: Unreached People Groups



Somalia is a majority Muslim nation and society expects all Somalis to be Muslim. The violent insurgent group al-Shabaab has repeatedly expressed its desire to eradicate Christians from the country. Christians from Muslim backgrounds may be killed on the spot if discovered.

Christians also face serious persecution from their family and community. Leaving Islam is regarded as a betrayal of the family and clan. Anyone even suspected of being a Christian convert is closely monitored by the elders in the community, and even by their own family members. The few believers must meet in secret.

Christians from a Muslim background are most vulnerable to persecution; converts from Islam are regarded as a high-value target by al-Shabaab militia. Young female converts are particularly vulnerable. They are oppressed and exploited both on grounds of their faith and their gender. Young Christian girls are forced into marriages, in which they face sexual harassment, physical violence and pressure to adhere to conservative Muslim practices in an attempt to 'rehabilitate' them.

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### FACTS

**Population:** 18.1 million

**% Evangelical:** 0.3%

**Population in Unreached:**  
90.9%

**Main Language:** Somali, Arabic

**Main Religion:** Islam

**Scripture Translation:**  
100%

Source: [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net)



PC: Alamy, [www.opendoors.org](http://www.opendoors.org)

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- For protection over secret believers in Somalia, and also those whose faith have been discovered
- For healing and comfort for Somali believers who have been harmed physically or emotionally
- For God's mercy and supernatural intervention in the hearts of extremists, that the violence