



# Diaspora

## South Asians Around the World

Peoples from South Asia living and working abroad make up the Diaspora Cluster: Pakistanis, Indians, Nepalis, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and others. The mission field for South Asian tribes and tongues is all over the world. Outside of India, Vancouver has the largest concentration of Sikhs in the world, and 300,000 South Asians live in Toronto. There are 5 million South Asia migrant workers on the Arab Peninsula.

### Make an Impact

Your IMB workers are waiting to join you in engaging South Asians with the Good News in locations you may not have considered. You don't need to travel to South Asia to share the love of Jesus with South Asians. Europe is home to more than 1 million South Asians. So, we invite you to join us in reaching South Asians in Europe. Our goal is to find persons of peace.



### South Asia Diaspora Cluster at a Glance

<b>Countries</b>	Canada, Trinidad, UK, France, Kenya, South Africa, UAE, Myanmar, Malaysia, Thailand	<b>Population</b>	3,870,000
<b>Language</b>	Urdu, Hindi, Tamil, Bangla, Punjabi, Telugu, Nepali, Gujarati	<b>UUPGs</b>	Bengalis in Malaysia, Urdu in Saudi Arabia, Malayali in UAE
<b>Religion</b>	Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhists	<b>Partnership Opportunities</b>	Student and church partnerships for Europe
<b>Climate</b>	Mild (Summer in Europe)	Visit IMB's: <a href="http://www.Call2Embrace.org">www.Call2Embrace.org</a>	

*A vast multitude from every South Asian Nation, Tribe, People and Language knowing and worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ. ~ Revelation 7:9*

Bangladesh ~ Bhutan ~ India ~ Maldives ~ Nepal ~ Pakistan ~ Sri Lanka ~ and throughout the world  
[SouthAsianPeoples.imb.org](http://SouthAsianPeoples.imb.org) | email: [SouthAsianPeoples@imb.org](mailto:SouthAsianPeoples@imb.org) | [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)



## Top UUPGs - Unreached Unengaged People Group

(June 2011)

### 1. Bengali Muslims (11915)– Saudi Arabia, population 1,576,767

Male migrant workers from Bangladesh. Typically, they are on a 2-4 year contract. They are treated poorly and having to work long hours six days a week doing construction, assembly, street cleaner, driving, and janitorial. Limited access to hearing the Gospel due to the restrictions of the Saudi government. Nevertheless, a handful of Muslim background believers from Bangladesh are among the migrant workers. An IMB missionary listened to a Bengali Muslim background follower of Christ tell how he shares the Gospel with his Bengali Muslim co-laborers and requested us to send him Bangla Bibles.

**How can you pray?** – Rafik\* was baptized in Bangladesh five years ago. He has been working in Saudi for the last 3 years. He took the Bangla Bible with him. Two of Rafik's\* friends received Christ as Savior. Others tell Rafik\* to keep his Bible closed and hidden for fear of the Saudi officials. Pray for Rafik's\* ministry in a tough place. Pray for the Bengali migrant workers in Saudi Arabia.

**What can you do?** Arrange a mission trip to Saudi Arabia. Once you arrive, purchase dozens of iPod Shuffles. Load the Bangla Kitabi Bible Correspondence program onto the iPod Shuffles and distribute to the Bengali workers with instructions on how to use their mobile phones to answer the correspondence questions. IMB missionaries will receive the answers and correspond by mobile phone with Bengali Muslim seekers.

### 2. Urdu Speaking Pakistanis (11938) – Saudi Arabia, population 1,510,356

Pakistani Muslims looking for a better life find abundant jobs in Saudi Arabia. Typically, male members of the family serve as migrant laborers and send money back to their families. Pakistanis are assigned daily labor jobs on construction sites, drive trucks, and drive taxis. Saudi Arabia is a highly restricted country and gaining access with the Gospel for Pakistanis living there is extremely challenging.

**How can you pray?** – Pray for IMB missionaries to find creative access ways of entering Saudi Arabia and distributing Gospel resources among the 1.5 million Pakistani workers. In June, an IMB missionary will travel into Saudi from South Asia to investigate avenues for the Gospel flow.

**What can you do?** A volunteer team is needed to travel to Saudi Arabia. Once you arrive, purchase dozens of iPod Shuffles. Load the Urdu Kitabi Bible Correspondence program onto the iPod Shuffles and distribute to the Pakistani workers with instructions on how to use their mobile phones to answer the correspondence questions. IMB missionaries will receive the answers and correspond by mobile phone with Bengali Muslim seekers.

### 3. Malayali Muslims (12243) – United Arab of Emirates, population 819,024

Also known as Mappila (Mahp-pee-lah) Muslims from Kerala, India. Their language is called, "Malayalam". Total population of Malayali Muslims around the world is 8-10 million. Almost one million earn a living as migrant workers in UAE. In India, Malayali Muslims are known as one of the most resistant peoples to the Gospel. Opportunities avail in engaging Malayali in UAE as this is a liberal Muslim country. One out of every three taxi drivers in UAE are Malayali. Most have learned to speak English and are polite when conversing with them. Once a year, many return home to Kerala for a one month vacation to be with their families.

# Around the World

*A vast multitude from every South Asian Nation, Tribe, People and Language knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ. - Revelation 7:9*

**How can you pray?** – “Father, we need a movement to break out among the almost 1 million Malayali Muslims in UAE and for them to take the Good News back to their families in Kerala, India.”

**What can you do?** – It is easier to talk with a Malayali Muslim about spiritual matters than a stranger you meet at Walmart in the US. IMB missionaries have resources that need to be mass distributed among the Malayali taxi drivers in UAE. Gospel tracts need to be handed out to taxi drivers. In addition, a 7 minute “Creation to Christ” phone video in Malayalam needs to be “bumped” or sent by Blue Tooth from your mobile phone to each taxi drivers’ mobile phone. Report seekers to IMB missionaries.

## 4. Sikhs (43469) – Canada, population 375,459

Sikh men are best known as tall Indians who wear turbans on their head. Sikhs are neither Hindu nor Muslim. They follow 10 Gurus who lived between the years 1469-1708. The 11th Guru lives on in the form of a book. The poetic words of the 10 Gurus can be found in their book. Around 100 years ago, a group of Sikhs migrated to Vancouver, Canada. Today, if you travel to Vancouver, you will see numerous Gurdwaras (Sikh temple) and turban wearing men. Toronto is also known for its large population of Sikhs. Sikhs are friendly people, even if you see one carrying a sword. Go into any Gurdwara at noon and you will receive a free Indian meal.

**How can you pray?** Pray for Christians to release their fears of witnessing to Sikhs. Pray for Sikhs to be courageous when they encounter the Truth of the Gospel.

**What can you do?** Canada is not far! Take mission trips to Vancouver or Toronto. IMB missionaries are ready to provide your team with a new evangelistic drama on DVD that needs to be mass distributed to Sikhs you meet in shopping malls, in Sikh temples, and on the street. Be sure to be equipped with “SOS” (Strategies for Sikhs) training that was developed by an IMB missionary who has seen more than 100 Sikhs come to faith in Christ through his evangelistic efforts.

## 5. Indo-Mauritian Muslim (48043) - Mauritius Island, population 218,216

Taken as slaves over 100 years ago, these Indians live in Mauritius, located off the South African coast. Over the years, many Indo-Hindus have come to faith in Christ, but the Indo-Muslims have not been as responsive.

**How can you pray?** “Father, awaken Hindu background Indo-Mauritians with the burden to share the Gospel with their Muslim neighbors.”

**What can you do?** Travel to Mauritius and conduct training events that will equip local Christians to share the Gospel with Muslims. IMB missionaries are ready to equip you with our best South Asian training program for reaching Muslims for Christ.

## 6. Telegu Muslims (12259) – United Arab Emirates, population 158,337

Migrant workers from Andhra Pradesh, India have found UAE as a country that needs their services. Young men receive 2-4 year contract labor jobs. Life is hard for these men who work outside on construction sites in intense heat. No known mission organization is currently engaging Telegu Muslims with the Good News.

**How can you pray?** “Father, send someone who will passionately share the Gospel with Telegu Muslims in UAE.”

**What can you do?** UAE is a great place for sharing the Gospel with Telegu Muslims since UAE is among the more liberal Muslim countries. IMB missionaries need volunteer teams to travel to UAE and distribute tracts and Gospel portions to Telegu Muslims.

## **7. Urdu Speaking Muslims (43498) – Canada, population 150,223**

Also known as Pakistani Muslims. In recent years, Canada has opened its border to immigrants more so than the United States. Even though Canada's climate is the extreme opposite of the climate in Pakistan, they continue to pour into Canada with hope of a new prosperous future. The largest concentration is in Toronto. You will find Pakistanis in Canada in a wide range of professions... University students, medical professionals, small shop owners, etc.... Some continue to wear the same wardrobe as they did in Pakistan. Men wear white or light colored long shirts and matching pants. This is called a "Shalwar kameez." Women will wear the black covering called "Burkha."

**How can you pray?** Pray for IMB missionaries in Toronto who daily engage Pakistani Muslims with the Gospel. Pray that God will open their eyes to a person of peace among the Pakistani community who will have a God-size vision to start a "Jesus Movement" among the 66,000 Pakistanis in Toronto.

**What can you do?** The most effective front line evangelist that impacts Pakistani Muslims is a Muslim background believer. Organize a mission trip to Toronto. Sponsor a Muslim background believer from Pakistan to be a part of your evangelism team. Connect with the IMB South Asia Diaspora team to work out all the details.

## **8. Malayali Muslims (11884) – Oman, population 136,003**

Also known as Mappila Muslims from Kerala, India. Their language is called, "Malayalam". Total population of Mappila Muslims around the world is 8-10 million. They earn a living as migrant workers in Oman. In India, Mappila Muslims are known as one of the most resistant peoples to the Gospel. What they do know about Christianity comes from the Catholic churches in Kerala. Opportunities avail in engaging Malayali Muslims in Oman as it is one of the more open countries on the Arab Peninsula. One out of every three taxi drivers in Oman are Malayali. Most have learned to speak English and are polite when conversing with them. Once a year, many return home to Kerala for a one month vacation to be with their families.

**How can you pray?** – "Father, we need a movement to break out among the Malayali Muslims in Oman and for them to take the Good News back to their families in Kerala, India."

**What can you do?** – It is easier to talk with a Malayali Muslim about spiritual matters than a stranger you meet at Walmart in the US. IMB missionaries have resources that need to be mass distributed among the Malayali taxi drivers in Oman. Gospel tracts need to be handed out to taxi drivers. In addition, a 7 minute "Creation to Christ" phone video in Malayalam needs to be "bumped" or sent by Blue Tooth from your mobile phone to each taxi drivers' mobile phone. Report seekers to IMB missionaries.

## **9. Bengali Muslims (46408)– Oman, population 122,385**

Also known as "Bangladeshi Muslims". Male migrant workers from Bangladesh find jobs in Oman and send money back home to their families. Today, Bengali Muslims are the most responsive Muslim people group to the Gospel. A Southern Baptist volunteer team working in a similar situation in another Muslim country saw over 100 Bengali Muslim migrant workers come to faith in Christ between 2006-2007. In Oman, most Bengali Muslims are on a 2-4 year work contract. They are treated poorly and having to work long hours six days a week doing construction, assembly, street cleaner, driving, and janitorial. In Bangladesh, numerous Church Planting Movements have broken out among Bengali Muslims. Migrant workers are typically even more open the Gospel as they are away from their families. A small number of Muslim background believers from Bangladesh are scattered among the migrant workers in Oman.

**How can you pray?** – Find a map of the Arab Peninsula and find Oman. Place a hand on Oman and pray, "Lord, thousands of Bengali Muslim migrant workers are waiting for the hope You want to give them. Send Harvesters to this Harvest field of Bengali Muslims in Oman."

**What can you do?** A Southern Baptist small business owner in Daytona Beach, Florida, who faithfully gives to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, recently contacted an IMB missionary working with Bengali Muslim Diaspora. Together, they devised a plan to mobilize the leader of a Church Planting Movement (CPM) among Bengali Muslims in Bangladesh to go to another country that is home to more than 1 million Bengali Muslim Diaspora. When the CPM leader saw the condition of his people group living in a foreign country, he was deeply moved with compassion and quickly began to send evangelists from Bangladesh to the Bengali Muslim Diaspora. Eight months later 81 Bengali Muslims have given their hearts to Jesus and have been baptized. Eleven emerging churches have been started. Bengali Muslims in Oman need a similar strategy. Contact IMB South Asia Diaspora team members to execute this strategy in Oman.

## **10. Bengali Muslims (12225)– United Arab Emirates, population 117,434**

Also known as “Bangladeshi Muslims”. Male migrant workers from Bangladesh find jobs in UAE and send money back home to their families. Today, Bengali Muslims are the most responsive Muslim people group to the Gospel. A Southern Baptist volunteer team from Arkansas working in a similar situation in another Muslim country saw over 100 Bengali Muslim migrant workers come to faith in Christ between 2006-2007. In UAE, most Bengali Muslims are on a 2-4 year work contract. They are treated poorly and having to work long hours six days a week doing construction, assembly, street cleaner, driving, and janitorial. In Bangladesh, numerous Church Planting Movements have broken out among Bengali Muslims. Migrant workers are typically even more open the Gospel as they are away from their families. A small number of Muslim background believers from Bangladesh are scattered among the migrant workers in UAE.

**How can you pray?** – Find a map of the Arab Peninsula and find UAE. Place a hand on UAE and pray, “Lord, thousands of Bengali Muslim migrant workers are waiting for the hope You want to give them. Send Harvesters to this Harvest field of Bengali Muslims in UAE.”

**What can you do?** A Southern Baptist small business owner in Daytona Beach, Florida, who faithfully gives to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, recently contacted an IMB missionary working with Bengali Muslim Diaspora. Together, they devised a plan to mobilize the leader of a Church Planting Movement (CPM) among Bengali Muslims in Bangladesh to go to another country that is home to more than 1 million Bengali Muslim Diaspora. When the CPM leader saw the condition of his people group living in a foreign country, he was deeply moved with compassion and quickly began to send evangelists from Bangladesh to the Bengali Muslim Diaspora. Eight months later 81 Bengali Muslims have given their hearts to Jesus and have been baptized. Eleven emerging churches have been started. Bengali Muslims in UAE need a similar strategy. Contact IMB South Asia Diaspora team members to execute this strategy in UAE.

## **11. Tamil Hindus (42483)– France, population 100,000**

Pondicherry is a favorite vacation spot in Southern India. The French established Pondicherry as a French colony. In 1954, this colony was transferred to India. Since that time, a natural flow of Tamil Hindus have migrated to France. Some Hindus have responded to the Gospel and a handful of Tamil churches have been started. Tamil Hindus are often overlooked by mission agencies and volunteer teams because of the overwhelming North Africa immigrants in France.

**How can you pray?** – Ask God to send harvesters to begin work among the Tamil Hindus of France.

**What can you do?** Send a volunteer team to France to engage Tamil Hindus in the market place. IMB South Asia Diaspora team members have resources for your team to mass distribute.