

BAHRAIN

<http://www.operationworld.org/bahr>

Bahrain is an island country in the west side of the Persian Gulf. It consists one larger and 32 small islands. The largest island is 34 miles long and 11 miles wide and is connected to Saudi Arabia by a causeway. The population in 2010 was 1.2 million, of which 568,399 were Bahraini and 666,172 were non-nationals.

I was surprised to read that Bahrain has the first post-oil economy in the Persian Gulf because the Bahraini economy does not rely on oil, although it does produce and export oil. Since the late 20th century, Bahrain has heavily invested in banking and tourism.

The period between 1975 and 1999 saw wide range of human rights violations including arbitrary arrests, detention without trial, torture and forced exile. Things improved when the king's son took over in 1999, but declined again by 2007. In 2011, Bahrain was criticized for its crackdown, including systematic torture against the [Arab spring uprising](#).

Islam is the state religion. About 83% of the population is Muslim and 10% are Christians, many of whom are foreigners. Evangelicals represent 2.9%.

Prayer challenges: A fair number of foreign Christians meet formally and informally. They need to be courageous to share their faith. Education is valued and since much teaching is done in English we need to pray for English speaking Christian teachers to be good witnesses for Christ.