

## **BHUTAN**

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

Bhutan is a small country in the eastern Himalaya mountains. It is bordered by China and India, and is not far from Nepal. The population is around 700,000. It is a poor country. About 55% of the GDP is based on agriculture.

The main religion is Buddhism, about 75% of the population. The other religion is Hindu, about 22%. There are a few Christians but they comprise about 1% of the population. There are a few evangelicals but proselytism is forbidden by the government.

This leads us to prayer needs: Bhutanese who become Christians face the loss of their citizenship, of other benefits – such as free education, health care, and employment – and of access to electricity and water. In some instances, harassment and beatings occur. Despite this, groups of believers are forming and spreading throughout the country.