

You have the opportunity to make a difference in Southwest Asia. Are you up for the challenge?

Karachi

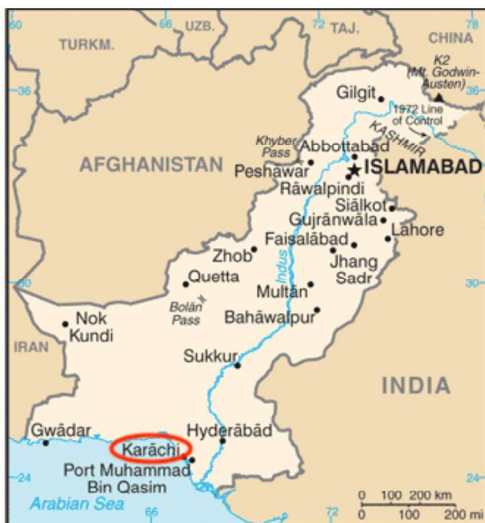
Pakistan

The mausoleum of Pakistani's founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in Karachi



“for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

— 1 Corinthians 16:9 —



Pakistan's port city of Karachi is the nation's largest urban center and the most populous city in the Muslim world. Karachi has grown steadily since Independence and has become home to Muslims who relocated from other parts of South Asia, known as Muhajirs, and every region of Pakistan. After Muhajirs, the second largest ethnic group in Karachi are Pashtuns from Afghanistan and Pakistan's northwest; in fact, Karachi has the largest concentration of urban Pashtuns in the world. Modern Karachi has an estimated annual growth rate of 5%, due largely to rural-to-urban migration. Karachi has had periods of ethnic and political unrest and violence, but in recent years has experienced a period of comparative calm with improved law and order. With many universities, good medical facilities, and industries Karachi is also home to numerous well-educated professionals and businesspersons. There is a Christian minority community in the city, made up of Church of Pakistan churches and other denominations. For further information about Karachi, recommended reading is *Instant City: Life and Death in Karachi*; for a thorough report on slums in the city see: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu-projects/Global_Report/pdfs/Karachi.pdf

Quick Facts

Population: 17 million, with 22 million in the greater metropolitan area

Literacy rate: Approximately 75%

Languages: Urdu, Pashtu, English

Gospel resources: Bible translations, Jesus Film, radio and TV broadcasts, mobile media, local churches



Clifton Beach is a popular recreation site for a mix of Karachiites

Opportunities to Engage

There are some expatriates who live in Karachi and work in various businesses, from small startups to multinational firms. The Government of Pakistan is more likely to look favorably on businesses operated by foreigners if they offer local people not only opportunities for employment but skills training and capacity building. Joining an existing business or incubating a new venture can be a way to have a presence in Karachi and work with many of its people.

A number of foreigners have teaching positions at some of Karachi's several universities, as well as at primary and secondary schools. Medical professionals may also find openings at some of the city's many hospitals.

Foreign students, generally of university age, have come to Karachi to study at some of the local universities. Though perhaps not ideal, this can be an option for single persons to study Urdu and can provide ways to meet and spend time with Pakistani peers.

The Church of Pakistan's (Anglican) seminary in Karachi, St. Thomas' Theological College, sometimes has openings for faculty members. Foreign instructors have served on the faculty staff in the past. Though working days would be spent in a somewhat cloistered working environment, living in Karachi presents many opportunities for meaningful interaction with Muslim friends and neighbors.

“Should I not be concerned about that great city?”

— Jonah 4:11 —

Prayer Points

- Karachi has experienced political instability and civil unrest in the past, but it is now enjoying comparative stability and peace. Pray for continued peace and calm in this large city.

- Pakistani Christians report there is a new spiritual openness and curiosity about Jesus Christ among young people. Pray for more spiritual hunger among Pakistanis, and that they will meet people or find other resources that will lead them to a saving faith in Jesus.

- Pray for vocational opportunities for foreign workers in Karachi, and for meaningful friendships with local people and witnessing opportunities for workers already there.

- Ask God that good Bible translations would be more widely distributed and find inquisitive and spiritually sensitive readers among Karachi's many inhabitants (Karachi's literacy rate is well above the national average).

- It is estimated that as many as 45,000 migrant workers come to Karachi each month. Pray that they may come to faith and grow in Jesus Christ and take the gospel message back to their home communities.



Street food vendors are a common sight in Karachi

Is God calling you to live among the Muslim peoples of Southwest Asia? Contact us. We would love to help you get there!

