

PRIORITY 100: PLACE BLACK SEA REGION

Turkey

ABOUT THE PLACE

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The Black Sea region occupies about 20% of the land mass of Turkey and is the home of the tea and hazelnut industries in Turkey. With its colorful people, lush green forests, high mountains, beautiful plateaus and deep valleys, the Black Sea region is one of the most geographically rich regions of Turkey and the world. It has a population of about 5,000,000, 200 known believers (0.004%), and less than 10 fellowships (1 for every 500,000 people) across the Black Sea region.



ORDU

SAMSUN

KEY CITIES

TRABZON

GIRESUN

KEY CITIES

SINOP

RIZE

WHY PRIORITIZE THE BLACK SEA REGION?

THE BLACK SEA IS CULTURALLY VERY TRADITIONAL WITH ESPECIALLY STRONG NATIONALISTIC SENTIMENTS. IT IS ISOLATED RESULTING AND THEREFORE VERY MONOCULTURAL WITH LITTLE ROOM FOR DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW. THESE FACTORS LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF WORKERS ABLE TO GAIN LONG TERM ACCESS TO, AND THRIVE IN, THIS REGION. IT IS ONE OF THE LEAST INHABITED, AND HAS THE LOWEST CONCENTRATION OF WORKERS, ACROSS ALL AGENCIES.

THIS REGION OF THE COUNTRY IS ALSO VERY HARD TO GAIN ACCESS TO, AND THE ONE OF HARDEST PLACES FOR LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF WORKERS. AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY HINTS OF MOVEMENTS IN THIS REGION, LARGELY DUE TO NON-ENGAGEMENT.

LASTLY, THE BLACK SEA IS DOMINATED BY CONSERVATIVE AND DEVOUT SUNNI TURKS. THERE ARE VERY FEW, 1-5, WORKERS IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY WHO ARE TRYING TO WISELY ENGAGE THIS ENORMOUS AND INFLUENTIAL PART OF THE POPULATION. IF ANYTHING IS EVER GOING TO CHANGE IN TURKEY THE CONSERVATIVE/DEVOUT SUNNI TURK POPULATION WILL HAVE TO BE ENGAGED AND REACHED IN A WAY THAT LEADS TO MOVEMENTS.

OPPORTUNITIES?

IMMIGRATION OUT OF THIS REGION TO THE URBAN CENTERS HAS MADE SUSTAINED EFFORTS DIFFICULT. THE COMBINATION OF TRADITION, AGRICULTURE-BASED ECONOMIES, AND INTERNAL MIGRATION MEANS CREATIVE, ADAPTIVE, AND RESILIENT PEOPLE AND STRATEGIES ARE NEEDED. IT OFTEN FEELS LIKE IT IS TWO STEPS FORWARD AND TWO STEPS BACK; ONE IS SIMPLY MARCHING IN PLACE WITHOUT ANY INITIAL INDICATORS OF MOVEMENTS.

THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE THE POPULATION THROUGH BUSINESS, FARMING, TEACHING, AND ATTENDING UNIVERSITY. TOURISM IS ALSO A POSSIBLE BUSINESS STRATEGY, AS THIS REGION IS KNOWN FOR ITS OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES AND ADVENTURES. BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE REGION IT IS ADVISABLE TO CONSIDER LANDING IN A CITY LIKE ISTANBUL, GAIN LANGUAGE AND A RELIABLE IDENTITY, AND THEN MOVE TO THE REGION.

HOW TO PRAY?

1. PRAY FOR MORE WORKERS TO BE CALLED TO SERVE THIS EXTREMELY UNDERSERVED REGION.

2. PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE LIVING IN THE BLACK SEA REGION TO BE OPEN TO FOLLOWING JESUS AS LORD.

3. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE WORKERS WHO ARE ALREADY THERE TO BE WISE AND WALK IN THE UNDENIABLE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

4. PRAY FOR THE FEW LOCAL BELIEVERS PRESENT TO BE PASSIONATE AND COMMITTED TO SEEING MOVEMENTS AMONG THEIR PEOPLE IN THIS REGION.

5. PRAYER FOR THE LARGE RELIGIOUSLY DEVOUT POPULATION IN THIS REGION TO SEE JESUS AS THE OBJECT OF THEIR DEVOTION.