



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

Muhajirs

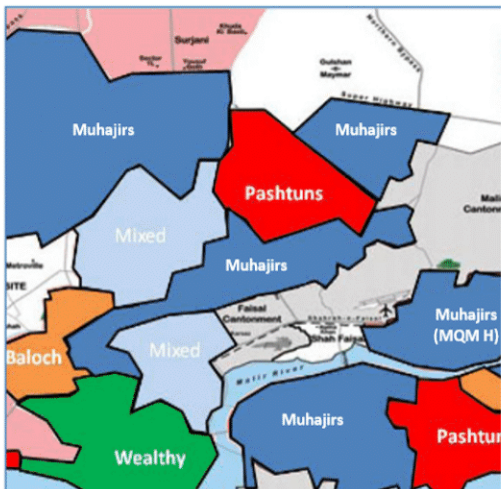
of Karachi
Pakistan



A political rally of the Muhahir-affiliated MQM party that formed in the 1980s to represent Muhajirs in Karachi

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

— 1 Corinthians 16:9 —



After India gained independence in 1947 and the country was divided, many Muslims migrated to the newly created Muslim homeland of Pakistan. Known as Muhajirs (which means “immigrant”), many of these newcomers settled in the growing southern port city of Karachi. Better educated Muhajirs got jobs in banking and other industries and settled in prosperous neighborhoods while their poorer fellow settlers took jobs as day laborers and taxi drivers. As the number of Muhajirs grew over time they came to be resented and victims of discrimination. To counter this, in the 1980s Muhajirs formed a powerful political party to defend their interests, and it remains influential today. The Muhajirs are generally unengaged, partly because they originally came from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds. However, opportunities to live in Karachi can bring workers into contact with Muhajirs with whom the gospel may be shared.

Quick Facts

Population of Muhajirs: in Karachi, nine to ten million; several more million in Sindh Province

Languages: Primarily Urdu, English

Gospel resources: Bible translations, Jesus Film (Urdu), gospel recordings, satellite TV



Many Muhajirs work as shopkeepers, as at this vegetable market

Opportunities to Engage

There are a number of foreigners 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 when they offer local people not only opportunities for employment but skills training and capacity building as well. Joining an existing business or incubating a new venture in Karachi is a way of making Karachi home in which meeting and building friendships with local people, including Muhajirs, is guaranteed.

A number of foreigners have had 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.

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.

"I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

— Isaiah 43:19 —

Prayer Points

- Karachi has had periods of political and civil unrest, caused sometimes by those resentful of Muhajirs, and sometimes by a powerful Muhajir political party and its sympathizers. Pray that calm will prevail in Karachi and that all sides sometimes prone to violence will find peaceful solutions to overcome their disagreements.

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

- Pray for vocational opportunities for foreign workers in Karachi, and for meaningful relationships with Muhajirs and witnessing opportunities for workers already there.

- Muhajirs in Karachi enjoy above-average literacy rates. Pray that good Bible translations would find inquisitive and spiritually sensitive readers among Muhajirs.



Some Muhajirs are employed as construction workers

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