

BIHAR, INDIA

Maithili-Speaking Muslims

Want to get involved?

7 MILLION

Maithili-speaking
Muslims in Bihar

50

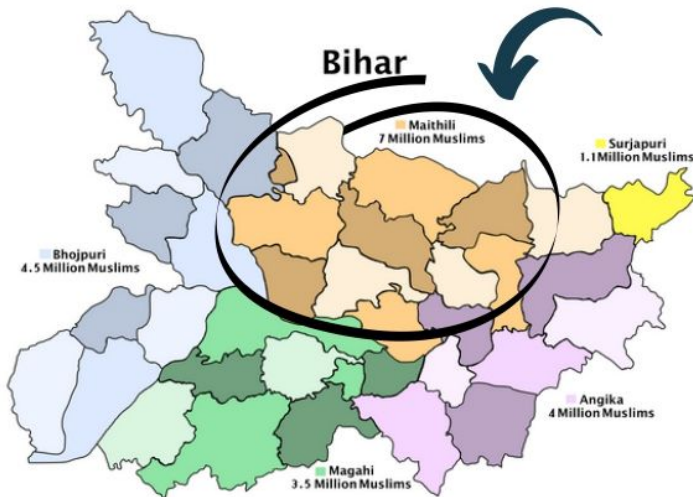
Muslim People Groups

0.00%

Christians and no known
church focused on them

1

Known team focused on
reaching them, 13 needed.



MAP OF INDIA



*"My ambition has always been
to preach the Good News where
Christ has never been heard,
rather than where a church has
already been started by someone
else."*

— Romans 15:20 —

ABOUT BIHAR

Bihar is India's third most populous state, with nearly 105 million residents; **20 million of them are Muslims**. The districts of Bihar can be loosely grouped together by the primary Bihari dialects spoken there.

These subcategories are helpful to recruit focused teams for the **Bhojpuri-speaking districts, Magahi-speaking districts, Maithili-speaking districts, Angika-speaking districts, and Sujarpuri-speaking districts**. The *Magahi* and *Angika* districts are woefully without disciple-making movement teams focused on Muslims, and the other three only *have a handful* of long-term field workers. Millions of unengaged Muslims, representing dozens of people groups, live in these language groups, with no access to Christ.

Maithili-speaking Muslims in Bihar live in the Mithilanchal area of the northcentral east part of the state.

MAITHILI-SPEAKING MUSLIMS IN BIHAR

Overview & OPPORTUNITIES

Want to pray or go?

LIVABILITY

Bihar is a strenuous place to live, having a reputation as India's most "backward" state. It is one of India's least developed regions, though recent administrations have invested heavily into infrastructure and have sought to combat corruption. High levels of poverty and illiteracy, coupled with low levels of development and hot weather, make Bihar a challenging place to live. Flooding and poverty force family members to seek work elsewhere.



Bihar does, however, have a profoundly rich history, having served as the seat of powerful ancient kingdoms and the birthplace of important religious traditions. Buddhism, for example, traces its history to Bihar's Gaya district. Today, Bihar is racing to catch up with the rest of India in terms of development and education. Things are steadily improving. Fertile land is, perhaps, the regions' greatest resource – nourished by the Ganges River. With the highest percentage of youth in the country, 58% of people in Bihar are under 25 years of age.

The **key cities to be considered for foreigners to live among Maithili-speaking Muslims are Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur**. In these cities, there is somewhat consistent electricity and a decent mobile phone coverage which allows for internet usage and there are also at least a few foreigners in the area.

SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Because the population of Bihar is so astronomically large, and the number of teams focused on Bihari Muslims is so small, additional teams are needed who will **strategize** not only for a single people group, or a single city, but **for the clusters of districts and people groups relating to the primary Bihari dialects**. Meaningful collaboration with the few teams present is possible.

Direct engagement opportunities with Bihari Muslims abound through activities related to business, community development, healthcare, and education. However, it should be noted that much of the disciple-making fruit experienced in Bihar to date has come through **partnerships with Indian believers**. Though the percentage of Christians is extremely small in Bihar, the massive population makes a tiny percentage turn into a total number in the many tens of thousands. **Such proximate believers can be mobilized and catalyzed to great effect** by someone living there, who knows the language fluently and is modeling inviting Muslims to follow Jesus—then training local believers to do the same.

Foreigners moving to live in Bihar usually apply for **business visas to start or franchise an existing kingdom business**, or do **consulting or training**.

Is God speaking to your heart about the Muslim people in India? Focusing on Maithili-speaking Muslims offers a huge opportunity for influencing many in Bihar so they can learn about the Savior they have never known.