

## MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT AFRICA

### Burkina Faso Snapshots Section

**Country Name:** Burkina Faso is the current name. It was formerly called Upper Volta or the Republic of Upper Volta.

**Country Founded in:** August 5, 1960

**Population:** 13,902,972

**Government Type:** parliamentary republic

**Geography/location in the world:** Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in the middle of West Africa. Its geographic coordinates are 13 00 N, 2 00 W. Burkina Faso is surrounded by Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Togo.

**Number of people groups:** 79

**Picture of flag:**



**Religion Snapshot:**

Major Religion: Muslim 50%;  
Indigenous beliefs 40%,  
Christian (mainly Roman Catholic) 10%

Government interaction with religion: The government of Burkina Faso is a purely secular state. Government officials may come from many different religious backgrounds. No religious education is taught in public schools, but missionary groups are allowed to organize private Christian and Muslim schools. The government offers no remuneration to these private schools but does periodically check to ascertain if the schools are offering the same type of secular curriculum offered in public schools. All religious groups must register with the government, but the process is easy. Radio broadcast stations must also register and adhere to government laws concerning

broadcasting. <http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2005/51451.htm>  
; <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/uv.html>

## **Burkina Faso Country Profile**

### Demographics

The estimated population of Burkina Faso is 13,902,972. The CIA Factbook notes that population statistics are estimated because of the high number of people who die from HIV. In 2003, an estimated 300,000 people had contracted HIV. 29,000 people died from HIV complications in 2003.

Children up to fourteen years of age account for 46.8% of the population. 3,267,202 male children are between the ages of newborn to fourteen years of age. 3,235,190 female children are between these same ages.

Adults between the ages of fifteen and sixty-four years of age account for 50.7% of the population. 3,513,559 males are in this age category and 3,538,623 females. In the last age category, sixty-five years and above, reports give 140,083 males and 208,315 females. The 65 plus age group accounts for 2.5% of the population. The median age for males is 16.3 years, and the median age for females is 16.7 years.

The birth rate is 45.62 births for every 1,000 people. An estimated 6.47 children are born to every woman. The infant mortality rate is 91.35 deaths for every 1,000 live births.

The death rate is 15.6 deaths for every 1,000 people. The life expectancy for the total population is 48.85 years. The life expectancy for males is slightly lower at 47.33 years, while the life expectancy for females is slightly higher at 50.42 years.

There are seventy-nine different people groups in Burkina Faso. The Mossi are one of the largest people groups and account for over 40% of the population. Other major people groups include: Gurunsi, Senufo, Lobi, Bobo, Mande, and Fulani.

The risk of infectious diseases is very high. Travelers should be aware that bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, schistosomiasis, and typhoid fever may all be contracted from polluted water or food. Malaria can also be problematic in some areas. There were also reported cases of meningococcal meningitis in 2005. A high risk of HIV constitutes a threat as well.

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/uv.html>

### Language

French is recognized by the government as the official language and is taught in schools. Moré, Dioula, Fulfuldé are the next three most commonly used languages.

Approximately 50% of the population of Burkina Faso belongs to the Mossi people group. Each ethnic group has their own particular language.

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/html/B/BurkinaF1.asp> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkina\\_Faso#Culture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkina_Faso#Culture)

<http://www.burkinaembassy-usa.org/inbrief.html>

## Society/Culture

Burkina Faso has a very wide and diverse culture. With 79 different people groups, social customs will differ from group to group. Oral traditions have been passed down for centuries to help preserve the history of each different ethnicity. Music, storytelling, dance, and art all play an important part in preserving the historical and cultural roots of people as well.

The government strongly supports the arts by sponsoring the International Arts and Crafts Show of Ouagadougou and the Pan-African Cinema and Television Festival of Ouagadougou. Both of these events provide opportunities for talented artisans from many different African countries to come and display their abilities.

Many different national holidays are observed in Burkina Faso. August 15<sup>th</sup> is Assumption Day. This is a Catholic holiday that celebrates the ascension of the Virgin Mary to heaven. November 1<sup>st</sup> is All Saints' Day, another Catholic holiday, that was designed to honor the memory of saintly people. Christmas and Easter are also set aside as special days. Aïd El Kebir is a Muslim festival that, according to Islamic tradition, commemorates when Abraham was forestalled by Allah from sacrificing Ishmael.

For those Muslims who can afford to travel to Mecca this also serves as the ceremonial end of their trip. Ramadan, the time when Muslims ceremonially fast between dawn and sunset, and Mouloud are also national holidays. New Year's Day (January 1<sup>st</sup>) and Labor Day (May 1<sup>st</sup>) along with Independence Day (August 5<sup>th</sup>) and Women's Day (March 8<sup>th</sup>) are important cultural holidays. The International Arts and Crafts Trade Show of Ouagadougou is held every two years, and is usually around the end of October and/or the first part of November.

Family ties in rural areas are generally quite strong. Due to increasingly harsh conditions in rural areas brought about by desertification and drought, many young people are migrating to urban areas. The people who live in urban areas, like the capital, may live more like middle class citizens with running water and electricity, while their countrymen may still live in traditional houses made of mud or cement. Once people leave the rural villages, they might not return because the contrast between city living and that of village life is too great. Most people living in the villages are barely scraping by hoping that drought won't ruin their crops and perhaps cause them to go hungry.

As the cultural ties with families weaken, much social change is coming. Many people practice a syncretic form of Islam or Christianity. Female circumcision and child trafficking as well as prostitution, pose serious threats to young women and children. Most girls are promised in marriage at young ages by their fathers. Usually girls have no say as to who their bridegroom will be, and they may even be a second or even third wife for their intended bridegroom. The government passed a law in 1996 that forbade the practice of female circumcision, but in rural areas the practice still remains a serious threat to the health and well-being of young girls. Girls may have as many four or five

children, and are much more likely to contract HIV. Being known to have HIV causes a person to be shunned; therefore, many people will not go to be tested. Men who go to other countries may use the services of prostitutes while away, contract HIV from the prostitutes, and infect their marital spouse when they return to their villages. Drugs from the U.S. that might help HIV victims are too expensive for most infected people. In fact, one report said that for the cost of a month of treatment ten children can be sent to primary school.

With the growing economic distress due to the conflict with Cote D'Ivoire and the return of many Burkinabe refugees, the poor sanitary conditions and a serious lack of good nutrition may continue to pose serious threats to youngsters. UNICEF and the government have tried to work together to institute educational programs for young mothers as well as setting up immunization clinics along the border of Cote D'Ivoire. Refugees returning to Burkina Faso from Cote D'Ivoire will have many difficulties. Most refugees are coming with only the clothes on their back and whatever other small goods that they have salvaged from their homes before fleeing rebel forces. Many of the children have been traumatized by violence. Jobs for these returnees are also extremely difficult to find because 45% of the population already lives under the poverty line. UNICEF has reported that women who once sold fruit that they had gotten from Cote D'Ivoire by trading baskets that they had bought from Muslim villages are no longer able to trade across the border because of the rebel activity. These women are losing revenue to support their families and also the self-respect that came from having a semi-independent way of sustaining themselves and their families.

<http://www.burkinaembassy-usa.org/dates.html>

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/burkinafaso\\_2074.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/burkinafaso_2074.html)

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/burkinafaso\\_13349.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/burkinafaso_13349.html)

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/burkinafaso\\_2136.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/burkinafaso_2136.html)

[http://www.abroadviewmagazine.com/archives/spring\\_05/closer\\_look/crossing\\_over.pdf#search=%22bwa%20people%20of%20burkina%20faso%22](http://www.abroadviewmagazine.com/archives/spring_05/closer_look/crossing_over.pdf#search=%22bwa%20people%20of%20burkina%20faso%22)

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/burkinafaso\\_2135.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/burkinafaso_2135.html)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tabaski> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramadan>

<http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/services/asylum/ric/documentation/BurkinaFaso.htm>

## Government

Burkina Faso is a parliamentary republic that is divided in 45 different provinces and further subdivided into 382 different departments. Each province is run by an official called the high commissioner and derives its name from history. The newest constitution was ratified in 1991, and the current president, Blaise Compaoré, was first elected to the presidency at that time. The constitution was amended again in 2000. The constitution provides for a council of ministers, who are under the direction of the president, as well as a National Assembly whose 111 members are independently elected. The prime minister is considered to be the official head of state.

The judiciary is based on the French civil system and customary practice. The Mediator, who is an important government official appointed for one five-year term, is appointed by the president to mediate between state agencies and private citizens.

<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/uv.html>

<http://www.infoplease.com/country/profiles/burkina-faso.html>  
<http://www.burkinaembassy-usa.org/indepth.html#Navigation%20Bar>

## Economy

France, as a colonial power, used people from Burkina Faso to work on huge plantations in Cote D'Ivoire. Consequently, they never sought to develop Burkina Faso's economy. The heritage of this mistake still seems to affect Burkinabe today because many still are often forced to move to Cote D'Ivoire in search of seasonal work. Due to the recent unrest in Cote D'Ivoire, many of these workers have had to return to Burkina Faso without the much needed money that they might have earned.

The Burkinabe also once moved to Ghana but the government of Ghana refused further access to them in the late 1960's. Burkina Faso's GDP is just \$16.5 million dollars even though there are five million laborers in the country. Ninety percent of this labor force is involved in some kind of subsistence agriculture. The lack of economic gains from agricultural products is demonstrated by the fact that only 32.2% of the GDP comes from agriculture.

Most people tend to live in the more fertile south and central parts of the country. Due to the density of people, harsh droughts, and the overuse of land, much of the arable land is sharply decreasing. As desertification threatens this tiny landlocked country, conditions grow harsher. Some efforts have been made to get hydroelectricity by building dams. With help from the UN, one such dam was built in the village of Bonam. Leaders of Bonam told international volunteers how the rain patterns have been steadily decreasing over the last several decades. Previously, residents were barely able to survive on what they could grow on their small farms, but with the new dam people may even have enough excess produce to sell some at the local market thus giving them some additional ways of getting other needed goods. While the benefits of dam building seem to be evident, there have been some reported tensions between Ghana and Burkina Faso over the amount of water taken by both countries from the Volta River.

Cooperation between all of the countries that have access to the river is greatly needed so that water supplies will not drop to dangerous levels. Industry accounts for 19.6% of the GDP, and other services make up 48.2% of the GDP. Most of these industries and services focus on the processing of foods and some mining interests. Burkina Faso received \$468.4 million dollars in foreign aid in 2003. This country also has to import far more goods than it can afford. Burkina Faso's import partners are France, Cote d'Ivoire, and Togo.

Some international observers have accused Burkina Faso of smuggling diamonds in connection with rebel efforts in Sierra Leone. Its export partners are China, Singapore, Thailand, and Ghana. The major exports of Burkina Faso include Cotton, shea nuts and butter, gold, cattle, poultry, fruits and vegetables, and sesame.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkina\\_Faso#Economy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkina_Faso#Economy)  
<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/uv.html#Econ>  
<http://www.encyclopedia.com/html/B/BurkinaF1.asp>

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country\\_profiles/1032616.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1032616.stm)  
<http://www.infoplease.com/country/profiles/burkina-faso.html>  
<http://www.oli.tudelft.nl/ct4450volta1/scenarios.htm>  
[http://www.un.org/works/sustainable/sawadogo\\_story.html](http://www.un.org/works/sustainable/sawadogo_story.html)  
<http://www.burkinaembassy-usa.org/inbrief.html>

### Literacy

French is taught in schools. Most of the children from rural areas enter school without much if any prior instruction in French. This, of course, makes comprehension quite difficult for young students. Because of the family's perceived need for child labor in rural areas, and due to the cost of books and other supplies, only about 44% of the children actually go to school. The overall literacy rate is 26.6% of the population. Males have a slightly higher rate at 36.9% while females have a significantly lower literacy rate at 16.6%. <http://www.infoplease.com/country/profiles/burkina-faso.html>  
<https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/uv.html>

### Land/Geography

Burkina Faso lacks a coastline. Its geographic coordinates are 13 00 N, 2 00 W. Burkina Faso is surrounded by Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, and Togo.

The south and central portions of the country are much more densely populated due to the good land and better access to water. The north is primarily desert land. The central and southern portions are primarily savanna in the Sahel region of Africa.

Three major rivers run through the south. During the rainy season, rivers may become impassable and the humidity is quite high. During the dry season, water may become scarce. Temperatures generally range between 60<sup>o</sup> F and 120<sup>o</sup> F. The capital is Ouagadougou.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/africa/burkina-faso>  
<http://geography.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2834.htm>  
<http://geography.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2834.htm>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkina\\_Faso#Geography](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkina_Faso#Geography)

### History

The Bobo, Lobi, and Gurunsi were among some of the early inhabitants of present day Burkina Faso. Later, the Songhai (to some extent) and the Mossi both established their hold over much of the land. The Mossi, while farmers by occupation, had a strong military presence in the region. By the time the French began to exert control in the late 1890's, the Mossi were the most dominant political force in the area.

After the French peacefully negotiated a truce with one part of the country and forcibly gained control of other parts of Burkina Faso, they called the area Soudan. It was part of an administrative district with Mali. In 1919, the French decided to call it the Upper Volta after the principal river in the area and governed it separately.

In 1932, the French divided the Upper Volta land between neighboring administrative areas, but later rescinded that order in 1947. By 1958, the people in the Upper Volta colony were ready for self-government and became a recognized member of the French community.

In 1960, full independence from France was granted. Maurice Yaméogo became the first president in 1960 but lost power during a 1966 military coup. Sangoulé Lamizana became the next leader of Burkina Faso and stayed in power until 1980 when he was overthrown in another coup. Lamizana and the army basically denied people representation when they did away with the National Assembly. In 1970 and 1977, new constitutions were adopted, but Lamizana continued to hold power. He did appoint Gérard Kango Ouedraogo as prime minister for a time but later disposed of him.

Col. Saye Zerbo, who disposed Lamizana, was only in power for two years before Maj. Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo took power by force, but Ouédraogo lost power in 1983 to Capt. Thomas Sankara. Sankara renamed Upper Volta by its current name of Burkina Faso in 1984 and tended to be influenced by Libya and Ghana. Sankara, a totalitarian, lost power when he was killed in 1987. Capt. Blaise Compaoré then became the head of the government. Compaoré has allowed multi-party elections to be held, but he has continued to win the elections since the ratification of the new constitution in 1991.

The government of the Fourth Republic includes a strong presidency, a prime minister, a Council of Ministers presided over by the president, a unicameral National Assembly, and the judiciary. The legislature and judiciary are nominally independent but remain susceptible to executive influence.

Burkina held multiparty municipal elections in 1995 and 2000 and legislative elections in 1997 and 2002. Balloting was considered largely free and fair in all elections. The Congress for Democracy and Progress (CDP), the governing party, won overwhelming majorities in all the elections until the 2002 legislative election, where the CDP won with a small majority of the 111 seats. The opposition made large gains in the 2002 elections.

Compaore won the November 1998 presidential election for a second 7-year term against two minor-party candidates. Within weeks of Compaore's victory, the domestic opposition began heated protests against the December 13, 1998 murder of leading independent journalist Norbert Zongo, whose investigations of the death of the President's brother's chauffeur suggested involvement of the Compaore family.

The opposition Collective Against Impunity--led by human rights activist Halidou Ouedraogo and including opposition political parties of Prof. Joseph Ki-Zerbo and (for a while) Hermann Yameogo, son of the first President--challenged Compaore and his government to bring Zongo's murderers to justice and make political reforms. The Zongo killings still resonate in Burkina politics, though not as strongly as in the past. There has been no significant progress on the investigation of the case.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkina\\_Faso#History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burkina_Faso#History)

<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0857074.html>  
<http://www.historyofnations.net/africa/burkinafaso.html>

## Christian History

Roman Catholics were the first missionaries to Burkina Faso (which was then known as the Upper Volta region) in 1900. Their first converts were baptized in 1905 and a work was established at Ouagadougou which later became the seat of an archdiocese. Catholic converts came from the Grunshi, the Bobo, and the Samo people groups in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Today SIM estimates that as many as 12,000 people a year become Catholic adherents. About 23% of the Mossi people have converted to Catholicism. The White Sisters were strong as a missionary force in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and a sisterhood of African nuns was formed in 1922 to continue the work started by earlier nuns.

The Assemblies of God began work in 1919. They have established strong churches and many of the churches became completely autonomous in 1955. The Assembly of God churches have established Bible training programs and experienced national revivals in the 1960's and the 1990's. The work among the Mossi peoples has opened the door to evangelism in other nations as well as among other peoples in Burkina Faso.

The Christian Missionary Alliance established work in Burkina Faso among the Bobo as early as 1923, and SIM began evangelizing the Gurma in 1930. In 1958, some Africans formed a separatist church called Temple Apostolique.

Southern Baptist missionaries first came to Burkina Faso in 1971. Before the end of French rule, many Burkinabe practiced animistic religions or Christianity with a smaller number of them being Muslim.

Both Christian and Muslim converts may also keep certain tenets of their animistic faith because many of the animistic rituals are deeply tied to cultural activities in smaller areas. With the creation of the new government in 1960, more people became interested in Islam.

Today many Burkinabe are becoming either Muslim or Christian. Young men that leave their small villages increasingly are converting to Islam on their arrival in larger cities.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2005/51451.htm>

<http://www.sim.org/country.asp?fun=1&CID=18>

Other information was found in the *World Christian Encyclopedia*

## Religions

### Non-Christian

*Islam*—Islamic traders came to Burkina Faso many centuries ago and began to influence different ethnic groups. Today there are very few ethnic groups where there are not at



least some Islamic adherents. Wealthy Muslims from the Middle East often offer scholarships for young Muslims to come to college in the Middle East and study Arabic and ancient Islamic texts and beliefs. As young men and women leave their villages for the cities, many find Islam an attractive alternate to their traditional ethnic beliefs because they can retain some forms of their ancestor worship while still enjoying the social and economic benefits that converting to Islam may bring.

Islam claims almost 6 million of the people in Burkina Faso or almost 50% of the population. Almost every people group is experiencing some of their people converting to Islam. Islam shows a growth rate of + 3.2% annually.

*Traditional Religion*—Many people among all ethnic groups retain their traditional belief systems. Most of these systems believe in a creator god that must be reached through a series of spirit intermediaries. Mediums serve as persons who can get in touch with these spirits. Also, many people practice masking as a part of their religious ceremonies. Totems and fetishes are also used to ward off evil spirits.

Estimates place almost 31% of the people as followers of traditional religion. This estimate figures to over 3,600,000 persons. Unlike among many peoples, traditional religion in Burkina Faso is increasing at a rate of + 2.4% annually.

*Jehovah's Witnesses*—The Jehovah's Witnesses first came to Burkina Faso around 1960. In 1995, there were seventeen congregations and a total of 1,800 congregants. Later reports (2000) show 22 congregations and 998 members.

*Catholic/ Orthodox Churches*--The Catholic Church first began doing mission work in Burkina Faso in 1900. Today there are 1575 congregations and 708,000 congregants in all. This report is down from over 910,000 in 1995.

Protestant/ Evangelicals/ Pentecostals

*Apostolic Church of Burkina Faso*-This group began work in 1958 as a schism factor from the Assembly of God churches in Ouagadougou. They applied to WCC in 1971. In 1995, there were 80 churches. There were 9,000 congregants in all. In 2000 some 95 churches reported 8000 members

*Apostolic Church*—This group was started in 1959. In 1995, there were 88 churches. The churches had 14,120 members. A later report noted 115 churches with 12,500 members.

*Church of God of Prophecy*—This church was started in 1987. In 1995, there were 5 congregations and a total of 333 congregants.

*New Apostolic Church*—This church was founded around 1970. In 1995, there were 200 congregations and a total of 18,886 congregants in all. A later report from 2000 reveals 38 congregations with 11,500 members.

*Assembly of God Churches*—The Assembly of God came to Burkina Faso in 1919. In 1995, there were 1,686 congregations and a total of 500,907 congregants in all. By 2000 the Assembly of God group could report over 2100 churches with more than 400,000 members.

*Association of Evangelical Churches*—The Association of Evangelical Churches first started working in Burkina Faso in 1930. In 1995, there were 255 congregations. There were a total of 80,000 members in all. In 2000, the group reported 400 congregations with 26,000 members.

*Association des Eglises Ev de Pentecote (Pentecostal)*—This group first began work in 1945. In 1995, there were 86 churches and a total of 6,700 congregants in all. Sixty-four percent of the members are from the Nouna people group while eleven percent of the members are from the Dian group. Another eleven percent of the members are from the Sissala people group, and seven percent are from the Birifor ethnic group.

*Association de la Convention Baptist*—This group began work around 1965. In 1995, there were 88 churches and a total of 11,800 members in all. A later report notes 123 congregations with 7435 members.

*Eglise Chreitiene Evangelique*—This group began work in 1923. In 1995, there were 499 churches. There were 47,900 members in all.

*Isolated Radio Believers*—These people only have access to a church through radio broadcasts either because of the remoteness of the area in which they live or due to societal pressures. There are an estimated 8,000 people that listen to God's word this way.

*The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church* reports 328 congregations with over 17000 members.

*Mennonite Church in Burkina Faso*—This group from Zurich, Switzerland, began work in 1978. In 1995, there were 4 churches and a total of 250 congregants.

*Protestant Evangelical Church*—This church was founded in 1931. In 1995, there were 38 churches and a total of 3,800 congregants.

*Reformed Evangelical Church*—This group began working in Burkina Faso around 1980. This church was founded by a mission group from France. In 1995, there were 20 churches and a total of 2,000 congregants.

*Seventh Day Adventists*—This group arrived in 1971. In 1995, there was one congregation with a total of 181 members. By 2000 the Adventists reported 4 congregations with over 1000 members.

## People Groups

This people group section has particular value in the Burkina Faso Profile. Readers will notice some passages that seem repetitious. This repetitious nature is the result of groups being very similar and from the same larger grouping of peoples. The information applies to both groups.

Evangelical groups should notice the marking of ++ on many of the people groups. This marking signals that the group does not have adequate Bible Translation and/or does not have access to the Jesus Film in their own language. These groups, both small and large in population, often have a high percentage of their people who follow traditional religion and might be open to people movement methodologies. For example, the Birifor people number over 151,000, are 82% followers of traditional religion, and do not have the Jesus Film in their language. Tremendous opportunities exist for meeting these needs in many people groups in Burkina Faso.

### **12373**

Bedouin Arab (14,000)

Bedouin Arabs living in Burkina Faso are generally thought to be part of the Maghreb Arab people cluster. They are descendants of Arabs that migrated centuries ago from the Arabian peninsula. They speak a form of Algerian Arabic. Some alternate names for this people group include: Algerian Arab, Arabized Berber, Arabized Tuareg, and Jazair.

The Bedouin are predominantly Sunni Muslims. Only .04% of the Bedouin Arabs found in Burkina Faso are evangelicals. Because of their pride in their heritage as the keepers of the Muslim faith, many Bedouin are very resistant to evangelism efforts. Circumcision is a very important part of a boy's maturation process. Girls among the Bedouin are not usually circumcised. In fact, they are considered to be one of the least reached people groups. Portions of the Bible have been translated, and the Jesus Film is available. Gospel recordings can also be found.

Bedouin Arabs were once a very nomadic people but recent changes due to the establishment of countries' borders and the urbanization of society have led many to abandon traditional cultural norms. Today Bedouin Arabs may be found in many different locations throughout Burkina Faso and the world. Bedouin Arabs that follow the traditional nomadic lifestyle will usually live in tents and move from place to place in search of water and food for their livestock. They are often very hospitable to even unexpected visitors.

<http://www.thefellowship.info/Global%20Missions/UPG/bedouin.icm>

### **12371**

Bambara (3,700)

The Bambara people form the largest ethnic group in Mali. In Burkina Faso, they live in Kenedougou Province. They speak a language called Bamanankan, The Bambara are

descendants of the Mande people and in fact are considered by some scholars to be a subgroup of the people. Other names for this people group include: Kpeera, Noumou, and Bamanakan.

73% of the Bambara people are Sunni Muslim, and practice folk Islam. The use of fetishes and spirit worship is quite common. People go to sorcerers or witches for spiritual help if they experience misfortune. When boys and girls are circumcised, they join secret societies that teach them the practices of their society.

Many of these practices are ritualistic and based upon the original animistic religious beliefs of the ancestors of the Bambara people. The Bambara highly value the traditions and customs of their family and social groups. It is very difficult for individuals to believe in Christ against the strong pressure of their families and friends.

Only 4% of the Bambara population are Christian adherents, and 1.80% are evangelicals. Of the four percent of the population that are Christian adherents, 55% of them are Roman Catholic. 23% practice traditional ethnic religions.

The complete Bible has been translated, and the Jesus Film is available. Gospel recordings can also be heard. There is currently no agency committed to working with the Bambara in Burkina Faso.

The Bambara men have complete control over the women. Marriages are arranged by the families of the bride, and she and her children are considered the property of the husband. Marriages contracts are made for the mutual advancement of the families and the community—not the choice of the bride. Men may take up to four wives. Most of the time extended families will live together in a single compound. It is very important for a man to have multiple wives since having wives is seen as a sign of prosperity. Even elderly women will be expected to remarry following the demise of their husband. Female circumcision was routinely practiced until recently.

The Bambara are farmers and hunters. Their life and customs are heavily influenced by their economic choice of livelihood. While the Bambara have different types of livestock, they will leave their herding to the Fulani so that they can focus on their crops.

The society of the Bambara is stratified into three major groups—the Komo, the Kore and the Ntomo. The Komo are the elders. Each group has different types of head dresses that signify their level and importance. These head dresses are made by talented craftsmen. Statues and other important religious objects are also hand carved by the artisans of the Bambara.

Most Bambara villages could have up to 600 inhabitants. Each household is called a gwa and is made up of large extended families. Sometimes as many as sixty people can live in one household. The members all usually engage in the same type of trade—either farmers or artisans.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=100925&rog3=UV>

[http://www.global12project.com/2004/profiles/p\\_code2/1815.html](http://www.global12project.com/2004/profiles/p_code2/1815.html)

**12372**

Bariba (15,000)

The Bariba people can also be found in Nigeria, Togo, Benin, and Niger. They speak a language called Baatonum. Some alternate names for this people group include: Baatoumbu, Batonu, Nikki, Bargu, and Burku. The Bariba are part of the Gur people cluster.

58% of the Bariba people practice ethnic religions while 32% of the people are Muslim. Ten percent are Christian adherents. Out of the ten percent that are Christian adherents, fifty-eight percent are Roman Catholics while forty percent are Protestants. The evangelicals make up 3.9% of the population.

Multiple agencies are involved in working with the Bariba, and a group of churches has been established. The complete Bible has been translated, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings also exist.

While the oral tradition of the Bariba claims that the people group descended from a famous Persian warrior named Kisra, scholars think that they actually have Sudanese and Voltaic roots. Their society is patrilineal. Women will generally work in the fields and raise the children. The Bariba live in walled villages, but sometimes they will also build a smaller house close to their herds. They primarily raise yams, sorghum, millet, corn, rice, peanuts and beans.

From *The Peoples of Africa* by James Olson

**12384**

Biali, Bialaba (2,200) ++

The Bialaba are primarily found in the Tapoa and Gourma provinces of Burkina Faso. They also live in Benin which is actually where the majority of this people group live now although legend says that all Bialaba originated from Burkina Faso. They speak a Niger-Congo language called Biali. The French called this people group the Burbas. Some alternate names for this people group include: Berba, Bieri, Bialiba, Bieria, and Epi.

88 % of the Bialaba practice ethnic or traditional religions. They are animists that believe in a form of reincarnation. 4% of the people are Muslim, and 8 % are Christian adherents. Out of the 8% that are Christian adherents, 60% are Protestant and 40% are Catholic.

Multiple agencies are working with the Bialaba people, and a group of churches has been established. The Bible has not yet been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

The Bialaba are subsistence farmers and grow crops like millet. They still use traditional farming methods. They also have livestock. Their villages are unique because the houses are usually two stories high. Market day is very important to the Bialaba.

Men may marry more than one wife, although the first wife usually has more prestige. Each wife will have her own dwelling place for herself and her children. Marriages are arranged for each girl when she is born.

[http://www.global12project.com/2004/profiles/p\\_code5/1365.html](http://www.global12project.com/2004/profiles/p_code5/1365.html)

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=101421&rog3=UV>

### **12375**

Birifor, Malba of Burkina Faso (151,000) ++

The Birifor people are part of the Gur people cluster. They supposedly originally migrated from Ghana. They speak a language called Birifor, Malba. One alternate name for this people group is Birfor. The Birifor people are subsistence farmers. They also raise cattle. Some scholars believe that they are cousins to the Lobi people.

82% of the Birifor practice traditional religions. These animists wear fetishes and make sacrifices on mud alters just outside their homes in the hope of appeasing the spirits. Any bad luck is attributed to an evil or angry spirit. Two percent of these people are Muslim, and sixteen percent are Christian adherents. Out of the 16% that are Christian adherents, 77% are Catholic, and 20% are Protestant. Another 3% are independents.

The New Testament has been translated into their language, but the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings can be found.

The Birifor are subsistence farmers. They struggle to have enough water to grow their crops. People often get sick because the drinking water is unsafe.

Birifor society practice polygamy. Wives must work together to prepare meals for the family. Bride stealing from other villages is also encouraged.

From *The Peoples of Africa* by James Olson and from Joshuaproject.net

<http://www.peopleteams.org/birifor/>

### **12376**

Bissi, Busansi (413,000)

The Bissa trace their history back to the Mali Empire. They usually raise crops like millet, rice, and peanuts. They speak a language called Bissa, and they are part of the Mande people cluster. In Burkina Faso, they live in the south central portions of the country in the Boulgou and Zoundweogo provinces. Some alternate names for this people group include: Bisa, Biza, Bokobaru, Busanga, Zogbe, Bokhobaru, Busa, and Wiza.

45% of the Bissi practice ethnic or folk religions. 30% of the people are Muslims, and 25% are Christian adherents. Out of the 25% that are Christian adherents, 57% are Roman Catholic, and 40% are Protestant. Two percent belong to independent congregations.

Multiple agencies are involved in trying to reach the Bissi people, and a group of churches has been established. The New Testament has been translated, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings can also be found.

### **00000**

Ble, Jalkunan (1,200) ++

The Ble live in the village of Bledougou which lies west of Banfora. They speak a language called Jalkunan, and they usually speak Jula as a second language. They are part of the Malinke people cluster.

The Ble people are 87% Islamic. Eight percent of the people practice indigenous religions, and five percent of the people are Christian adherents. Out of the 5% that are Christian adherents, 95% of them are Roman Catholic while 5% are Protestant.

The Ble are considered to be one of the least reached people groups. While portions of the Bible have been translated, the accuracy of the translation has been questioned. The Jesus Film is not available, but gospel recordings can be found.

### **12378**

Bobo Madare (46,000)++

The Bobo Madare or Bobo Fing live in the Banwa Province of Burkina Faso. They also live in nearby Cote D'Ivoire and Mali. They speak a language called Northern Bobo Madare. They are part of the Malinke-Jula people cluster. This people group is also sometimes called the Black Bobo or the Northern Bobo.

These are not one of the least reached people groups. They primarily practice ethnic religions. In fact, 48% are animists while 25% are Islamists. Twenty-five percent of the population are Christian Adherents. Currently there is no Bible translation and the Jesus Film is also not available. Gospel recordings can be found.

The Bobo Madare believe that Wuro originally created the earth and set up a specific order for everything. This order involves a pairing system which man disturbs by his actions. No one knows what Wuro really looks like. The Bobo Madare people believe that Wuro withdrew from the world and left Dwo in charge of communication between man and Wuro. They believe that Dwo is an intercessor for man as man offers offerings. Masks of leaves, fiber, cloth and wood are used in special ceremonies where the people talk with Dwo. Smiths are usually the keepers of the masks.

The Bobo Madare people are farmers. They traditionally grew two crops—pearl millet and sorghum. Cotton is now grown as a cash crop because the French encouraged its cultivation. Traditionally people worked together to cultivate crops but the French occupation and emphasis on cotton growth helped to destroy this communal atmosphere. Today most of the Bobo Madare work individual crops and try to scrape a living out of the worn out soil.

The Bobo Madare people live in a patrilineal society where each person relates to others by determining their lineage. The father is called the wakoma because he unites all the people of that lineage. When people greet others, they will tell them their name, their lineage, and the name of a totem, if they follow a totem. They live in villages where village elders make the decisions for the members of the village.

Many of the villages were destroyed during the French colonial time and were only rebuilt as one story artifices instead of the traditional two or three story buildings. There is no central authority figure. The Bobo Madare people have a very traditional worldview. They are not as receptive to change as other people groups.

[http://artqserver.art.uiowa.edu:8080/Mask\\_styles/Images/Do\\_masks/Do.htm#\\_ftn1](http://artqserver.art.uiowa.edu:8080/Mask_styles/Images/Do_masks/Do.htm#_ftn1)

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart/toc/people/Bobo.html>

[http://artqserver.art.uiowa.edu:8080/Bobo\\_masks/Index.html](http://artqserver.art.uiowa.edu:8080/Bobo_masks/Index.html)

## **12380**

Bobo Jula (357, 000)

The Bobo Jula live in the Houet Province in Burkina Faso. They are closely related to the other Bobo groups in that area. They speak a language called Southern Bobo Madare, and are part of the Malinke-Jula people cluster. Some other names for this people group include: Boka, Zara, and Boga.

90% of the Bobo Jula are Sunni Muslims. Only .02% of this population are Christian adherents, and 9.98% of the people practice traditional ethnic religions. The Jesus Film is not available to the Bobo Jula, but the New Testament has been translated. One mission organization is currently committed to working with the Bobo Jula. There are currently no formally established churches among the Bobo Jula. Gospel recordings exist.

Most of the Bobo Jula are farmers, if they live in rural areas, which means that their lives are centered around the daily struggle to grow enough crops from the land and find enough water to make the crops grow. Men also hunt wild animals and raise different types of livestock while women work at gathering nuts and other edible plants from the savanna that is not cultivated.

Women are expected to obey their parents and clan. A woman whose husband dies will be expected to marry a brother of her husband, and if an unmarried woman's sister dies, she will be wed to the husband of the dead sister. Property is passed down through the male line. The extended family is very important. Slavery has now been outlawed by the



government, but descendents of former slave castes like the blacksmiths may still be less respected.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=101537&rog3=UV>

### **12382**

Bolon (21,000) ++

Little is truly known about the Bolon people group. They are one of the least reached peoples in Burkina Faso. They are surrounded by different Bobo groups, and they live in the Kenedougou and Houet provinces and speak a language called Bolon and are part of the Malinke people cluster.

90% of the people are Muslim while seven percent practice indigenous African religions. Only 3 % of this population are Christian adherents. Multiple agencies are involved in trying to reach this people group for Christ, and a group of churches has been established. Fifty percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholic while fifty percent are Protestant. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings exist.

### **12438**

Bomu, Bwa, Red Bobo (83,000)

The Red Bobo people live in the Kossi Province in Burkina Faso. They can also be found living in Mali. They speak a language called Bomu. Some alternate names for this people group include: Bore, Pwe, and Western Bobo Wule. They are part of the Gur people cluster. The Red Bobo or Bwa people are distinct from Bobo Madare people.

47% of the Red Bobo are practicing ethnic religions. Those that practice traditional beliefs follow the cult of Do whose religious leader is called the labie. 25% are Sunni Muslims. 28% of these people are Christian adherents.

Multiple agencies are involved in reaching these people, and a reproducing church movement has been founded. The complete Bible was translated by 1999, and the Jesus Film is available. Gospel recordings can also be found.

The Red Bobo have independent villages where a council of elders makes the decisions for the village. The Red Bobo are primarily farmers and raise cotton for sale and other crops for a food supply.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart/toc/people/Bwa.html>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=101820&rog3=UV>

### **00000**

Bozo, Tieyaxo (2,200)++

The Tieyaxo Bobo live in Burkina Faso and Mali. They speak a language called Tieyaxo Bozo. In Mali, they are just called the Bozo Tie. Some alternate names for this people group include: Boso, Sorogo, and Tieye.

The Tieyaxo Bobo are 99% Muslim while 1% still practice indigenous ethnic religions. The number of Christian adherents is unknown at this time, but there may be some scattered believers. They are one of the least reached people groups. One agency is committed to working with the Tieyaxo Bobo. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is not available. Gospel recordings do exist.

The Bozo are part of the Soninke people cluster but they have evolved into their own people group with distinct cultural attributes. The name Bozo came from the surrounding Bambara people in Mali and means “house of bamboo.” The Bozo are not warriors.

Severe persecution awaits Bozos that try to convert to Christianity. They still usually believe in the water god Faro. The surrounding people groups believe that the Bozo have special powers that allow them to conquer the water.

The Bozo usually live near the water as fishermen. The men will fish at night and then the women will clean the fish and take them to market the next day. Women also make pottery as a means of support.

Because they live near the water, along with other industries, the Bozo are involved in boat building. Small boats are used for fishing while larger boats are used for transporting personal belongings and trade goods. The Bozo fish the river deltas during the wet season, but during the dry season they use traps to capture fish in the shallower water. There is community land that the entire village owns. One leader will organize the life of the village.

Because of their Muslim heritage, the Bozo allow polygamy. Marriages are arranged by the head of the extended families, and males must pay a bride price and perform duties for the family of the bride as well. Bachelors will sometimes live apart from their families until they marry. Married couples live within the extended family compound.

## **00000**

Builsa, Buli (2,000)

A small number of Builsa people live in Burkina Faso, but most of the people of this ethnic group live in Ghana. They belong to the Gur people cluster and speak a language called Buli. Some alternate names for this people group include: Bulea, Kanjaga, or Balsa.

93% of the Builsa practice indigenous religions while 1% of the people follow Islamic beliefs. Six percent of this population group are Christian adherents.

Multiple agencies are involved in reaching the Builsa, and a group of churches has been established. The New Testament has been translated, and the Jesus Film is available. Gospel recordings can also be found.

**12439**

Bwamu (213,000) ++

The Bwamu people belong to the Gur people cluster. They speak a language called Buamu. Some alternate names for this people group include: Bobo Bwamu, Bobo Wule, Ouarkoye, Red Bobo, or Bwaba.

57% of the population practice animism. Ten percent are Muslims while thirty-three percent are Christian adherents. Out of the 33% that are Christian adherents, 55% are Roman Catholic and 40% are Protestant. The other five percent of the Christian adherents are either independent or some other Christian denomination.

Portions of the Bible have been translated, but the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings are accessible.

**12386**

Bwamu, Laa Laa (79,000)

The Laa Laa Bwamu live in the Tuy and Les Bales provinces in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Bwamu Laa Laa and are part of the Gur people group. Some alternate names for this people group include: Bwaba or Laa Laa.

62% of the population practice indigenous ethnic religions while 9.7% are Islamic. Christian adherents account for 28.3% of the population. Fourteen percent of the people are evangelicals (counted as part of the Christian adherents). Portions of the Bible have been translated, but there are no other ministry tools available.

**00000**

Bwamu, Twi (28,000)

The Twi Bwamu live in the border area between the Bougouriba and Sissili provinces. They speak a language called Bwamu Cwi. They belong to the Gur people cluster. Two alternate names for this people group include: Twi or Bwaba.

62% of the population practice indigenous ethnic religions while 9.7% are Islamic. Christian adherents account for 28.3% of the population. Fourteen percent of the people are evangelicals (counted as part of the Christian adherents). Portions of the Bible have been translated, but there are no other ministry tools available.

**12388**

Dagaaba, Dagari (367,000)

The Dagaaba or Dagari people live in Southwest Burkina Faso in the Poni, Bougouriba, Sissili, and Mouhoun provinces. They speak a language called Northern Dagara and belong to the Gur people group. They are probably related to the Dagari people from

western Ghana. Some alternate names for this people group include: Dagaari, Dagari, and Dagati.

50% of the Dagaaba people practice ethnic religions while 25% are Islamic. Twenty-five percent are also Christian adherents. Among this Christian minority, 70% are Roman Catholic while 25% are Protestant. The other 5% are either independent or some other type of Christian denomination. Multiple agencies are involved with working with the Dagaaba people, and a group of churches has been established. The Bible has not been translated into their language, but the Jesus Film has been reproduced for them. Gospel recordings also exist.

### **12458**

Dagaari Dioula, Wala (25,000)++

The Wala people live in Diebouhou, To, Boromo, Soukoulaye, Silly, Pa, Dano, Leo, Gao, Dissin, Wessa, Fara, and French Hamele. They speak a language called Dagaari Dioula. Some alternate names for this people group include: Dagaari Jula and Yarsi. They belong to the Malinke-Jula people cluster.

90% of the Wala people are Muslims while 9.9% of the people practice indigenous traditional religions. Indigenous practitioners participate in secret societies with elaborate initiation rituals. Dancing is an important part of traditional ceremonies.

The Wala were converted to Islam due to the influence of Jula Muslim traders. Only .10% of the people are Christian adherents. Among the small minority of Christian adherents, 35% are Roman Catholics while 65% are Protestants. There are multiple agencies involved, but no churches have been established yet. The Jesus Film is unavailable, and the Bible has not been translated into their language. Gospel recordings are accessible.

The Wala people are probably closely related to the Lobi people. They are farmers who raise crops like sorghum and millet. Sorghum beer is a popular sale item in the local market. Girls help their mothers with household chores such as caring for younger children, working in the vegetable garden, or helping with the cooking, but they may also help their fathers in the fields. Boys will help their fathers tend to the animals and work long hours in the fields.

### **00000**

Deaf (Unknown)

The Deaf in Burkina Faso don't have a specific national sign language. No other information is available about this group.

### **12390**

Dogon Jamsay (15,000)

The Dogon ethnic group is part of the Gur people cluster. They can be found in Burkina Faso, Cote D'Ivoire and Mali. They speak a language called Tomo Kan Dogon. Some alternate names for this people group include: Bangeri, Dowoy, Duleri, Habe, Habbe, Jamsay, Nanga, Oru, Toroso, and Yanda.

49% of the Dogon are animists. They believe that they must worship ancestral spirits. The Awa society helps with this as they plan ceremonies like the bago bundo, the funeral, the dama, the ceremony that ends the mourning period, and the sigui which transfers the rites of leadership from one generation of devotees to the next. The Awa society uses masks that are red, white, or black and have specific decorative patterns. Males that have undergone the correct initiation ceremony are members of the Awa society. The Lebe society helps the people perform the proper ceremonies to ask the spirits for a good harvest. Right before the planting season begins, the bulu ceremony is celebrated to ask the spirits for good crops.

Thirty percent of the people are Muslims. Twenty-one percent of the population are Christian adherents. The New Testament had been translated by 1994. The Jesus Film has been produced in the Dogon language, and gospel recordings are available. There are multiple agencies working with the Dogon people.

The Dogon have a highly stratified social lineage. Everyone relates to one another based upon their position within this lineage. Males belong to certain age-sets and their position is determined by their familial heritage. The Dogon believe that they originally came from the West bank of the Niger River, but they moved on to the Bandiagara cliffs region when the Mossi people came into the area.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart/toc/people/Dogon.html>

### **12389**

Dogose, Doghosie (30,000)++

The Doghosie people live in the villages of Ouo, Sideradougou, Kouere, Koro, and Sirakoro in the Comoe Province in southwest Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Dogose. They are part of the Gur people group. Some alternate names for this people group include: Dorosie or Dogobe.

85% of the Doghosie people practice ethnic religions while ten percent follow Islamic teachings. Five percent of the people are Christian adherents. Among the small minority of Christian adherents, 80% are Roman Catholic while 20% are Protestant (roughly 1500 Christian adherents in all with 1200 being Catholic and 300 being Protestant).

Multiple agencies are involved in reaching this people group, and a church has been established. The Bible has not yet been translated into the Doghosie language, and the Jesus Film is not available. Gospel recordings can be found.

The Doghosie people are related to the Wala people. They are farmers who eke out a living from the land and hope to have extra goods to sell at the local market. Girls in villages carry on domestic chores with their mothers but may also help their fathers in the

fields. Boys help their father plant and tend crops and livestock. Village life consists of several different ceremonies, and extended family is important.

### **12391**

Dogoso (10,000)

The Dogoso people live in the Villages of Dandougou, Torokoro, Sokoura, Bondokoro, Tolandougou, and Sakedougou. They are part of the Gur people group and speak a language called Dogoso. An alternate name for this people group is Dogowa.

91% of the people practice indigenous ethnic religions while four percent are Muslims. Five percent, or roughly 500 people, of the population group are Christian adherents. Approximately 400 of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics (80%) while about 100 of them are Protestants (20%). The Bible is not available in their language, and the Jesus film is also inaccessible. Gospel recordings apparently don't exist either. No agency is currently committed to working with this people group.

### **00000**

Duu, Duungoma (1,000)

The Duungoma people are part of the Mande people cluster. They speak a language called Duungoma. The Duungoma usually live on the border between Burkina Faso and Mali. Some alternate names for this ethnic group include: Duu, Duun, Duune, Duungo, Samogho, and Western Duun.

70% of the people are animists while 29.90 % are Muslim. Only .10% of the people are Christian adherents, and all of these are Protestant. They are one of the least reached people groups. There are a few scattered believers. Currently there is no Bible translation. Since most of the Duungoma people do not know how to read, they need people to tell them the stories of Jesus orally. They need chronological Bible storytellers. The Jesus Film is not available, and gospel recordings cannot be found.

The Duungoma are primarily farmers. In fact, in each of their villages, they will have tall structures that will hold all the grain for the village. The Duungoma actually call themselves "duun" which means egg in their language.

The Duungoma society permits polygamy. Men don't have to pay a specific bride price, but will give gifts to the bride's family before the ceremony. Usually families live together in extended households. Lineages are very important. The oldest living son will eventually inherit his father's personal property while the brother of the father will get any communal household property. A headman usually leads the lineages.

### **12393**

Dyan, Dian (21,000) ++

The Dyan people of Burkina Faso live in the Bougouriba Province. They speak a language called Dyan and are part of the Gur people cluster. An alternate name for the Dyan people is Djan.

70% the people practice indigenous religions, while 20% of the population are Muslims. Ten percent or roughly 2100 people of the people are Christian adherents. Approximately 945 of those Christian adherents are Roman Catholic while 1155 of those people are Protestant believers. Multiple agencies are involved with reaching this people group, and a group of churches has been formed.

The Bible has not been translated into the Dyan language, and the Jesus film is not available. Gospel recordings can be found.

### **00000**

English-Speaking, generic

There are an estimated 500 English speakers in Burkina Faso. They are Caucasians or Eurasians. Eighty percent are Christian adherents, and twenty percent are non-religious.

### **12395**

Ewe (26,000)

The Ewe people speak a language called Ewe. They are part of the Guinean people cluster. The Ewe people are also found in Benin, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and Togo. Some alternate names for this people group include: Ahoulan, Ebwe, Ehve, Kotafon, Eve, and Krepi.

80% of this population group are Christian adherents. 65% of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholic while 25% belong to independent denominations. Ten percent of the Christian adherents are Protestant. The remaining twenty percent of the population practice indigenous religions.

The Ewe people have a patrilineal society. Usually the descendent of the founder of a Ewe village would be chief. The Ewe are small-time farmers but are well-educated and influential. The Ewe people tried to create their own state during colonial times but failed. However, the Ewe people remain active in politics and the civil service.

### **00000**

French (6,100)

The French speak French and are 90% Roman Catholic. Two percent of this group are Protestant, and 1% of the people belong to independent denominations.

### **00000**

Fula, Gorgal (5,200)

The Gorgal Fula live in the Northeastern corner of Burkina Faso. Their language is called Western Niger Fulfulde. An alternate name for this people group is Barani.

The Gorgal Fula are considered to be part of the larger Fulani ethnic group that inhabits many different areas throughout West Africa. They are 99.9% Muslim and only .10% of the population has become Christian adherents. The .10% of the group that are Christian adherents are Protestants. Portions of the Bible have been translated, but the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found. They are considered to be one of the least reached people groups. One agency is working to evangelize this people group.

Generally, the Fulani have been herdsman and place a very high value on cattle. They have been nomadic in the past but as borders develop and tighten in the West African area, their lifestyles are changing. Often, Fulani will actually be paid to care for other ethnic groups' cattle as well. The Fulani are highly regarded as skilled readers of human character. They have many oral traditions and wisdom sayings. For example, the Fulani will say that if a woman has cattle (even if she is a leper), she should be married in order to share the wealth with the rest of the clan. Boys and men will care for the herd and migrate with them during the dry seasons in search of water. Women and the elderly will stay at the village and sustain local industries. Women are expected to marry very early and to bear many children. Society believes that when a woman has many children, she will be taken care of when she is old.

From *Muslim Peoples* by Weekes [http://www.gowestafrica.org/mega/megaprofile.php?ppl\\_id=20](http://www.gowestafrica.org/mega/megaprofile.php?ppl_id=20)  
<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=103070&rog3=UV>

## **00000**

Fula, Jelgooji (262,000)++

The Jelgooji Fula speak a language called Western Niger Fulani. An alternate name for this people group is Fulfulde Jelgoore. They are considered to be part of the larger Fulani ethnic group that inhabits many different areas throughout West Africa. They are 99.9% Muslim and only .10% of the population have become Christian adherents. The .10% that are Christian adherents are Protestants and Roman Catholics.

Portions of the Bible have been translated, but the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found. They are considered to be one of the least reached people groups. One agency is working to evangelize this people group.

Generally, the Fulani have been herdsman and place a very high value on cattle. They have been nomadic in the past but as borders develop and tighten in the West African area, their lifestyles are changing. Often, Fulani will actually be paid to care for other ethnic groups' cattle as well. The Fulani are highly regarded as skilled readers of human character. They have many oral traditions and wisdom sayings. For example, the Fulani will say that if a woman has cattle (even if she is a leper), she should be married in order to share the wealth with the rest of the clan. Boys and men will care for the herd and migrate with them during the dry seasons in search of water. Women and the elderly will stay at the village and sustain local industries. Women are expected to marry very early



and to bear many children. Society believes that when a woman has many children, then she will be taken care of when she is old.

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<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=103070&rog3=UV>

## **00000**

Fulani, Gurmanche (786,000)

The Gurmanche Fulani live in the Northeastern corner of Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Western Niger Fulfulde but their specific dialect is called Gourmantche. Some alternate names for this people group include: Fulbe, Fulfulde Gurma, Macina, Gurma, Liptaako. Gurma Fulani, or Gourmantche.

The Gurmanche Fulani are semi-nomadic. They raise cattle like all Fulani but also engage in agricultural pursuits. Children are expected to help their parents and show no fear. The Gurmanche Fulani are very proud of their clothes. In the village people must be very circumspect and cautious to follow all of society's rules; however, when they go into uninhabited areas, they may abandon some of that strictness.

They are considered to be part of the larger Fulani ethnic group that inhabits many different areas throughout West Africa. They are 99.3% Muslim, and only .70% of the population have become Christian adherents. The .70% that are Christian adherents are Protestants and Roman Catholics. Portions of the Bible have been translated, but the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found. They are considered to be one of the least reached people groups. One agency is working to evangelize this people group. There is one known church.

Generally, the Fulani have been herdsman and place a very high value on cattle. They have been nomadic in the past but as borders develop and tighten in the West African area, their lifestyles are changing. Often, Fulani will actually be paid to care for other ethnic groups' cattle as well. The Fulani are highly regarded as skilled readers of human character. They have many oral traditions and wisdom sayings. For example, the Fulani will say that if a woman has cattle (even if she is a leper), she should be married in order to share the wealth with the rest of the clan. Boys and men will care for the herd and migrate with them during the dry seasons in search of water. Women and the elderly will stay at the village and sustain local industries. Women are expected to marry very early and to bear many children. Society believes that when a woman has many children, then she will be taken care of when she is old.

From *Muslim Peoples* by Weekes <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=103589&rog3=UV>

## **12397**

Fulani, Maasina (371,000)

The Maasina Fulani speak a language called Maasina Fulfulde. Some alternate names for this people group include: Fula Kita, Macina Fula, Niafunke, Fulbe Maasina, Liptako, Peuhala, or Fulfulde Masina.

They are considered to be part of the larger Fulani ethnic group that inhabits many different areas throughout West Africa. They are 99.8% Muslim, and only .20% of the population have become Christian adherents. The .20% that are Christian adherents are Protestants and Roman Catholics. Portions of the Bible have been translated, but the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found. They are considered to be one of the least reached people groups. One agency is working to evangelize this people group. There is one known church.

Generally, the Fulani have been herdsman and place a very high value on cattle. They have been nomadic in the past but as borders develop and tighten in the West African area, their lifestyles are changing. Often, Fulani will actually be paid to care for other ethnic groups' cattle as well. The Fulani are highly regarded as skilled readers of human character. They have many oral traditions and wisdom sayings. For example, the Fulani will say that if a woman has cattle (even if she is a leper), she should be married in order to share the wealth with the rest of the clan. Boys and men will care for the herd and migrate with them during the dry seasons in search of water. Women and the elderly will stay at the village and sustain local industries. Women are expected to marry very early and to bear many children. Society believes that when a woman has many children, then she will be taken care of when she is old. Children are seen as investments of the future and the own living legacy that the Fulani can leave. They don't believe in an afterlife so their offspring will carry on their traditions for them.

From *Muslim Peoples* by Weekes <http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=103589&rog3=UV>

## **12400**

Gouin, Cerma (91,000)

The Gouin people live in Comoe Province in Burkina Faso. A small minority can also be found in Cote D'Ivoire also. They speak a language called Cerma and belong to the Gur people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Ciraamba, Guin, Gwen, Kirma, and Senufo.

78% of the people practice traditional religions, while eight percent are followers of Islam. 14% of the people are Christian adherents. Out of the 12740 people that are Christian adherents, 45% are Roman Catholic while 50% are Protestants. The remaining 5% belong to independent or other Christian religious groups.

Multiple agencies are involved in reaching the Gouin people for Christ, and a group of churches has been established. Portions of the Bible have been translated, but the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings can be found.

The Gouin are primarily subsistence farmers who raise millet, cassava, and yams. They may also raise cattle.

From [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net) and *The Peoples of Africa* by James Olson

## **12401**

Gurenne Ninkare, FraFra (37,000)

The Gurenne people live in the Far North Province of Burkina Faso near the Ghana border. The Gurenne people may also be found in Cote D'Ivoire but the majority of them live in Ghana. They speak a language called Farefare and are part of the Gur people cluster. Their language may be taught in schools. An alternate name for this people group is the Gurunsi.

69% of the Gurenne people practice ancestor worship and other traditional religious practices. Most believe in a creator god but also worship at family shrines to appease the spirits that they feel can help or hinder them in their daily lives. Twenty-five percent of the people are Muslim, while six percent are Christian adherents. Of the approximate 2220 Christian adherents, 55% are Roman Catholic, and 45% are Protestant.

The Gurenne raise different crops like millet or rice, but they will also work to produce local crafts to sell at the market place or will fish to help add other types of food to their diets. Most live in extended family houses. Marriages are polygamous, but are not pre-arranged for the bride or the groom. Grooms will pay the family in livestock for the privilege of marrying a daughter. Children are more likely to attend school and have easier access to better medical care because of the presence of a nursing school. Tattooing is an old art form that some Gurenne still practice.

From [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)

## **12402**

Gurma, Bigulimanceba (707,000)

The Gurma people live in Eastern Burkina Faso in the provinces of Gourma, Tapoa, Gnagna, Komandjari, Yagha, and Kompienga. They speak a language called Gourmancema and belong to the Gur people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Bigulimanceba, Gourma, Gourmance, Gourmancheba, Migulimancema, Gulmacheba, or Gourmantche.

45% of the people practice indigenous religions, while forty percent are Muslim. Only 15% are Christian adherents. Among those that are Christian adherents, 50% are Protestant while 48% are Roman Catholic. Two percent belong to independent churches or other types of Christian fellowships.

Multiple agencies are involved in reaching the Gurma people, and a reproducing church movement has been established. Portions of the Bible have been translated, and the Jesus Film is available. Gospel recordings can also be found.

The Gurma are herders and farmers. Men work the fields, and women raise the children. The Gurma like to have other people work for them. In fact, having other people do the work in the fields is considered a mark of success. The Gurma society has very strict rules. People must not show fear.

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/oldworld/africa/gurmaculture.html>  
[www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)

## **12404**

Hausa (2,000)

The Hausa people live in the Boulgou and Gourma provinces in Burkina Faso. They may also be found in several different West Africa and North African countries, but they are primarily from Nigeria. In fact, they are the largest group in Africa. They speak a language called Hausa. The Hausa language is a major trade language in West Africa, and many different people groups have adopted not only the Hausa language but also many of the Hausa customs and beliefs. Some alternate names for this people group include: Adarawa, Arawa, Arewa, Fellata, Hausa Fulani, Hausa Ajami, Maguzawa, Hausawa, Soudie, Kurfei, or Tazarawa.

The Hausa are 99.9% Muslim. About 150 years ago, Muslim missionaries came to Hausaland and succeeded in converting the Hausa to Islam. They are considered one of the least reached people groups. Today only .10% of the people are evangelicals or Christian adherents.

The Bible has been translated into the Hausa language, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts can also be found. Hausas that do convert to Christianity face severe persecution in the form of shunning and betrayal by non-Christian family members. Since a Hausa's identity is tied to his family and clan, the emotional and physical persecution is extremely hard on new believers. Christian missionary families will also face persecution. Their children may be stoned as they walk through the street and animal sacrifices may be left on the doorstep of their church.

Oral legends among the Hausa state that the people are descended from a man called Bayajida who killed a snake that threatened the village, thereby winning the hand of the queen. The sons of Bayajida founded Hausaland. The Hausa once ruled themselves but were later conquered by many different ethnic groups, the last being the Fulani.

The Hausa may be involved in many different types of work. Many in rural areas are farmers who grow traditional crops like millet or rice, while others are traders or professionals. Markets are very important gathering places for men to come and discuss issues facing the village. Women will be expected to make different types of items to be sold at the market.

Men may marry more than one wife, and girls are promised in marriage by age 12 to 15. Women are expected to care for the children and attend to household duties. Divorce is a societal problem, but many women will remarry because society expects them to do so. Extended families are usually very influential in rural areas. Males and females will both be expected to listen to their elders.

<http://www.global12project.com/2004/profiles/clusters/8035.html>

<http://www.sim.org/pg.asp?pgID=2&fun=1>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=103733&rog3=UV>

**12406**

Jotoni, Jo, Jowulu (1,000) ++

The Jotoni live primarily in Tena in Burkina Faso but most are found in Mali. They speak a language called Jowulu and are part of the Malinke people cluster. Some alternate names for the Jotoni include: Jori, Jo, Jowulu, and Samogho.

96% of the Jotoni practice indigenous religions, while one percent are Muslim. Three percent of the population are Christian adherents. Forty percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholic, while sixty percent are Protestants. One agency is currently working with the Jotoni, and a group of churches has been established.

The Bible has not been translated, and the Jesus Film is not available. Gospel recordings can be found. The Jotoni are one of the least reached people groups.

### **12407**

Jula, Dyula (245,000)

The Jula people live in the provinces of Comoe, Kenedougou, Houet, and Leraba. They speak a language called Jula and belong to the Malinke-Jula people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Djoula, Kong, Joula, Wangara, Malinka, or Yola.

The Jula or Dyula people are predominantly Sunni Muslims. They are very resistant to outside evangelistic efforts because most of the Jula have very strong family and clan ties. Only .02% of the Jula are Christian adherents, and all of these believers are evangelical. Portions of the Bible have been translated, and the Jesus Film is available. Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts can be heard. Multiple agencies are involved in trying to reach the Jula people, and one church has been founded. They are still one of the least reached people groups.

In the past, the Jula were very important to the development of trade in West Africa. For centuries, they traveled about selling goods and passing on the Islamic faith. Kong in the Cote D'Ivoire was their home base usually. They would send their male children there to receive religious training from Muslim teachers. Today some of the Jula are still traders, while others are farmers. Women generally take care of household problems, while men will work in the fields or make products to sell. Both sexes may engage in trading at the market if they wish.

As has been mentioned, familial relationships form a key aspect of Jula life. Marriage is expected for all females and will probably be arranged by the head of the household. People who live until old age are greatly revered for their sagacity.

<http://www.peopleteams.org/jula/>

### **12409**

Kaan, Gan (9,200) ++

The Kaan people live in the Gaoua Subdistrict of the Poni Province. They speak a language called Kaansa and belong to the Gur people group. Some alternate names for this people group include: Ga, Kaanse, Kamba, and Kambe.

84% of the people practice indigenous religions, while ten percent of the population is Muslim. Only six percent of the Kaan people are Christian adherents. Among these adherents to Christianity, eighty percent are Protestants, while twenty percent are Roman Catholic. No active church planting has occurred in the last two years, and there is currently no agency committed to working with this people group. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings do exist.

### **12394**

Eastern Karaboro (46,000) ++

The Eastern Karaboro are part of the larger Senufo ethnic group. They speak a language called Eastern Karaboro and are part of the Gur people group. They primarily live in Comoe Province in Burkina Faso. Some alternate names for this people group include: Ker, Kai, or Senugo.

78% of the Eastern Karaboro practice ethnic religions. Secret societies have a very strong influence on the males of the Karaboro. A male child will be taught the ways of the society and will finally be initiated at about thirty years of age. Young men have been leaving to go to urban cities; and through this exodus, Islamic ideals and culture are beginning to come to the Karaboro. In fact, twelve percent of the people are Islamic adherents. Ten percent of the people are Christian adherents. Of the 4600 people that profess Christianity, seventy percent are Roman Catholic, while thirty percent are Protestants.

The New Testament has been translated, but the Jesus Film is not accessible. Gospel recordings can be found. Multiple agencies are involved in trying to reach this people group, and a group of churches has been established.

The Eastern Karaboro raise yams, millet, dry rice, and peanuts. They are very community oriented. In fact, no one is allowed to stand out as an individual. Decisions are based upon the consensus of the community, and every person knows exactly how he or she is related to everyone else in the community. All food and wealth is considered community property. Meals are a community event.

### **12460**

Karaboro, Western (44,000) ++

The Western Karaboro live in southern Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Western Karaboro and are part of the Gur people cluster. They are also part of the larger Senufo people group.

86% of the Western Karaboro practice ethnic religions. Secret societies have a very strong influence on the males of the Karaboro. A male child will be taught the ways of the society and will finally be initiated at about thirty years of age. Young men have been leaving to go to urban cities; and through this exodus, Islamic ideals and culture are beginning to come to the Karaboro. In fact, ten percent of the people are Islamic adherents. Four percent of the people are Christian adherents. Of the 1760 people that profess Christianity, fifty percent are Roman Catholic, while fifty percent are Protestants. There is a questionable Bible translation, and the Jesus Film is not accessible. Gospel recordings can be found. One agency is involved in trying to reach this people group, and a group of churches has been established.

The Western Karaboro raise yams, millet, dry rice, and peanuts. They are very community oriented. In fact, no one is allowed to stand out as an individual. Decisions are based upon the consensus of the community, and every person knows exactly how he or she is related to everyone else in the community. All food and wealth is considered community property. Meals are a community event.

### **12410**

Kasem, Kasena (146,000)

The Kasem people live in Nahouri Province in Burkina Faso, but may also be found in parts of Ghana. They speak a language called Kasem and are part of the Gur people cluster. Two alternate names for this people group include: Awuna or Kasena.

78% of the people practice ethnic religions. Those that practice indigenous beliefs follow masking ceremonies. One of the chief masks is called the su and is thought to have great influence over the life of the village. Families also usually have special charms that have been passed down for generations and are used for the protection of the home. While ten percent are Muslims, twelve percent are Christian adherents. Of the approximate 17,520 people that profess Christianity, twenty-five percent are Roman Catholic, while seventy-five percent are Protestants. Multiple agencies are involved in reaching the Kasem, and a group of churches has been established. The New Testament has been translated, and the Jesus Film is also accessible. Gospel recordings are also available.

The Kasem are usually farmers who grow crops like millet and sorghum, but the men will hunt and fish to supplement the family's food supply. They will rotate which fields they use about every ten years. Women will try to help the family's cash flow by growing tobacco close to their homes.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart/toc/people/Kassena.html>

### **12411**

Khe (2,300)++

The Khe people live in the villages of Noumoukiedougou, Tiebata, Moromoro, Boli, Sessagbo, and Lobo. They speak a language called Khe and are part of the Gur people cluster. They are sometimes called the Kheso people.

95% of the people follow traditional indigenous practices. Two percent are Muslim, and three percent are Christian adherents. Fifty percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholic, while 50% are Protestants. There are no mission agencies currently working with this people group, and there has been no active church planting in the last two years.

There is only a questionable Bible translation, and the Jesus Film is inaccessible. No gospel recordings exist.

### **12412**

Kolsi, Ko, Winye (24,000)++

The Kolsi people live in the Boromo Subdistrict of the Bali Province in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Winye and are part of the Gur people cluster.

72% of the people practice indigenous traditional religious rites. Twenty percent are Muslim, while eight percent are Christian adherents. Sixty percent of the Christian adherents are Protestant, while forty percent are Roman Catholic. Multiple agencies are involved in reaching the Kolsi for Christ, and one church has been established. There is no Bible translation, and the Jesus Film is not available. Gospel recordings can be found.

Most of the Kolsi are farmers. Men work to clear the land and will also hunt and fish to supplement the food supply. Women take care of the home and children and may also help with the crops as needed. People work hard because they don't wish to be seen as poor. Girls usually marry early and have children. Children are highly celebrated. Boys, as they get older, go to live with another male family member. Family groups live together in extended family compounds where each family has their own dwelling, but each dwelling is connected to one another by passageways.

### **12413**

Komono, Khisa (4,500) ++

The Komono people live in the Comoe Province around the Mangodara Prefecture. They speak a language called Khisa and are part of the Gur people group. They may also be found living in Togo.

77% of the population is Muslim, while eighteen percent are animists. Only five percent of the population are Christian adherents. Of the approximate 225 people that are Christian adherents, eighty percent are Protestant, while twenty percent are Roman Catholic. Multiple agencies are involved in working with this people group, and one church has been established.

There is currently no Bible translation, and the Jesus Film is not available. Gospel recordings do not exist either.

### **12415**

Kurumfe, Fulse (210,000) ++



The Kurumfe live in the Yatenga, Soum, and Oudalan provinces. They speak a language called Koromfe and belong to the Gur people cluster. Some alternate names for this people include: Fulse, Koromba, Kurumba, or Lilse.

79% of the population practice indigenous religions, while eight percent are Muslims. Thirteen percent are Christian adherents. Among the Christian adherents, fifty percent are Protestant, while forty-seven percent are Roman Catholic. Another three percent are independent. No agencies are currently doing church planting among this people group. There is no Bible translation, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

### **14391**

Kusasi (21,000) \*Note: Joshua Project lists this group as Kasaal, Western\*

The Kusasi live in the Nahouiri and Boulgou provinces. They speak a language called Kusaal and are part of the Gur people group. Some alternate names for this people group include: Western Kasaal, Eastern Kasaal, and Kasaal. The Kusasi people may also be found in Togo and Ghana.

47% of the Kusasi population practice traditional ethnic religions, while forty-three percent of the people are Muslims. Ten percent of the population are Christian adherents. Among the Christian adherents, seventy percent are Roman Catholic, while thirty percent are Protestants.

A chief usually leads each village which may be composed of one huge extended family or several extended families. Men and women have sharply defined roles. Men will work at their chosen profession, which may include farming, and will also own the cattle. Women will not usually own cattle, but may raise other types of small livestock to supplement the family income. During the day, women stay inside the family home, while men stay outside. In the past, polygamy was common; but now many men only marry one wife.

<http://atukue.sasktelwebsite.net/Kusasi.html>

### **12416**

Lele, Lyele (193,000)

The Lele people live in the northern and central portion of Sanguie Province in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Lyele and are part of the Gur people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Lyele or Lyela.

81% of the people practice indigenous ethnic religions, while five percent are Muslims. Fourteen percent of the population are Christian adherents. Among the Christian adherents, sixty-four percent of the people are Roman Catholic, while thirty-five percent of the people are Protestants. One percent belong to independent denominations.

Multiple agencies are involved in reaching this people group, and a group of churches has been established. The New Testament has been translated, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings also exist.

### **12419**

Lobi, Lobiri (425,000) ++

The Lobi people live in the Poni province of Burkina Faso, but they may also be found in Cote D'Ivoire and Ghana.

93% of the Lobi people practice indigenous traditional religions. Indigenous practitioners participate in secret societies with elaborate initiation rituals. Dancing is an important part of traditional ceremonies. Two percent follow Islam. Five percent of the people are Christian adherents. Among the small minority of Christian adherents, 37% are Roman Catholics while 60% are Protestants. There are multiple agencies involved. The Jesus Film is unavailable, and the Bible has not been translated into their language. Gospel recordings are accessible.

The Lobi people are probably closely related to the Wala people. They are farmers who raise crops like sorghum and millet. Sorghum beer is a popular sale item in the local market. Girls help their mothers with household chores such as caring for younger children, working in the vegetable garden, or helping with the cooking, but they may also help their fathers in the fields. Boys will help their fathers tend to the animals and work long hours in the fields.

### **12420**

Maninka, Malinke (109,000)

The Maninka people are part of the larger Mande people group who are descendants of the peoples that once inhabited Mali. Today the Maninka not only live in Senegal but also Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Guinea, and Guinea Bissau. They speak a language called Eastern Maninkakan. Some alternate names for the Maninka include: Konyanke, South Maninka, Wangara, Mandinka, and Mandingo. Note: Because the colonial advisors would often call different people groups by many names, there is some overlap between the names of different people groups. Alternate names are noted but primary names should be used for study purposes.

58% of the Maninka people practice indigenous religions, while 40.5% of the people are Muslims. They were evangelized by Muslim traders that encouraged them to accept the basic tenets of the Muslim faith, while still allowing them to keep their beliefs in the interference of magic and the spirit realm in their daily lives. The Maninka people see god as someone to fear. They believe that they must appease the angry, vengeful spirits that would bring misfortune into their lives. To that end, they consult with diviners and other spiritual beings, who might be able to help them in times of sickness. Only 1.5% of the people are Christian adherents.

The New Testament has been translated, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings can also be found. There are multiple mission agencies that work with the Maninka people, and a group of churches has been established. Much prayer is needed for the Maninka people and the missionaries that try to reach them.

The Maninka are a patrilineal society. Parents usually arrange girls' marriages. Men, as Muslims, may marry more than one wife. Women will do household work and take care of the children, while men take care of the animals and the fields.

There is a strict social strata in the Maninka culture. Descendants of the first settlers of a Maninka village are generally the leaders of that village. Musicians called griots are held in high esteem because they will pass on the oral traditions of the people. Blacksmiths are also very important to the Maninka people.

<http://www.sim.org/pg.asp?pgID=28&fun=1>

### **12426**

Marka, Dafing (288,000) ++

The Marka or Dafing people live in the Kossi and Mouhoun provinces in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Marka and their primary dialect is Safan. They are part of the Malinke people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Dafi, Dafin, Dafing, and Mossi.

58% of the population practice traditional ethnic religions. These practices involve elaborate masking ceremonies. Each family may be in charge of leaf and wood masks that have special significance for their families. Leaf masks usually represent the spirit of the bush, while wood masks help protect the family from evil magic. The leaf and wood masks do not dance together but may appear at the same time at funerals of important village leaders or annual renewal festivals. The animists are thought to be very good at sorcery. Twenty-eight percent of the people are Muslim, while fourteen percent are Christian adherents. Among the Christian adherents, fifty-five percent of the people are Roman Catholic, and forty-five percent are Protestant. Five percent belong to independent Christian denominations. Multiple agencies are involved in reaching this people group, and a group of churches has been established. Portions of the Bible have been translated, but the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

The Marka Dafing people are probably descendents of the ancient inhabitants of the Ghana Empire who emigrated over time to Burkina Faso. Many are farmers and herders, while others are very well known traders. They once traded in salt, gold, and slaves. They are also very good at weaving cloth. Cotton is a major cash crop. Families that emigrated from the same town originally stayed together and formed new towns, which they named for a founding father. They put stone terraces around their villages to serve as defense mechanisms against invaders and also to help retain the water during the rainy season.

Villages are run by a headman who is appointed to the position. Families maintain close ties. Women have more rights because of their ability to trade and earn money for themselves. They may divorce and remarry during their lifetime.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart/Art%20of%20Burkina%20Faso.html#Dafing>

### **12374**

Moba, Moab (2,600)

The Moba people live in the Ouargaye Subdistrict of the Boulgou Province. Their primary language is Moba and they are part of the Gur people cluster. They may also be found living in Togo. Some alternate names for this people group include: Bimoba, Moaba, and Moab.

62% of the people practice indigenous religions, while thirty percent are Muslim. Seven percent are Christian adherents, and one percent is non-religious. Among those professing Christianity, sixty percent are Roman Catholic, while forty percent are Protestant.

One agency is currently working with the Moba people, and one church has been established. Portions of the Bible have been translated, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings also exist.

### **12424**

Mossi, Moore (6,408,000)

The Mossi people are the most dominant ethnic group among the Burkinabe. They speak a language called Moore and are part of the Gur people cluster. They live in the Central Ouagadougou area in Burkina Faso, but may also be found in Benin, Cote D'Ivoire, France, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. Some alternate names for this people group include: Moose or Moshi.

12 % of the people practice ethnic religions, while 60.54% of the people are Muslim. 26% of the people are Christian adherents, while 1.40% of the people are non-religious. Among those professing Christianity, 55.5% are Roman Catholic, and 43.6% are Protestant. A mere .8% belong to independent Christian religious groups. There is a widespread, disciplined church. The complete Bible has been translated, and the Jesus Film is available. Gospel recordings can also be found.

The Mossi are a patrilineal society. The oldest living male of a family group is called the Vieu. All of the males under his authority will defer to his ultimate judgment. While much discussion from all family members may occur when there are major decisions to be made, the Vieu still retains the ultimate authority.

The Mossi are primarily farmers. Men will govern the family and own the fields, but the wives will work the fields. Children will help their mothers watch the younger children and till the fields. Each wife is not only responsible for caring for her husband's fields, but also for working another field to provide food for herself and her children.

The Mossi live in large family compounds. The family decides what is best for the individual. It is very difficult for an individual to make a decision of which the Vieu and the family would approve. Parents arrange the marriages for the children—sometimes even before the child is born. Grooms will have to perform services for the bride's family and also give different types of presents to them. Once the bride lives with the groom, she becomes a part of his family. Her children belong to his family, and if the husband dies, she will most likely marry a brother of the original husband. Men may marry more than one wife.

<http://www.byhisgrace.cc/mossi/Mossi.htm>

### **12429**

Natoro (3,600) ++

The Natoro people live in the Sindou Subdistrict of the Leraba Province. They speak a language called Natoro and belong to the Gur people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Natoro, Samukune, or Senufo.

72% of the people follow indigenous ethnic beliefs, while twenty-three percent are Islamic. Five percent of the people are Christian adherents. Among the Christian adherents, sixty-five percent of the people are Roman Catholic, while thirty-five percent are Protestant. No church planting has occurred for the last two years.

There is a questionable Bible translation. The Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings exist.

### **12433**

Nuna, Nuni (72,000) ++

The Nuna people live in the Sissili and Sanguie provinces of Burkina Faso. They probably originally came from Ghana. Their primary language is called Northern Nuni, and they belong to the Gur people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Northern Nuni, Northern Nunuma, or Nouni.

59% of the people practice ethnic religions. The central masking figure is thought to represent the supreme creator called su. People hope that there will be good fortune for the village and protection from foes. Women will be able to produce several children, if they are blessed by su. Each family also has totems, that protect the lineage of their family, that have been passed down for generations.

Twenty-five percent of the population are Muslims. Sixteen percent of the people are Christian adherents. Among the professing Christians, sixty-three percent of the people are Roman Catholic, while thirty-five percent are Protestant. Two percent belong to independent Christian religious groups. The Bible has not been translated into their language. The Jesus Film is unavailable, and no gospel recordings have been reported as existing.

Most of the Nuna are farmers who raise traditional crops like millet and sorghum for food and cash crops like tobacco for profit. They will allow the fields to remain unplanted after

being used for eight years in order that the fertility of the soil might be replenished. Until the French colonial period, village elders made the major decisions for the town, while religious leaders had an influential role as well. The Nuna built their houses close together so that they could use the rooftops as defense positions against the Mossi raiders.

The Mossi were not able to conquer the Nuna because the tsetse fly made the horses of the Mossi sick. The French instituted a series of different individual leaders who attempted to maintain power until 1983.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart/toc/people/Nuna.html>

### **12434**

Nuna, Nunuma (192,000)++

The Nuna live in the Sissili, Mouhoun, Boulkiemde, Sanguie, Nahouri and Kossi provinces. They speak a language called Southern Nuni and are part of the Gur people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Nounouma, Nunuma, Southern Nuni, and Southern Nunuma.

57% of the people practice ethnic religions, while 25% are Muslims. 18% of the population are Christian adherents. Among the 34560 people that profess Christianity, 63% are Roman Catholic and 35% are Protestant. Two percent belong to independent Christian religious groups. No active church planting has occurred for the last two years.

The New Testament has been translated, but the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

### **12436**

Pana, Sama (6,100) ++

The Pana people lived in the Kassoum Subdistrict of the Sourou Province. They speak a language called Pana and are part of the Gur people cluster. They are considered to be one of the least reached people groups.

74% of the people practice indigenous religions, while 22% of the people are Muslims. Four percent of the people are Christian adherents. Among the Christian adherents, ninety percent of the people are Roman Catholic, and ten percent are Protestant. At least one agency is on-site trying to reach this people group for Christ.

There are no formal churches. There is a questionable translation need, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings exist.

### **12437**

Pwo, Pwe (16,000)

The Pwo people live in the Tuy, Ioba, Bougouriba, and Poni provinces. They are a segment of the larger Sissala people. They speak a language called Phuie and are part of

the Gur people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Pwa and Puguli.

68% of the people adhere to traditional religious practices. They believe that there is a supreme god who busies himself with the daily affairs of the people. They also believe that the good and right actions of humans affect the universe. Twenty-five percent of the people are Muslims. Seven percent of the people are Christian adherents. Among those professing Christianity, 65% are Protestants, and 35% are Roman Catholic.

The Pwo are mainly farmers but may also use hunting and gathering as ways to supplement their food supply. They may also own different kinds of livestock. Men work in the fields. Women have their own gardens and care for the children. Children are highly valued, and a woman can elevate her social standing by bearing many children.

### **12408**

Samo, Kalemse, Samoma (17,000) ++

The Samo people live in the Tougan Subdistrict of the Sourou Province. They speak a language called Kalamse and are part of the Gur people cluster. They may also be found living in Mali. Some alternate names for this people group include: Kalamse, Kalems, Samoya, Samoa, and Supai.

60% of the people adhere to traditional ethnic religions, while 30% of the population have converted to Islam. Ten percent of the people are Christian adherents. Among those professing Christianity, eighty-four percent of the people are Roman Catholic, while fifteen percent are Protestants. One percent belong to independent Christian denominations. Multiple agencies are involved in reaching this people group, and a group of churches has been formed.

There is currently no Bible translation, and the Jesus Film is not available. Gospel recordings can be found.

### **00000**

Samo, Maya, Sanan-Bangassogo (45,000) ++

The Maya Samo live in the Sourou Province of Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Maya Samo and are part of the Mande people cluster.

50% of the people practice indigenous religions while 30% are Muslim. Twenty percent are Christian adherents. Among the Christian adherents, fifty-three percent of the people are Roman Catholic, while forty-five percent are Protestant. Multiple agencies are committed to reaching this people group, and a group of churches has been established.

The Bible has not been translated, and the Jesus Film is not available. Gospel recordings can be found.

### **00000**

Samo, Northwestern, Samo Matya (139,000) ++

The Northwestern Samo live in the Sourou Province of Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Matya Samo and are part of the Malinke people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Don, Sano, Northern Samo, and Toma.

50% of the people practice indigenous religions, while thirty percent have become Islamic adherents. Twenty percent of the people are Christian adherents. Among the 27,800 people that profess Christianity, fifty-eight percent are Roman Catholic, while forty-percent are Protestant. Two percent are members of an independent Christian denomination. Multiple agencies are involved in trying to reach this people group, and a group of churches has been established.

The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

### **00000**

Samo, Southern, Sanan-Toma (103,000)

The Southern Samo live in the Nayala Province. There are concentrations in the areas of Nouna and Solenzo. They can also be found in the cities of Ouaga, Bobo, Dedougou, and Koudougou. They speak a language called Southern Samo and are part of the Mande people cluster.

Fifty percent of the population practice ethnic religions, while thirty percent are Muslim. Twenty percent of the population are Christian adherents. Among the Southern Samo Christian adherents, fifty-three percent are Roman Catholic, while forty-five percent are Protestant. There is a functioning agency partnership, and a group of churches has been established. The New Testament has been translated, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings are also available.

### **12392**

Samogho, Eastern Duun (17,000) ++

The Eastern Duun Samogho speak a language called Dzuungoo and are part of the Mande people cluster. They are one of the least reached people groups. The Eastern Duun Samogho are primarily Islamic adherents.

Less than .10% of the population are Christian adherents. There has been no active church planting for the last two years. Portions of the Bible have been translated, but the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

### **12447**

Seemogo (18,000) ++



The Seemogo people live in the Bobo-Dioulasso Department of the Houet Province. They speak a language called Seeku and are part of the Mande people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Sambla, Sembla, and Southern Samo.

55% of the population follow indigenous religious traditions. Twenty percent of the people are Muslim. Twenty-five percent are Christian adherents. Among the 4500 Christian adherents, 55% are Roman Catholic and 40% are Protestant. The other 5% of the people belong to independent Christian groups.

There is a functioning agency partnership and one known church. The Bible has not been translated into Seeku, and the Jesus Film is not available. Gospel recordings can be found.

### **12428**

Senufo, Nanerige (88,000) ++

The Nanerige Senufo live in the northern part of the Kenedougou Province. They speak a language called Nanerige Senoufo and are part of the Gur people group. Some alternate names for this people group include Nanerige and Nanerige Senufo.

56% of the people follow traditional religion but the number of Muslims among the Senufo are growing. Traditionally, the Senufo were very bound by the ideals of their clan. People did not make individual decisions that went against clan ideologies and beliefs. Everyone ate together and related to each other through their familial relationships.

In addition to this strong sense of community, the Senufo were very good farmers, and they did not wish to leave their traditional religious beliefs because of the help they felt that they received from nature sprites. Ancestral worship was also a key element of their animistic lifestyles.

Poros societies strongly influenced the life of all males. As industrialization occurs, however, young men are leaving to find work in the nearby cities. Once there, they find it much easier to abandon traditional belief systems and choose to become Muslim or Christian. 34% are Muslim, while ten percent of the population are Christian adherents. Of the 8800 professing Christians, 70% are Roman Catholic, while 30% are Protestant.

There has been no active church planting for the last two years, and currently no agency is committed to working with this people group. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

### **12430**

Niangolo Senufo (66,000) ++

The Niangolo Senufo live in the Leraba Province in southwest Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Senara Senoufo and are part of the Gur people group. Some alternate names for this people group include: Senabi, Senara Senufo, and Senari Senufo.

62% of the people follow traditional ethnic religions, while 30% are Muslim. Eight percent of the population are Christian adherents. Among these professing Christians, eighty percent are Roman Catholic, and twenty percent are Protestant. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings don't exist.

Traditionally, the Senoufo were very bound by the ideals of their clan. People did not make individual decisions that went against clan ideologies and beliefs. Everyone ate together and related to each other through their familial relationships. If a woman's husband died, she would be married to the brother of her deceased husband. In addition to this strong sense of community, the Senoufo were very good farmers, and they did not wish to leave their traditional religious beliefs because of the help they felt that they received from nature sprites. Ancestral worship was also a key element of their animistic lifestyles. Poro societies strongly influenced the life of all males. As industrialization occurs, however, young men are leaving to find work in the nearby cities. Once there, they find it much easier to abandon traditional belief systems and choose to become Muslim or Christian.

#### **12441**

Siamou, Seme (24,000) ++

The Siamou live in the Kenedougou Province in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Siamou and are part of the Kru people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Seme. The Siamou are farmers. They raise traditional crops like millet and sorghum.

69% of the population follow traditional religion. They believe in ancestor worship and worship different spirits of the bush. 25% of the populations are Muslim, and six percent of the people are Christian adherents. Among the Christian adherents, 80% are Roman Catholic, while twenty percent are Protestant.

There is at least one mission's agency that is currently on site working with the Siamou, and one church has been established. Young people may come to Christ and work in the church for a time, but if they leave for more education in the city, the church is weakened and left with not enough teachers.

Portions of the Bible have been translated. Translators are working very hard to establish literacy schools that will teach the Siamou to read in their own language. Until recently, the Siamou language, history, and culture were completely preserved through oral retellings. Because of the influence of other people groups due to intermarriage and trade relationships, many traditional Siamou words were being lost. Now with an alphabet and script, the Siamou people can begin to write down their own history and traditions in their own language for future generations.

The Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings can be found.

**12387**

Sicijuubi, Central Senoufo

The Sicijumbi live in the Kenedougou Province on the Tagouara Plateau and in the Koloko and Ouelani prefectures. They speak a language called Sicite Senoufo and are part of the Gur people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Sicite, Tagba, Suppire, Sicite Senoufo, and Cetrul Senoufo.

59% of the people practice indigenous religious practices, while 33% are Muslim. Eight percent of the population are Christian adherents. Of that 8%, sixty percent are Roman Catholic, while forty percent are Protestant. Multiple agencies are involved in reaching this ethnic group, and a group of churches has been established.

Portions of the Bible have been translated, but the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

Traditionally, the Senoufo were very bound by the ideals of their clan. People did not make individual decisions that went against clan ideologies and beliefs. Everyone ate together and related to each other through their familial relationships. If a woman's husband died, she would be married to the brother of her deceased husband. In addition to this strong sense of community, the Senoufo were very good farmers, and they did not wish to leave their traditional religious beliefs because of the help they felt that they received from nature sprites. Ancestral worship was also a key element of their animistic lifestyles. Poro societies strongly influenced the life of all males. As industrialization occurs, however, young men are leaving to find work in the nearby cities. Once there, they find it much easier to abandon traditional belief systems and choose to become Muslim or Christian.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=108985&rog3=UV>

<http://www.global12project.com/2004/profiles/clusters/8031.html>

**12442**

Sininkere, Silanke (7,100) ++

The Sininkere people live in the Sanmatenga Province in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Sininkere and are part of the Malinke people group. Two alternate names for this people group include: Silanka and Silanke.

93% of the Sininkere people practice ethnic religions, while six percent are Christian adherents. One percent of the people are Muslim. Among the Christian adherents, eighty percent are Protestant, and twenty percent are Roman Catholic. There is a questionable translation need for the Bible. The Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings are available.

The Sininkere greeting for good evening is "Ka sunka keeri." Most of the people are farmers and depend on a good crops during the rainy season to survive. When rain doesn't come, the people's crops will literally wither in the field, and they watch their

food supply dwindle. Several of the Sininkere have been very gracious and kind to visitors. They have offered food and shelter.

#### **12444**

Sissala (19,000) ++

The Sissala people speak a language called Sissala and are part of the Gur people cluster. Two alternate names for this people group include: Hissala and Sisala.

54% of the people follow traditional religious beliefs in a god called viekparien. They believe in many gods and believe that mediums must be used to communicate with the spirit world. Sixteen percent of the people are Christian adherents, while thirty percent are Muslim. Among the 3040 Christian adherents, 65% are Roman Catholic, while thirty percent are Protestant. Another five percent are part of independent Christian denominations. The New Testament has been translated, and gospel recordings can be found. The Jesus Film is unavailable.

The Sissala people are subsistence farmers who grow a variety of different grain crops. They will raise different types of livestock so that they can trade them for other needed products. Their houses are built close together, and they are a patrilineal society. An entire village will be involved in the raising of a child, and children are greatly prized. The entire village will help ensure that a child has learned the proper values of the Sissala people. Elders are also greatly respected for their wisdom and age. The jangtina leads the spiritual lives of the people of the village.

<http://www.supportghana.co.uk/Sissala%20People.htm>

<http://sim.org/PG.asp?pgid=25&fun=2>

#### **2445**

Songhai-Humburi Senni ++

The Humburi Senni Songhai live in the Hombori area in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Songhay and are part of the Songhai people cluster.

About 99.6% of the population are Muslims, while only 0.40% are Christian adherents. Of the less than one percent that profess Christianity, fifty percent are Roman Catholic while fifty percent are Protestant. One agency is committed to working with this people group, and there is one known church. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is not accessible. Gospel recordings can be found.

The Songhai are a very ancient people group. In fact, one of the great Malian empires was built by the Songhai ethnic group. They are also staunchly Muslim, having first converted in the early part of the eleventh century, but they do practice a form of syncretic Islam that still permits sorcerers and encourages sacrifices to appease the spirits. Dances and costumes are used in ritualistic ceremonies to try to reach the spirit world.

Most Songhai men are farmers, but they will also have cattle that are tended by the Fulani. Women are not allowed to go to funerals or to work in the fields with men. Instead they are expected to marry and raise the children. Women may plant gardens to supplement the family's food supply.

Girl's marriages will be arranged by their father's families, and they will be required to accept their bridegroom. Fathers will only arrange marriages to members from their own lineage. They will usually not permit grooms from other ethnic groups. Divorce is high among the Songhai. When divorce or death of a spouse occurs, the woman is sent back to her father's family. Her children are the property of the husband or his family. Even young children under the age of seven that may be allowed to go with her initially will later be returned to the father's family. Three out of five children will die before their fifth birthday due to malnutrition or disease. Men may marry more than once (according to Islamic tradition) but few can afford to do so because a bride price may be quite expensive. Men that do marry a second wife will also be expected to set her up in a separate dwelling. No girl or woman wishes to be a second wife.

People usually live in extended family units. Even if men need to go and search for other work after the planting season, they still are the ultimate authority in their households. Children are expected to revere their elders and follow their instructions obediently.

<http://www.byhisgrace.cc/songhai/>

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=210078&rog3=UV>

### **12451**

Tenbo, Teen (2,300) ++

The Tenbo live in the Kampti Subdistrict of the Poni Province. They speak a language called Teen and are part of the Gur people cluster. Most of this people group live in Cote D'Ivoire. Some alternate names for this people group include: Tosie, Lorhon, and Teen.

95% of the people practice ethnic religions, while two percent are Muslim. Three percent of the population are Christian adherents. Among those that profess Christianity, fifty-five percent are Roman Catholic, while forty-five percent are Protestant. One agency is on-site working with this people group.

No churches have been established, but there are scattered believers. Portions of the Bible have been translated into the Teen language, but the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

### **12452**

Tiefö (18,000) ++

The Tiefö people live in the Hahouri Province in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Tiefö and are part of the Gur people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is the Nyarafo.

04%t of the people practice ethnic religions, while six percent of the population are Christian adherents. Among those professing Christianity, eighty percent of the adherents are Protestant, while twenty percent are Roman Catholic. Multiple agencies are involved in evangelizing this people group, and a group of churches has been established.

There is a questionable translation need. The Jesus Film has not been reproduced in the Tiefs language. Gospel recordings are available.

### **12453**

Toussian, Northern (26,000)

The Northern Toussian people live in the Comoe Province in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Northern Toussian and are part of the Gur people group. Some alternate names for this people group include: Tusia, Northern Tusyan, and Win. 75% of the people practice traditional religions. 20% of the people are Islamic adherents, while five percent of the people are Christian adherents. Many of the Islamic adherents actually practice a mixture of Islam and traditional indigenous beliefs.

Among those professing Christianity, sixty percent are Protestant, and forty percent are Catholic. Multiple agencies are involved in reaching this people group, and a group of churches has been established. Wycliffe translators have been working very hard to translate parts of Genesis and get the translated work recorded.

The Jesus Film has not been reproduced in the Northern Toussian language. Gospel recordings are being produced. Gospel recordings are a very effective way to reach the Toussian people because they like to sit around the fire at night and tell stories. This is a primary form of entertainment among the Northern Toussian people.

### **12449**

Toussian, Southern (26,000) ++

The Southern Toussian people live in the Comoe and Houet provinces in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Southern Toussian and are part of the Gur people cluster.

67% of the people practice indigenous religions, while 25% are Muslim. Eight percent of the population are Christian adherents. Among those professing Christianity, forty-eight percent of the people are Roman Catholics, while fifty percent are Protestants. Two percent of the Christian adherents belong to independent Christian denominations.

Multiple organizations are committed to the evangelism efforts among the Toussian people. There is one known church. Portions of the Bible have been translated due to the hard work of Wycliffe translators. The Jesus Film has not been reproduced in the Southern Toussian language. Gospel recordings exist.

### **12454**

Tuareg, Tamacheq (36,000)

The Tamcheq Tuareg live in the Oudalan Province in Burkina Faso. They may also be found Mali, Cote D'Ivoire, and Mauritania. They speak a language called Tamasheq and are part of the Tuareg people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Antessar, Bella, Kel Tamasheq, Kidal Tuareg, Kidal, Tahoua Tuareg, Tamasheq, Timbuktu, and Udalán.

The Tamacheq Tuareg are predominantly Sunni Muslims. In fact, 99.92% of the people are Islamic adherents. Only .08% of the people are Christian adherents, and all of those believers are Protestants. There is one agency that is on site working with this people group. The New Testament has been translated into their language and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings can be found.

The Tamacheq Tuareg world has changed mightily over the last thirty years. Until the early 1970's most Tamacheq Tuareg followed the nomadic lifestyle of their ancestors. Familial connections were everything in this traveler's world where one wrong misstep in the harsh climate of the Sahara could mean instant death. A huge drought in the early 1970's, however, ended the nomadic lifestyle for many Tuareg. As animals began to die because of the lack of water and food, many of the Tuareg were forced to move to urban areas to merely be able to survive. Drawn by the conveniences of the modern cities as well as the stability of a wage-paying job, many Tuareg chose to remain in the cities long after the end of the drought. The Tamacheq Tuareg, who continue their nomadic lifestyle, live in tents and move from place to place in search of good grazing for their livestock. Most eat some goat meat, but mainly depend on different types of cereals, dates, and milk for the mainstays of their diet.

Women have a slightly higher standing in Tuareg society. Women are not veiled, but rather they put a piece of cloth in front of their mouths. Because there is a distinct class system among the Tuareg which includes those who serve others, some women have the time to write poetry or songs. They perform these during a ceremony called the ahal.

Men wear a veil and are expected to be faithful to one wife. They respect women who can recite poetry.

### **12455**

Turka, Tyurama (45,000) ++

The Turka people live in the Comoe province in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Turka and are part of the Gur people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Curaba, Tourka, and Tyurama.

88% of the people practice traditional religions, while 12% are Christian adherents. Among those professing Christianity, 80% are Protestants and 20% are Roman Catholic. Multiple agencies are involved in trying to reach this people group, and a group of churches has been established.

The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings are available.

**12457**

Vige, Viemo (9,700) ++

The Vige people live in the Houet province in Burkina Faso. They speak a language called Viemo and are part of the Gur people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Viewo, Vigu, and Viemo.

65% of the people practice indigenous religions, while 30% are Muslims. Only five percent of the people are Christian adherents. Among those professing Christianity, seventy percent are Roman Catholic, and thirty percent are Protestant.

There has been no active church planting. This is one of the least reached people groups. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is not accessible. Gospel recordings can be found.

**12459**

Wara (6,300) ++

The Wara people speak a language called Wara and are part of the Gur people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Sama.

70% of the people practice indigenous religions, while 23% are Muslim. Seven percent of the people are Christian adherents. Among the Christian adherents, ninety percent of the people are Roman Catholics, while ten percent are Protestants. No active church planting has occurred for the last two years.

The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings exist.

**12425**

Yana (18,747)

This people group is not listed by Joshua Project. They primarily speak the Moore language. Bible translations are available. The Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings exist. Radio broadcasts can be heard.

**12463**

Yoruba (48,000)

The Yoruba people are one of the largest ethnic groups in West Africa. They can be found living in Benin, Togo, Liberia, Nigeria, Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, Niger, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom, and Ireland. They speak a language



called Yoruba. Some alternate names for this people group include: Anago, Ekiti, Nago, Oyo, Ondo, and Ijebu.

Only 5% of the Yoruba people practice ethnic religions, while 50% are Muslim. 45% of the Yoruba people are Christian adherents. Among those that profess Christianity, fifteen percent are Roman Catholics, while ten percent are Protestants. Sixty-seven percent of the Christian adherents belong to an independent Christian denomination. Four percent of the Christian adherents are Anglicans.

Multiple agencies are involved in the evangelism efforts to the Yoruba people, and there is a reproducing church movement. The complete Bible has been translated, and the Jesus Film is available. Tracts are also printed in the Yoruba language. Gospel recordings can be found, and radio broadcasts can be heard.

### **12427**

Zaore (28,836)

This people group is not listed by Joshua Project. They primarily speak the Moore language. Bible translations are available. The Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings exist. Radio broadcasts can be heard.

### **00000**

Zerma (1,000)

The Zerma people are a sub-group of the larger Songhai population. They speak a language called Zarma. Some alternate names for this people group include: Djarma, Zabarmawa, Zarma, Dyerma, and Zaberma.

75% of the Zerma people are Sunni Muslims. They actually practice a syncretic form of Islam that is heavily reliant on the belief in sorcery and the spirit realm. About 24.8% of the people practice ethnic religions. Only .20% of the population are Christian adherents, and all of those people are Protestants. Currently no agency is committed to working with this people group in Burkina Faso, although there are organizations working with this people group in Niger. There is one known church. The complete Bible has been translated into the Zerma language, and the Jesus Film is also accessible. Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts can also be heard. The Zerma people are one of the least reached people groups.

Most of the Zerma people are subsistence farmers who grow traditional crops like millet and guinea corn. Men will work in the fields and will also take care of the livestock, while wives will work to take care of household chores and small gardens near the house. Men may also choose to travel to coastal areas to try to find wage earning jobs to supplement the family income. Men may marry more than once if they are able to financially afford another wife. Each wife usually has her own house for herself and her children.

<http://www.zermateam.org/zermaprofile.htm>

## Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and Churches should recognize the vast evangelistic and church starting opportunities that exist among many of the people groups in Burkina Faso. A number of people groups with large populations are primarily followers of traditional religions and some of them do not yet have access to the Jesus Film in their own language (see People Groups section and the groups marked by a double ++). Immediate efforts to reach these peoples are imperative.
2. Evangelical Christians and Churches should investigate the possibility of using Bible Storying as a leading method for reaching many of the people of the region of Burkina Faso. The Northern Toussian have shown special interest in stories and this interest could be used for their evangelization.
3. Evangelical Christians and Churches should recognize and meet the vast social, medical, and economic needs of these peoples. These ministries are first and foremost done in the name of Christ and in response to the needs of the people. At the same time, these ministries can show the love of God for the people and open the way for the Message of Christ.
4. Evangelical Christians and Churches should recognize the devastation of AIDS in all of West Africa, including Burkina Faso. Every opportunity to minister in ways that alleviate the consequences of this disease should be grasped.
5. Evangelical Christians and Churches should employ the “contact point” of the traditional belief about a High God to introduce the true Message of a loving God.
6. Evangelical Christians and Churches should place great emphasis on prayer for the peoples of Burkina Faso and their tremendous need of the gospel.

All pictures on this page are from the <http://www.burkinaembassy-usa.org/indepth.html> I could see no copyright but I'm not sure where they got them.

