

Missionary Atlas Project

AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

SNAPSHOT

Name:

Central African Republic *République Centralfricaine*

Founded in:

1960

Population:

4,369,038 (these data take into account the problems of AIDS in the country)

Location:

Central Africa north of Congo



Flag:**Religion:**

Muslim 15.60 %
Traditional Ethnic 12.80 percent
Non Religious 0.89 percent
Baha'i 0.33 percent
Christian 24.64 percent
African Independent Churches 12.78 percent
Marginal Groups 0.32 percent

Government Relation to Religion:**People Groups:**

Over 100 different People Groups live in CAR

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Name:

Central African Republic *République Centralfricaine*

Demographics:

The estimated population of the Central African Republic is 4,369,038.

Children up to fourteen years of age account for 41.6% of the population. There are 914,566 male children between the ages of newborn to fourteen years of age. There are 903,849 female children between these same ages. Adults between the ages of fifteen and sixty-four years of age account for 54.2% of the population. There are 1,174,520 males in this age category and 1,195,364 females. In the last age category, sixty-five years and above, there are 71,355 males and 109,384 females. The 65 plus age group accounts for 4.1% of the population. The median age for males is 18.2 years, and the median age for females is 18.9 years.

The birth rate is 33.52 births for every 1,000 people. There are an estimated 4.32 children born to every woman. The infant mortality rate is 83.97 deaths for every 1,000 live births. The death rate is 18.46 deaths for every 1,000 people. The life expectancy for the total population is 43.74 years. The life expectancy for males is slightly lower at 43.69 years, while the life expectancy for females is slightly higher at 43.79 years.

There are eighty-seven different people groups in the Central African Republic. The Baya make up approximately thirty-three percent of the population while the Banda ethnic group make up twenty-seven percent. The Mandja account for thirteen percent of the population while the Sara account for ten percent.

The risk of disease is very high. Visitors must be aware that bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever may all infect food or water sources. Malaria is also a serious health issue. Finally, cases of meningococcal meningitis were found in 2007.

Language

French is the official language, but only those people who are fortunate enough to attend public school probably actually speak in French. Most people are familiar with the trade language Sango and also use their own mother tongue to speak with family members from their own ethnic group. A few people are familiar with Arabic while others may use Hausa or even Swahili. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/4007.htm> <http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0857227.html>

Society/Culture:

Most people are agriculturalists and live in rural areas. They survive from harvest to harvest by growing only enough food for their own consumption. The northern area, as is mentioned in greater detail in the economic and history sections, are in dire need of assistance.

Most often families live together in patrilineal units. At this time, due to displacement, many women and their children have been left without male protection either because their husbands have been killed or have disappeared. Girls with fathers usually have marriages arranged for them quite early. Urban areas are often teeming with people as rural villagers tend to migrate there in search of work or better educational opportunities.

The national holidays of the Central African Republic include the Christian holidays of Easter Monday (April 9), Prayer Day (June 30), Assumption Day (August 15), All Saint's Day (November 1), and Christmas Day. Political holidays include Labor Day (May 1), Boganda Day (March 29), Independence Day (August 13), and National Day (December 1).

There are many national foods that can be found by enterprising tourists in CAR. Fish is often fried in a peanut sauce while chicken is combined with cumin in a tasty stew. Shrimp might be served with yams or sweet potatoes while banana leaves stuffed with various meats and vegetables are another culinary delight.

Witchcraft is seen as a major problem in CAR. Suspected witches or sorcerers are often killed by grieving family members. In fact, the death penalty can be applied to witchcraft trials. Often the government will put suspected witches in jail in protective custody until the matter is settled because of the people's penchant for revenge against suspected witches. Witches supposedly take cloth from the garments of a person and cast spells that cause the death of a person. They are also known to use poisons to help in the demise of enemies.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2006/71292.htm>

Government

The most recent constitution was ratified in 2004. The constitution was written from ideals taken from concepts of French law.

Currently, the chief of state is Francois Bozize, who took control of the government in 2003. Bozize is responsible for the appointment of the vice president, the prime minister, members of the cabinet, top military officials, and managers of national parastatals. There is a National Assembly which is elected by popular vote.

The country is divided into sixteen prefectures and sixty subprefectures that are administrated by officials that are appointed by Bozize. The court system is woefully understaffed at this time. In rural areas, where rebel and government forces have fought, there are especially no strong court systems, and most people settle issues with violence. Human rights abuses have been reported with people often being held without trial.

<http://www.infoplease.com/country/profiles/central-african-republic.html>

Economy

CAR is one of the poorest nations in the world. The number of households living below the poverty line is unknown. The unemployment rate was eight percent in 2001 but has probably risen in the last few years due to increased violence in northern areas.

The northern part of the Central African Republic shares borders with Sudan and with Chad. There are approximately 150,000 people that have been displaced. Rebel fighting has affected villages in this area.

women have reported being violated and having their children eaten by lions because they flee to the bush to escape the torture. Men have been killed or have gone into the bush to escape being killed. Violated women are very worried about the possibility of AIDS/ HIV infection either to themselves or to their children.

Money and medical personnel is needed to help with the screening process. Also, clean water, food, clothing, and every other type of basic need are desperately desired. Babies are dying due to malaria or malnutrition, and schooling is nonexistent.

Approximately seventy percent of CAR's population live in rural areas and survive as subsistence farmers. Timber is also an important industry to the economy. Diamond mining also

provides about 40% of the export income. Export partners include: Belgium, France, Spain, Italy, China, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, US, and Turkey. Agricultural products include: cotton, coffee, tobacco, manioc, yams, millet, corn, and bananas. The import partners include: France, Netherlands, and Cameroon. The national GDP is \$4.913 billion. Fifty-five percent of the GDP comes from agriculture while another twenty-five percent comes from service related jobs. The remaining twenty percent comes from industrial efforts. The national external debt is 1.06 billion.

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/car_38295.html

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ct.html>

Literacy

Generally boys are able to receive more educational benefits than girls. According to UNICEF, only about fifty percent of the children are able to attend school throughout CAR. Annually about 45 percent of girls are allowed to attend primary school compared with 64 percent of boys. This is especially true in rural areas where girls are still often promised in marriage by their fathers in their teen years.

Female genital mutilation is also a problem for girls in rural areas. Girls and boys may both sometimes go to primary school, but girls do not get to attend secondary school very often. UNICEF has sponsored some schools for girls to help with this problem. Currently the literacy rate for the total population is fifty-one percent. For boys, it is substantially higher at 63.3% while for girls it is lower at 39.9%. In the war-torn areas of northern CAR, only about fourteen percent of the population attend school. Child soldier recruitment has been a severe problem in the northern part of CAR among the rebel forces. UNICEF began an ambitious program in May 2007 to help demobilize these child soldiers and return them to a normal way of life.

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/car_39740.html

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ct.html>

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/car_2465.html

Land/Geography

The Central African Republic is bordered by Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sudan. In terms of size, CAR is somewhat smaller than the state of Texas. It is in the very center of Africa. Its climate is tropical. The winters are usually quite hot and dry while the summers are usually mild and wet.

Desertification is a growing problem because of the use of slash and burn agriculture. Most of the terrain in the Central African Republic is either savanna or rolling foothills. During the rainy season mud slides or heavy rains may cause roads to become impassible. Also, border crossings and travel outside of the capital has been deemed precarious by the U.S. State Department (as of June 2007) because of internal unrest. Further or more up-to-date information is available at the State Department's website.

History

People began to come to the region now known as the Central African Republic as early as the seventh century. Different peoples from the Kanem-Bornou, Ouaddai, Baguirmi, and Dafour empires all created towns in the area. Later, when the power of the sultanates arose, these areas were places of great turmoil and danger as slavers sought to capture potential slaves and sell them on the coast of West Africa.

The first European involvement began when the French took an interest in the area and wrested control away from the sultanate. In the late 1880's and early 1890's, the French began to exert control over certain portions of the area but did not establish complete dominance until around 1903 when they annexed the Central African Republic area completely.

In 1910, the French declared the area to be part of the Federation of French Equatorial Africa. Different rebel groups continually sought to gain freedom from French control due to forced labor issues and other types of abuses. However, during World War II, several peoples from the area supported the cause of the Free French forces.

After World War II, Barthélemy Boganda began to speak to the French government urging emancipation of French Equatorial Africa. On December 1, 1958, the French created the country now known as the Central African Republic, and Boganda became the acting head of the government. Boganda lost his life in a tragic plane accident, and his cousin David Dacko assumed control of the government.

Dacko led the country through the transition process with such results that independence was officially decreed on August 13, 1960. He continued to be the head of the government until he was overthrown by Col. Jean-Bedel Bokassa in 1965. Bokassa set up a military dictatorship but later actually had himself declared king. He also took over the control of the main political party-Social Evolution Movement of Black Africa [MESAN].

Bokassa stayed in control until 1979 when his government was overthrown. After national elections, Dacko was re-elected but was later overthrown by General André Kolingba. The government of Kolingba basically began as another dictatorship with the Military Committee for National Recovery as the controlling interest in the government. However, towards 1986, Kolingba's government allowed the rewriting of the constitution which allowed for the creation of a National Assembly.

In 1991, because of the pressure from different entities within CAR and outside of CAR, Kolingba allowed the constitution to be re-written again. The new constitution helped with the establishment of numerous political parties, and finally another election was held where Ange Felix Patasse won the presidency. In 1999, Patasse sought re-election and won. Patasse's regime was plagued by internal unrest that resulted in French and the U.N. troops coming to help stabilize the area.

In 2001, Kolingba staged another coup, and there was a time of severe unrest before the rebellion was quelled with help from Congolese rebels and Libyan forces. In 2003, Patasse's government tumbled while he was out of the country, and Francois Bozize took control of the country. With his assumption of leadership, Bozize basically overturned the National Assembly and the constitution. In 2005, elections were held, but he won them. In 2006, there were several

skirmishes with Chadian rebels, and the French had to help to stop the violence. Unrest continues to plague the country amid rumors of corruption and economic problems. According to UNICEF, in the northern part of the country, rebel forces and government forces have had several major skirmishes in the last year. Thousands of people have been displaced as they have fled their villages. The fleeing people have reported mistreatment, and many are living in the bush terrified to return home lest they fall prey to further violence.

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/4007.htm> http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/car_38398.html
<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/world/A0857229.html>

Christian History

Catholic missionaries arrived in the capital city of Bangui in 1894. In 1920, Baptist missionaries from the mission organization Baptist Mid-Missions began work among the Azande. At this point, they are working in twelve different locations with the Banda, Mandja, and Nzakara. The Church of the Brethren mission came in 1921. Pentecostals from Sweden and Switzerland as well as Lutheran missionaries came in 1923. In 1956, some of the Mandja left the Baptist Mid-Mission church and formed their own independent church which they called Comite Baptist. In 1960, some of the Banda left the Church of the Brethren to form Eglise Centrafricaine. There have also been different indigenous churches started by immigrants from other African countries. Many Christian adherents were drawn to Pentecostal churches during a country wide Renewal movement in the 1990's.

From World Christian Encyclopedia Volume 1

Religions

Non-Christian

African Traditional Religions

Each individual people group has a traditional religion that is unique. Some traditional names for God include So or Zambi. The African traditional religions often have secret societies that have enormous influence over the cultural life of the people. Because many of the rites are tied into the festivals and ceremonies of village life, Christian adherents sometimes have difficulty extruding themselves from these religious influences.

Islam

Islam has some influence in the Central African Republic. The Hausa and Bororo people are the most active Muslims. Bokassa, when he was in power, converted to Islam as a gesture of respect to Gaddafi, the president of Libya.

Christian Cults and Sects

Action Apostolique—This church is an African Apostolic church which began as a mission of the Church of the Candlestick in 1975. There are 100 congregations and 25,000 members in all.

Jehovah's Witnesses—This group began work in CAR around 1945. There are 41 congregations and 5,530 members.

Prophetic Christianity in Africa—This is an African Independent Pentecostal church. Its headquarters are in Bangui. The church was started around 1970, and in 1973, they applied to the WCC. There are ten congregations and 1,500 congregants. They believe in divine healings.

African Indigenous Churches—There are about 200 churches that have formed because of various prophetic movements from Zaire. These churches have about 40,000 members in all.

New Apostolic Church—This church was started around 1980 by the New Apostolic mission whose headquarters are in Zurich, Switzerland. There are 150 congregation and a total of 11,341 members.

Catholic Church

There are nine dioceses in the Central African Republic. Bangui is an archdiocese and was elevated to that status in 1955. In 2004, there were seventy-four priests and 201,131 congregants. The Alindao diocese was established in 2004. There are fifteen priest serving 160,000 congregants. The Bambari diocese was founded in 1965. There are twenty-four priests and 111,550 members attending mass. The diocese in Bangassou was founded in 1964. There are twenty-eight priests and 53,300 members. The diocese in Berbérati was started in 1955. There are twenty-eight priests and a total of 75,000 congregants. The diocese of Bossangoa was erected in 1964. There are thirty-five priests and 126,600 members attending mass. The diocese of Bouar was begun in 1978. There are fifty-six priests and a total of 75,504 congregants. The diocese of Kaga-Bandoro was erected in 1997. There are thirteen priests and a total of 60,200 congregants. The diocese of Mbaïki was started in 1995. There are fourteen priests and 57,987 members.

<http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/country/acf2.html>

Protestants/ Evangelicals/ Pentecostals

Association des Eglises Baptist Ev Centrafricaines—This association was started as a result of a schism in 1973. There are 150 congregations with 37,500 congregants in all.

Baptist Committee—This group started as a schism in 1956 when some of the Mandja left the Baptist Mid-Mission church. There are five congregations and a total of 3,000 members in all.

Baptist Churches of West Central African Republic—This Church was started in 1923 by a mission group from Sweden called the Orebro Mission. The Orebro Mission of Sweden joined with the Holiness Baptists, a Pentecostal group, to form a body called InterAct in 1997. There are 712 congregations and a total of 95,400 members in all. Ninety percent of the members are from the Baya people group. Ten percent of the members are from the Mpimo people group.

Baptist Churches of the Central African Republic—This group of churches was founded in 1920 by the Baptist Mid-Missions group from the U.S. There are 118 congregations and 100,000

members. Seventy percent of the members are from the Banda people group while twenty percent are from the Mandja people.

Central African Evangelical Cooperation—This African Independent Pentecostal church was started in 1956. There are 288 congregations and 54,900 members in all. This started as a mission of the Worldwide Evangelical Commission which is based in Switzerland.

Central African Church—This church was started in 1960 by a Banda pastor at Bouca. There was one church with 100 members. This church is dying.

Central African Evangelical Church—This Protestant Evangelical church was started by the AIM mission from the U.S. in 1924. There are 267 congregations and a total of 40,000 members. Ninety percent of the members are from the Zande people while three percent are from the Kare people. Also, Sudanese refugees attend services.

Eglise Evangelique des Freres—This church was started in 1921. There are 610 congregations and 290,000 members. Seventy percent of the members are from the Baya people while twenty percent are from the Mandja people. Another ten percent are from the Karre people.

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic—This church was started in 1923. There are 215 churches and 22,000 members in all. Ninety-nine percent of the members are Baya.

Evangelical Mission—The Central African Pioneer Mission began this church in 1937. Its headquarters are in Carnot. There are fifty churches and 6,000 members in all.

Evangelical Revival Church—This church was founded around 1960 as a mission of the Swiss Pentecostal Mission. There are fifty congregations and a total of 5,000 members.

Protestant Church of King Christ—This church is largely made of expatriates. There are two congregations and 700 members in all.

Seventh Day Adventists—This church was started as a mission of the Seventh Day Adventists in 1960. There are forty churches and a total of 4,180 members in all. Sixty percent of the members are from the Mbougou people, and fifteen percent are from the Baguiro people. Another fifteen percent are from the Baya people.

Union des Eglises Ev Elim—This church was started by the Swiss Pentecostal Mission in 1927. There are 400 churches and 70,300 members. Its headquarters are in Alindao. Ninety-nine percent of the members are from the Banda people.

Union Federation Eglise Baptiste—This church began as a schism group from the CAR Baptist Churches in 1978. There are 141 churches and 22,500 members.

People Groups

12825

Ali (48,047)

The Ali people live in the subprefectures of Boali, Bimbo, Boda, and Yaloke. They speak a language called Ali and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group includes: Lai. Most people also learn Sango. Children will grow up speaking Sango.

Five percent of the people are Muslims while another five percent are non-religious. The remaining two percent practice indigenous religions. Forty-five percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholic while thirty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another fifteen percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches. There are no ministry tools available in their language.

Banda General Profile

The Banda people group is actually made up of several subgroups which are listed below with individual statistics. They are primarily farmers who grow only enough for their own family's consumption. They do not barter with other groups extensively. Honey and wild game are both important to the Banda lifestyle. Historians generally believe that the first Banda began arriving in Sudan and the Central African Republic as they were fleeing the Sanusi in the 1700's. The Banda believe in trying to speak to the spirit world through their dead ancestors. Amulets and other types of charms are used to ward off evil. There has been a wide dispersion of this people group due to civil war in Sudan.

http://www.gurtong.org/resourcecenter/people/profile_tribe.asp?TribeID=134

12887

Banda Bambari (206,088)

The Banda Bambari live in the subprefectures of Bambari, Ippy, Grimari, Bakala, and Alindao. They speak a language called Banda-bambari and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Some dialects of this people group include: Linda, Joto (Jeto), Ndokpa, Ngapo (Ngapu), and Gbende. Speakers are usually also familiar with Sango since it is a major trade language.

Seventy-six percent of the population are Catholic or Christian adherents. Thirty-nine percent of the Christian adherents are evangelicals. Nineteen percent practice ethnic religions. The remaining four percent are Muslims. Thirty-six percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholic while another nineteen percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another thirty-five percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is inaccessible. There are evangelistic tools that have been translated into the Banda Bambari language.

12884

Banda, South Central (168,924)

The South Central Banda live in the subprefectures of Sibut, Mobaye, Alindao, Kembe, or Mingala. They speak a language called South Central Banda and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Langba and Ngbugu are the two main dialects of this language.

The majorities of these people is either Roman Catholics or follow some African Independent Church. Forty-four percent are evangelicals. Six percent of the people continue to practice indigenous religions. Thirty-five percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while twenty percent attend independent churches. Another thirty-five percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12829

Banda-Banda (160,844)

The Banda-Banda people live in the subprefectures of Bria, Yalinga, Bakouma, Sibut, Dekoa, Damara, Grimari, Bossangoa, Bozoum, Bocarangoa, and Paoua. Some of this people group also live in Sudan. They speak a language called Banda-Banda and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. The dialects of this language include: Banda-Banda, Bereya, Buru, Gbaga-South, Gbambiya, Hai, Ka, Mbi, Ndi, Ngalabo, Ngola, and Vidiri. People are also familiar with Sango.

Forty-four percent of the people are evangelicals. Another sixteen percent of the population is Muslim while two percent practice indigenous religions. The remaining two percent are non-religious. Fifty percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while ten percent attend independent churches. Another twenty percent are Roman Catholics while the remaining twenty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12830

Banda-Ndele (13,728)

The Banda-Ndele live in the subprefectures of Ndili, Bamingui, Ouadda, Kaga and Bandoro. Members of this ethnic group also live in Sudan. They speak a language called Banda-Ndele and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. They will also usually speak Sango. An alternate name for this people group is Nyele. Some dialects of this language include: Banda-Ndélé, Junguru, Tangbago, Nga, and Ngbala.

Forty percent of the Christian adherents are evangelicals. Sixteen percent are Muslims. Another two percent are non-religious while the remaining two percent practice ethnic religions. Forty-five percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while fifteen percent are Roman Catholics. Another thirty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches. There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12836

Benkonjo (3,154)

The Benkonjo live south of Nola in the Sangha Province They also have been known to reside in seven villages on the banks of the Sanga River. They speak a language called Ukhwejo and are part of the Bantu people cluster. The dialects of this language include: Ukhwejo, Bikaka, Piiga, and Kamsili. The population is very susceptible to sleeping sickness.

Sixteen percent are evangelicals. Twenty percent of the people practice ethnic religions while the remaining three percent are Muslims. Fifty percent of the people are Roman Catholics while twenty-five percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another twenty percent are Protestants, and the remaining five percent attend independent churches. There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12841

Bokoto (178,462)

The Bokoto people live in the subprefectures of Baoro, Carnot, and Boda. They are a subgroup of the Gbaya people. They speak a language called Bokoto and are part of the Bantu people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Bokodo, Bogoto, Bogodo, or Bokpoto. People use Sango too to communicate with other people groups. The Bokoto live in a society where inheritance rights are passed through the father's family line. Cassava and maize are commonly grown crops. Cattle raising is also part of Bokoto society.

Forty-six percent are evangelicals. Ten percent are Muslims, and the remaining two percent practice indigenous religions. Forty percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while twenty-one percent attend independent churches. Another twenty-four percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while the remaining fifteen percent are Roman Catholics. There are no ministry tools in their language.

From *The Peoples of Africa: An Ethnohistorical Dictionary* by James S. Olson

12846

Buraka (2,760)

The Buraka people live along the Ubangi River in the Mobaye Subprefecture. Some of the Buraka people also live in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They speak a language called Buraka and are part of the Pygmy people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Bouraka, Boraka, or Bolaka.

Twenty-two percent are evangelicals. The other half of the Buraka practice indigenous religions. Thirty percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants, and thirty percent are Roman Catholics. Another thirty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

12848

Dagba (54,911)

The Dagba people live in the subprefectures of Batangafo, Kabo, and Bossangoa. They also live in Chad. They speak a language called Dagba and are part of the Sara-Bagirmi people cluster.

Fifty-five percent of the population practice indigenous religions while twenty-five percent are Roman Catholic adherents. Twenty percent are evangelicals. Five percent attend independent churches. There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12849

Dakpa (4,968)

The Dakpa people live in the Bambari, Bakala, Grimari, Kaga Bandoro, and Bamingui subprefectures. They speak a language called West Central Banda and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Many people also use Sango to communicate.

Around twenty-five percent are evangelicals and twenty-five percent are Muslims. Around twenty percent practice ethnic religions. Around fifteen percent are Roman Catholic while twenty percent attend independent churches. Another twenty-five percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. The Bible has not been reproduced into their language, and the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings can be heard.

12852

Dukpu (110,408)

The Dukpu people speak a language called Mid-Southern Banda. They are part of the Sudanic people cluster. They live in the Alindao, Mobaye, Mingala, Kembe, and Kouango subprefectures. Some dialects of this language are Bongo, Dukpu, Yakpa, and Wasa. Most speakers also are familiar with Sango.

One percent of the people are Muslims. Thirty-five percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholic while thirty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another twenty-five percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can still be found.

12853

Fulani (159,581)

The Fulani people are scattered throughout the Central African Republic. They speak a language called Bagirmi Fulfulde which is quite different than the Bagirmi language of Chad which is from a different language cluster. Most people also know Sango.

Approximately, 99.9% of this people group are Muslim. In fact, only .10% of the people are Christian adherents. They are one of the least reached people groups. Forty percent of the Christian adherents attend independent churches while thirty percent are Protestants. Another twenty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while the remaining ten percent are Roman Catholic.

Fulani people group are strong Muslim adherents because they converted centuries ago and believe that they are defenders of the Islamic faith. Some of the Fulani Bagirmi still practice certain tenets of their ancestral worship too. For example, the Fulani Bagirmi don't believe that heaven exists. They think that the only way for a person to continue to live and be remembered after death is through the promulgation of their lives through their children. A man that doesn't have children is greatly pitied because his lineage will not be carried forth. This may be one reason that polygamy is practiced and why the birth of children is so highly celebrated—especially the birth of a son.

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

The Bagirmi Fulani are primarily herdsmen like most Fulani groups, but the Bagirmi also cultivate gardens and have permanent towns. The Fulani people are subdivided into groups by the geographic location. The Bagirmi Fulani will leave the eldest male of a lineage and his wives and young children in the village to care for gardens and fields while younger sons and their wives will travel in caravans with the cattle to look for better grazing land. This allows the Bagirmi Fulani to have a better diet and better income. A person's social status is determined by the number of cattle he owns. Men will often choose wives based upon the number of cattle the prospective wife owns.

12854

Furu (6,308)

The Furu people live in eleven villages in the Mobaye Subprefecture. The Furu people also live in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They speak a language called Furu and are part of the Sudanic people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Bagero, Bagiro, Baguero, or Baguiro. Most people are also familiar with Sango and Mono.

There is some discrepancy concerning the predominant religion of the Furu people. People Groups states that Christianity is the predominant religion. However, Joshua Project states that forty-two percent of the population are Muslims while twenty-eight percent are Christian adherents. Another thirty percent practice indigenous religions. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

12859

Gbanu (130,415)

The Gbanu people live north of Bogangolo in the Carnot and Bossembélé Subprefectures. They speak a language called Gbanu and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Two alternate names for this people group include: Gbanou and Banu. Most people are familiar with Sango.

Twenty percent practice ethnic religions. Seven percent are Muslims. Around twenty percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while twenty-three percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Eighteen percent are Roman Catholics while the remaining twelve percent

attend independent churches. Portions of the Bible were translated between 1932-1939. The Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings can be found.

12860

Gbanziri (16,009)

The Gbanziri people live along the Ubangi River in the Kouango Subprefecture. They also live in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They speak a language called Gbanziri and are part of the Pygmy people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Gbanzili, Banziri, and Gbandere. Most people are also familiar with Sango.

Fifty percent of the population practice ethnic religions while forty-five percent are Christian adherents. The remaining five percent are Muslims. Around 15 percent of the people are Roman Catholic while thirty percent are Protestants. Another twenty-five percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while the remaining fifteen percent attend independent churches. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be heard.

12833

Gbaya, Northwest (229,897)

The Northwest Gbaya people live in the Bouar, Baboua, Bocaranga, and Paoua subprefectures. They speak a language called Northwest Gbaya and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. An alternate name for this group is Baya. Most people know Sango.

Ten percent practice indigenous religions. The remaining four percent are Muslims. Sixty percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while fifteen percent attend independent churches. Another fifteen percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while the last ten percent are Roman Catholics. The complete Bible had been translated into their language by 1995, but the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings exist.

The predominant character in the Gbaya ethnic religion is called *so*. The high god is considered to be the creator god. Ghaso is the evil force that devours women and children. So-kao are spirits that caused large mountains or trees to appear. So-daa are the departed ancestors of previous generations. The Gbaya people have a very individualistic religion.

Each person may decide for himself or herself about which religious path to follow. Witches are seen as evil forces in the community, and ancestral spirits are appealed to in order to ward off evil. Usually the departed's eldest son would be responsible for caring for and contacting the dead.

The complete Bible has been translated, but the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings can also be found.

From *Culture and Customs of Cameroon* by John Mukum Mbaku

12861

Gbaya, Southwest (181,069)

The Southwest Gbaya live in the Berberati, Carnot, Gamboula, and Nola subprefectures. They speak a language called Southwest Gbaya and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Gbaya Sud-Ouest. Sango is used as a trade language.

Eighty-seven percent of the population are Christian or Roman Catholic adherents while ten percent have converted to Islam. The remaining two percent practice indigenous religions. Forty-three percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while twenty-four percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another seventeen percent are Roman Catholics, and sixteen percent attend independent churches. Among the Christian adherents, forty-six percent are evangelicals. Portions of the Bible have been translated into their language, but the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings can be found.

12862

Gbaya-bossangoa (194,318)

The Bossangoa Gbaya live in the Bossangoa and Batangafo subprefectures. They speak a language called Gbaya-Bossangoa and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Gbea, Gbeya, Gbaya of Borro, or Gbaya-Borro. Men use Sango as a trade language, but women that live in rural areas usually only speak Gbaya-Bossangoa.

Eighty-seven percent of the population are Christian or Roman Catholic adherents while ten percent are Muslims. Two percent practice ethnic religions. Fifty percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while twenty percent are Roman Catholics. Another fifteen percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while the remaining fifteen percent attend independent churches. Portions of the Bible had been translated by 2001. The Jesus Film is also available. Gospel recordings do not exist.

12863

Gbaya-bozoum (35,883)

The Gbaya-bozoum people live in the Bozoum Subprefecture. They speak a language called Gbaya-Bozoum and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Bozom. Speakers of this language may also be able to understand Gbaya-Bossangoa. Sango is used as a trade language.

Seventy-four percent of the population are Christian or Roman Catholic adherents while three percent are non-religious. Another twenty percent practice indigenous religions while the remaining three percent are Muslims. Forty-five percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while thirty-five percent are Roman Catholics. Another ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches. There are no ministry tools reported in their language.

12864

Gbayi (7,884)

The Gbayi live in the Northern Mingala Prefecture. They speak a language called Gbayi and are part of the Sudanic people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Kpasiya.

Sixty percent of the people are Christian or Roman Catholic adherents, and forty percent practice indigenous religions. Sixty percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another twenty percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches. There are no ministry tools in their language.

12865

Geme (607)

The Geme people live in two villages north of Ndélé in the Ndélé Subprefecture. They speak a language called Geme and are part of the Sudanic people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Jeme, Ngba Geme, and Gueme. There are two dialects in this language: Tulu and Kulagbolu. People are also used to speaking Sango as a trade language.

Ninety-five percent of the population are Christian or Roman Catholic adherents while five percent practice indigenous religions. Thirty-five percent of the people are Roman Catholics while thirty-four percent belong to alternative Christian groups. Another nineteen percent are Protestants while the remaining twelve percent attend independent churches. There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12866

Gubu (4,805)

The Gubu people speak a language called Gubu and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Sango is used as a trade language. Some alternate names for this people group include: Gobu, Ngobo, Ngobu, Gabou, or Gabu.

Forty-five percent of the population follow either Christianity or Roman Catholicism while fifty-five percent practice indigenous religions. Sixty percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another twenty percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings exist.

12878

Gula (17,846)

The Gula people live at Kafia Kingi near the Sudanese border in the Birao Subprefecture. They speak a language called Gula and are part of the Central-Lakes Bantu people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Kara of Sudan, Tar Gula, Gula du Mamoun,

Goula, or Yamegi. This people group were invaded by slave traders and moved quite frequently. They were under different sultanates and had to pay tribute in animal skins and slaves. In Sudan, people speak Arabic and Kresh.

The predominant religion is Islam. Sixty-five percent of the people are Muslims while twenty percent practice indigenous religions. The remaining fifteen percent are Christian, Independent, or Roman Catholic. Sixty percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while ten percent are Roman Catholics. Another twenty percent attend independent churches while the remaining ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. There are no ministry tools reports in their language.

http://www.gurtong.org/resourcecenter/people/profile_tribe.asp?TribelD=111

12867

Gundi Pygmy (9,937)

The Gundi Pygmy live south and east of Nola in the Nola Subprefecture. They speak a language called Gundi and are part of the Pygmy people cluster. Two alternate names for this people group are Ngundi and Ngondi. Most of the Pygmy groups have not taken part in the official census. There are some reports of discrimination against Pygmy groups.

Seventy-five percent of the population practice indigenous religions while twenty-five percent are Christian, African Independent, or Roman Catholic. Eighty percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another five percent are Roman Catholics while the remaining five percent attend independent churches. In all, twenty-two percent of the Christian adherents are considered to be evangelicals. There are no ministry tools available in their heart language.

12869

Hausa (25,144)

The Hausa are originally 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 99.92 % Muslim. Only .08% of the people are Christian adherents. 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. 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

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>

12874

Kaba Dunjo (6,308)

The Kaba Dunjo live in nine villages close to the Chadian border in the Ndélé Subprefecture. They speak a language called Sara Dunjo and are part of the Sara-Bagirmi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Sara Dinjo. This may be the same dialect as Kaba Na whose people live in Chad, or speakers may be able to understand the Sara language. Because of this people group's proximity to the Chadian border, they could be in danger from rebel forces from Chad and from Sudan. (Please see economic section)

Fifty percent of the population practice ethnic religions while forty-eight percent are Christian, Independent, or Catholic. The remaining two percent are Muslims. Forty-five percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while thirty percent are Protestants. Another thirteen percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups, and twelve percent attend independent churches. There are no ministry tools accessible in their own language.

12876

Kaka (8,120)

The Kaka people live in a town called Gambula which is close to the Cameroonian border. They speak a language called Kako and are part of the Central-Congo Bantu. Two alternate names for this people group include: Yaka or Nkoxo.

Forty-eight percent of the population follow Christian, Independent, or Catholic beliefs. Fifty-two percent practice indigenous religions. Fifty-five percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while fifteen percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another twenty percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches. The New Testament had been translated by 1999, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings can also be found.

12877

Kara (6,589)

The Kara people live in the Birao Subprefecture. They speak a language called Kara and are part of the Makua-Yao Bantu people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Fer, Dam Fer, or Fertit.

Forty-five percent of the people are Muslims while thirty percent practice indigenous religions. The remaining twenty-five percent are divided between Protestants and Roman Catholics. Another ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches. There are no ministry tools in their language.

12879

Kari (110,364)

The Kari people live in the Bozoum and Bocaranga subprefectures. They speak a language called Kare and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Karré, or Kali. Tale and Kari are both dialects of this language. People who speak Kare are often able to understand Mbum.

Eleven percent are Muslims. Forty-three percent of the non-Muslim people are Roman Catholics while forty percent are Protestants. Another twelve percent attend independent churches while the remaining five percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. The New Testament had been translated by 1947, but the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings don't exist.

12881

Kpagua (4,118)

The Kpagua people speak a language called Kpagua and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Kpagwa. This language is somewhat similar to Ngundu.

Seventy percent of the Kpagua people practice indigenous religions while thirty percent are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents. Sixty-five percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while fifteen percent attend independent churches. Another ten percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. There are no ministry tools in this language.

12882

Kpatili (6,178)

The Kpatili people live in the Southern Mingala Prefecture. They speak a language called Kpatili and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Kpatiri, Kpatere, and Ngindere. Although the Gbayi are ethnically related to the Kpatili, they cannot understand each other's language.

Sixty percent of the population are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents while forty percent practice ethnic religions. Sixty percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while twenty percent are Protestants. Another twelve percent attend independent churches, and the remaining eight percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. There are no ministry tools available in your language.

12883

Laka (2,499)

The Laka people live in nine villages in the Bocaranga Subprefecture. They speak a language called Laka and are part of the Sara-Bagirmi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Kabba Laka. They are ethnically different from the Laka people of Nigeria who are from the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. They are also ethnically different from the Kaba people of Chad.

There is some discrepancy pertaining to the research about the predominant religion of the Laka people. People Groups states that the predominant religion is Islam. However, Joshua Project states that sixty percent of the people are Christian adherents while twenty percent are Muslims. The remaining twenty percent practice ethnic religions. The New Testament was translated by 1960. The Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings cannot be found.

12885

Langbasi (42,555)

The Langbasi people live in the Kouango Subprefecture. They speak a language called Langbashe and are part of the Sudanic people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Langbashi, Langbase, Langbasi, Langwasi, or Langbwasse. People may be able to understand South Central Banda too.

Eighty-five percent of the people are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents. The remaining fifteen percent practice indigenous religions. Forty-two percent of the Christian adherents belong to alternative types of Christian groups while thirty-five percent are Roman Catholics. Another twenty percent are Protestants while the remaining three percent attend independent churches. The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings can be found.

12888

Lingala (3,864)

The Lingala people live in the Central African Republic, the Congo, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They speak a language called Lingala and are part of the Central-Congo Bantu people cluster. The creation of the Lingala language actually came about as a result of the European desire to use an African language called Bobangi but also use European words too. The result was Lingala. Today there are four dialects of Lingala--Standard, Spoken, Kinshasa, and Brazzaville. An alternate name for this people group is Ngala.

The predominant religion is Christianity, Independent Churches, or Catholic. In fact, ninety percent of the population is Christian adherents while the remaining ten percent practice ethnic religions. Forty-five percent of the Christian adherents attend independent churches while thirty percent are Roman Catholics. Another fourteen percent are Protestants while the remaining eleven percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. The complete Bible had been translated by 2000, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings are also available. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingala_language

12889

Manja (302,013)

The Manja people live in the Bouca, Kaga Bandoro, Mbrès, Dekoa, Sibut, or Grimari subprefectures. They speak a language called Manza, and people also know Sango. An alternate name for this people group is Mandja. They are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Approximately 92.50 % of the population follows Christian, Independent, or Catholic beliefs. Three percent are Muslims. Another two percent practice indigenous religions while the remaining 1.5% are non-religious. The indigenous religious beliefs center around the reverence that people have for their ancestors. One such ancestral figure is called Ngakola. His wife was called Ngandala while his daughter was named Yamisi. Forty-four percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while twenty-one percent are Roman Catholics. Another twenty percent attend independent churches, and fifteen percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups.

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

The Manja people are primarily subsistence farmers who grow sorghum, maize, manioc, bananas, taro, and yams. They usually have to cut down the dense foliage of the rain forest to have room to plant their crops. Most of the Manja houses are built separately from others. Polygamy is allowed, and each wife will have her own abode. Usually the first wife will have prestige over the other wives. Overall, it is a patrilineal society. <http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart/toc/people/Manja.html>

12892

Mbandza (1,373)

The Mbandza people live close to the Oubangui River in the northern part of the Likouala Region. They speak a language called Mbandja and are part of the Sudanic people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Mbanja, Mbandja, and Mbanza.

Eighty percent of the population are Christian, Independent Churches, or Catholics. Twenty percent practice indigenous religions. Seventy percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while ten percent are Protestants. Another ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. The remaining ten percent attend independent churches. The New Testament was translated by 1998. The Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings exist.

12893

Mbangi (4,602)

The Mbangi people live in the Bangassou, Ouango, and Alindao subprefectures. They speak a language called Mbangi and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Mbangui. People also speak Sango and may be able to understand Yakoma.

Sixty percent of the population follow Christian, Independent Churches, or Catholic beliefs. Forty percent practice ethnic religions. Fifty-five percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholic while twenty percent are Protestants. Thirteen percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups, and the remaining twelve percent attend independent churches. There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12894

Mbati (56,696)

The Mbati people live in the Mbaiki Subprefecture. They speak a language called Mbati and are part of the Sudanic people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Songo, Lisongo, Isongo, Issongo, and Lissongo. Most people are also familiar with Sango.

Sixty percent of the people practice ethnic religions while twenty-five percent are Christian, Independent or Catholic adherents. The remaining fifteen percent are Muslims. Fifty-five percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while twenty-five percent are Protestants. Another ten percent attend independent churches while the remaining ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups.

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

12895

Mbimu (32,947)

The Mbimu people live in the Nola Subprefecture. They speak a language Mpiemo and are part of the Central-Congo Bantu people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Mpo, Bimu, Mbimou, Mpyemo, and Mbyemo. Most people are not that familiar with Sango. Jasua, Bidjouki, Mpyemo are the three major dialects, but most people are familiar with the Jasua dialect.

Ninety-two percent of the population follow Christian, Independent, or Catholic beliefs while seven percent continue to practice ethnic religions. The remaining one percent are Muslims. Forty percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while thirty percent are Protestants. Another twenty percent attend independent churches while the remaining ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12897

Mbororo (168,554)

The Mbororo people speak a language called Nigerian Fulfulde and are part of the Fulani/ Fulbe people cluster. The Mbororos' lives are centered on the movement of their cattle herds. Settlements will be established where females and the elderly will stay while the men and boys will move with the cattle to find good grazing land. Those that remain will build gardens. Men that travel with the cattle may range for miles to find good pasture for their hungry herds, but they will always know exactly which cattle belongs to them because of the way they breed their animals. Men are very careful to keep away from other groups' herds that have been sick.

The Mbororo highly value their traditional moral values such as honesty and courage. People are expected to be restrained or undemonstrative in public. Families usually live in extended groups. Men herd the animals, and women do the milking and other household chores. The women will take the milk and sell it. Milk and milk products along with millet form the major staples of the Fulani diet. Meat is usually only eaten at festivals or special ceremonies.

The Mbororo people are one of the least reached people groups. In fact, 99.95 % of the population is Muslims. Only .05 % of the people are Christian adherents. Sixty percent of the Christian adherents are Protestants while twenty-five percent attend independent churches. Another ten percent are Roman Catholics while the remaining five percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups.

There is a copy of an unbound Bible, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings and radio broadcasts can also be heard.

http://www.global12project.com/2004/profiles/p_code4/505.html

<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rop3=110780&rog3=NG>

12898

Mbre (46,923)

The Mbre people live in the Mbrès Subprefecture. They speak a language called Banda-Mbrèsa and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Banda of Mbrès. Buka, Mbre, Moruba, Sabanga, and Wada are all dialects of this people group.

Seventy percent of the population follows Christian, Independent, or Catholic beliefs. Twenty percent practice indigenous religions. The remaining ten percent are Muslims. Thirty-five percent of the non-Muslim or ethnic religion groups are Roman Catholics while twenty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another thirty-five percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches. There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12899

Mbum (13,298)

The Mbum people live along the Cameroon border in the Bocaranga Subprefecture. They speak a language called Mbum and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. An alternate name for this people is Mboum.

Seventy percent of the people follow Christian or Muslim traditions. Fifteen percent are Muslims. The remaining fifteen percent practice ethnic religions. Christians, Catholic and Independent church members are about equal in number.

The New Testament had been translated by 1965, but the Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings exist.

12900

Monjombo (1,767)

The Monjombo people live in the Mongoumba Subprefecture. They speak a language called Monzombo and are part of the Pygmy people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Mondjembo and Monzumbo.

Seventy-five percent practice ethnic religions while fourteen percent are Christian, Independent, or Catholic. Seven percent are Muslims while the remaining four percent are non-religious. Sixty-five percent of the non-ethnic groups are Roman Catholics while fifteen percent attend independent churches. Another ten percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups.

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

12904

Nduka (18,086)

The Nduke people live Ndélé, Kaga Andoro, and Kabo subprefectures. They speak a language called Lutos and are part of the Sara-Bagirmi people cluster. Two alternate names for this people group include Lutos or Ruto.

Sixty percent of the population practice indigenous religions while forty percent follow Christian, Independent, or Catholic beliefs. Fifty-five percent of the non-ethnic religion groups are Roman Catholics while twelve percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another twenty percent are Protestants while the remaining thirteen percent attend independent churches.

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

12907

Ngam (19,542)

The Ngam people live in the Kabo Subprefecture. They speak a language called Ngam and are part of the Sara-Bagirmi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Ngama.

Sixty-five percent of the population are Christian, Independent, or Catholic. Thirty-five percent of the people practice ethnic religions. Fifty-five percent of the Christian adherents are Roman

Catholics while twenty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another fifteen percent are Protestants while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches.

The New Testament was translated by 1999, and gospel recordings do exist. However, the Jesus Film has not been reproduced in their language.

12908

Ngando (5,743)

The Ngando people live in the Mbaïki Subprefecture. They speak a language called Ngando and are part of the Central Congo Bantu people cluster. Dikuta and Kota are two dialects of Ngando, but some scholars think that Kota may actually be a completely different language. Ngando is similar to Yaka. Some alternate names for this people group are Dingando, Bodzanga, Bangandou, Bagandou, or Ngando-Kota.

Ninety-three percent of the population follow Christian, Independent, or Catholic traditions. Five percent practice indigenous religions. Another one percent are Muslims while the remaining one percent belong to some other type of religious group. Roman Catholic Churches claim up to fifty percent of the people while thirty percent attend independent churches. Another ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups and the remaining ten percent are Protestants.

There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12911

Ngbaka Gbaya (35,149)

The Ngbaka Gbaya people speak a language called Ngbaka and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Baya Ngbaka. The Ngbaka people are agriculturalists who mainly produce only enough food for their own consumption. They cannot hunt wild game as they once did because the wild game has largely been moved to other areas or been exterminated by over hunting. Women help to supply their families with additional food by fishing. The blacksmith helps the entire community by making farm tools and other needed items. While the families gain prestige and social position by their father's lineage, the oldest living matriarch of a lineage is also greatly honored. There is a headman, but major decisions are made by each senior member of the lineage. Fathers will arrange marriages for their daughters, and polygamy for males is allowed.

Ninety-three percent of population are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents. Thirty-five percent of these are Roman Catholic while thirty-five percent attend independent churches. Another twenty percent are Protestants while the remaining five percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups.

The complete Bible had been translated by 1995, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings exist.

Five percent practice indigenous religions. The main figure in the traditional religion is called Gale or Gbonboso. His assistants are named Seto and Nabo, and they were supposedly the very

first Ngbaka. All lineages have their own individual ancestral shrines that are daily tended as well. Because of the interest in communicating with the supernatural world, divination and sorcery are practiced. A secret society Wi-Lim has a powerful effect on the local society. Circumcision is also practiced by males. Female circumcision is also a problem in some areas. <http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart/toc/people/Ngbaka.html>

12912

Ngbaka Mabo (101,084)

The Ngbaka Mabo people live in the Mbaiki, Bimbo, and Mongoumba subprefectures. They speak a language called Ngbaka Mabo and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Some alternate names for Ngbaka Limba, Mbaka, Mbacca, Bwaka, Bouaka, Nbwaka, Gbaka, or Ma'bo. People usually also speak Sango. The Ngbaka Mabo dialect is close to Gilima.

Ninety-seven percent of the population are Christian. Independent, or Roman Catholic adherents. Three percent practice indigenous religions. Thirty percent of the people are Roman Catholics while thirty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another twenty-five percent attend independent churches, and the remaining fifteen percent are Protestants. Portions of the Bible were translated by 1937.

The Jesus Film is unavailable. Gospel recordings exist.

12913

Ngbaka Manza (41,418)

The Ngbaka Manza live in the Damara, Bogangolo, and Boali subprefectures. They speak a language called Ngbaka Manza and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Most of them also speak Sango. An alternate name for this people group is Ngare.

Ninety percent of the people are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents. Ten percent practice indigenous religions. Forty percent of the people are Roman Catholics while twelve percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another twenty percent attend independent churches, and twenty-eight percent are Protestants.

There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12914

Ngbandi (414)

The Ngbandi people speak a language called Northern Ngbandi and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Most people are subsistence farmers. They will burn down sections of the bush and plant crops. Most of the villages are fairly small and organized around family groups. Initiation ceremonies are an important part of the culture. These initiation rites include reenacting the lives of ancestors.

Sixty percent of the population are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents while forty percent practice indigenous religions. Forty percent of the Christian adherents are Roman

Catholics while thirty percent are Protestants. Another twenty percent attend independent churches while the remaining ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups.

The New Testament had been translated by 1988, but the Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings exist.

12917

Ngombe (1,609)

The Ngombe people live in the Mambere Kadeï Prefecture. They speak a language called Ngombe and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Ngombe-Kaka, Bagando-Ngombe, or Bangando-Ngombe. People may be able to understand Southwest Gbaya.

Fifty-three percent of the people follow Christian, Independent, or Catholic faiths. Forty-five percent practice indigenous religions. Two percent are Muslims. Thirty percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while thirty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Twenty percent are Protestants while another twenty percent attend independent churches.

The Bible has not been translated into their language, and the Jesus Film is unavailable. There are other types of Christian videos. Gospel recordings do not exist.

12919

Nzakara (57,433)

The Nzakara people live in the Bangassou, Bakouma, and Gambo subprefectures. They speak a language called Nzakara and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Ansakara, N'sakara, Sakara, or Zakara.

Ninety-four percent of the population follow Christian, Independent, or Catholic beliefs. Six percent practice indigenous religions. Sixty percent of the people are Roman Catholics while twenty-two percent are Protestants. Another ten percent attend independent churches while the remaining eight percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups.

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

12921

Pande (11,142)

The Pande people live in the Nola and Berberati subprefectures. They speak a language called Pande and are part of the Central-Congo Bantu people cluster. Two alternate names for this people group are Bugongo and Ipande. People may also be familiar with Sango. Pande and Bogongo are both dialects of this language.

Fifty-five percent of the population practice indigenous religions while another forty-five percent are Christian, Catholic, or Independent adherents. Sixty percent of the Christian adherents are Roman Catholics while another twenty percent are Protestants. Another ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches.

There are no ministry tools reported in their language.

12922

Runga (24,696)

The Runga people live in the Bamingui-Bangoran Prefecture. They speak a language called Runga and are part of the Ouaddai-Fur people cluster. Those whose neighbors are from the Ndele people speak Arabic. Some alternate names for this people group include: Rounga, Runga de Ndele, Ayki, and Aykindang.

The predominant religion is Islam. In fact, ninety percent of the population are Muslims. Ten percent practice ethnic religions. There are no Christian adherents. There are no ministry tools in their language.

Most of the Runga live in small villages and are farmers. The men and women may both work in a field, but the men will do the more stringent work such as clearing an area to prepare for planting. The crops may consist of millet and other types of staple foods for the family to consume. Women are responsible for raising the children and providing the meals for the family.

Polygamy is acceptable, and men will try to marry in their young adulthood. Initially, the man will live in the bride's family compound for two years before moving to his own hut. Each subsequent wife must have her own dwelling place for herself and her children. Being the first wife means you have a higher social status and more power in the family compound.

12925

Sango (361,345)

The Sango people live throughout the Central African Republic. They speak a language called Sango and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Sango is actually the trade language of the Central African Republic. In fact, school children are often taught in this language. An alternate name for this people group is Sangho.

Eighty-eight percent of the population are Christian adherents while two percent practice ethnic religions. Another five percent are Muslims while another four percent are non-religious. Thirty-two percent of the non-ethnic non-Muslim population is Christian, Catholic, or Independent. Thirty-one percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another twenty percent are Roman Catholics while the remaining seventeen percent are Protestants.

The complete Bible had been translated by 1966, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Tracts and other printed materials are also available in the Sango language. Gospel recordings exist, and

radio and television broadcasts occur. In some areas, church services are conducted primarily in Sango.

12926

Sango Riverian (49,275)

The Sango Riverian people live along the Ubangi River in the Mobaye Subprefecture. They speak a language called Sango Riverian and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Most speakers can understand Sango as well.

Eighty-eight percent of the population are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents while two percent practice indigenous religions. Another five percent are Muslims while the remaining five percent are non-religious. Thirty-four percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while thirty percent attend independent churches. Twenty percent are Roman Catholics while the remaining sixteen percent are Protestants.

There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12928

Sara Kaba (19,423)

The Sara Kaba live in the Ndélé and Birao subprefectures. They speak a language called Sara Kaba and are part of the Sara-Bagirmi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Ta Sara. The Sara Kaba people may be able to understand some of the words from the Sara Dunjo language or the Kaba Na language.

Fifty percent of the people practice ethnic religions while forty-seven percent are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents. Three percent are Muslims. Fifty percent of the non-ethnic religion groups are Roman Catholics while another twenty percent attend independent churches. Twenty percent of the people are Protestants while the remaining ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups.

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

12930

Sara Mbai (9,725)

The Sara Mbai live in the Markounda and Batangafo subprefectures. They speak a language called Mbay and are part of the Sara-Bagirmi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Mbai.

Ninety-five percent of the people are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents. Five percent of the population practice ethnic religions. Forty-five percent of the people are Protestants while thirty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another fifteen percent attend independent churches while the remaining ten percent are Roman Catholics.

The complete Bible had been translated by 1980, and some other printed materials are available. The Jesus Film is inaccessible. Gospel recordings exist.

The Sara people are thought to have originally migrated from the Nile River Valley centuries ago as they sought to escape the mounting raids by neighboring Arab peoples. Their very name Sara may have meant “sons of ra.” The Sara people were educated by the French colonial government and had either volunteered or been conscripted into the French colonial forces during World War II. Because of the history of slave raids by the northern Arab people groups, there is much distrust and animosity between the Southern Sara and the northern people groups. In the past, women would go to elaborate lengths to make themselves unappealing to slavers. They would insert round plates in their lips in order to elongate their mouths. This cultural practice is no longer as common.

12932

Suma (71,411)

The Suma people live in the Bossangoa, Markounda, and Paoua subprefectures. They speak a language called Suma and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Souma. The women of the people group also insert plates into their lips when the girls reach marriageable age. Men tend to paint their bodies as a sign of physical beauty. Most of the people are agriculturalists.

Eighty-seven percent of the people are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents while ten percent are Muslims. Another two percent practice indigenous religions. Forty percent of the non-Muslim adherents are Protestants while twenty-five percent attend independent churches. Another twenty percent are Roman Catholics while the remaining fifteen percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups.

There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12935

Tana (6,203)

The Tana people live in the Batangafo, Kabo, and Kaga Bandoro subprefectures. They speak a language called Vale and are part of the Sara-Bagirmi people cluster. Most people are also familiar with Sango. An alternate name for this people is Vale.

Forty-six percent of the people practice indigenous religions while forty-two percent are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents. The remaining twelve percent are Muslims. Around thirty percent of the people are Roman Catholics while some 12 percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another five or six percent are Protestants while the remaining attend independent churches.

There are no ministry tools in their language.

12937

Togbo (13,785)

The Togbo people live in the Bria and Bambari subprefectures. They speak a language called Togbo-Vara Banda and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. Togbo and Vara are both dialects of the language. An alternate name for this people group is Togbo-Vara Banda.

Fifty-five percent of the population practice ethnic religions while forty-five percent are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents. Thirty-five percent of the non-ethnic religion groups are Roman Catholics while another thirty-five percent are Protestants. Another twenty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups while the remaining ten percent attend independent churches.

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

12938

Tunya (1,803)

The Tunya people speak a language called Tunia. They are also found in Chad. Their predominant religion is listed as "Other."

There are no ministry tools available in their language in the Central African Republic although gospel recordings exist in Chad.

12834

Yaka (17,230)

The Yaka people are a subgroup of the Pygmy people cluster. They live all along the Congo border in the forest in the Nola, Bambio, Mbaïki, and Mongoumba subprefectures. They speak a language called Yaka. Beka and Nzari are both dialects. Some alternate names for this people group include: Aka, Nyoyaka, Beká, Pygmée de Mongoumba, Pygmée de la Lobaye, Pygmées de la Sanghas, or "Bambenga." Some people speak Sango. Most people live by hunting and gathering.

Some of the people practice indigenous religions while others are Christian adherents. (No exact numbers are currently available.)

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

12946

Yakoma (114,868)

The Yakoma people live in the Kembi and Ouango subprefectures. They speak a language called Yakoma and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. People are usually also familiar with Sango.

Sixty-six percent of the population are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents. Thirty percent practice indigenous religions. Another three percent are Muslims. Thirty percent of the non-Muslim and non-ethnic religion groups are Roman Catholics while twenty-five percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another twenty percent are Protestants while the remaining twenty-five percent attend independent churches.

There are no ministry tools in their language.

12947

Yangara (30,440)

The Yangara people live in the Nola, Bambio, Berberati, and Carnot subprefectures. They speak a language called Banda-Yangere and are part of the Adamawa-Ubangi people cluster. People are usually familiar with Sango too. Two alternate names for this people group include: Yangere and Yanguere.

Forty-seven percent of the population is Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents. Thirty percent of the people practice ethnic religions. Another twenty-three percent are Muslims. Around twenty percent of the people are Roman Catholics while another ten percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. As many as ten percent attend independent churches and the remaining eight percent are Protestants.

There are no ministry tools available in their language.

12948

Yulu (4,595)

The Yulu people live in the Ouadda-Djaléi and Ouadda subprefectures. They speak a language called Yulu and are part of the Sudanic people cluster. An alternate name for this people group is Youlou.

Forty percent of the people are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents while thirty-five percent are Muslims. Many of the Yulu peoples that have migrated from Sudan have adopted Muslim ideals about marriage and circumcision because they lost much of their own culture as their own clans became disorganized due to slave raids. Another twenty-five percent practice indigenous religions.

Fifty percent of the non-Muslim and non-ethnic religion groups are adherents of the Roman Catholic Church while twenty percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Another twenty percent attend independent churches, and the remaining ten percent are Protestants.

There are no ministry tools available in their language.

http://www.gurtong.org/resourcecenter/people/profile_tribe.asp?TribeID=127

12949

Zande (71,218)

The Zande people live in the Rafaï, Zémio, and Obo subprefectures. They speak a language called Zande and are part of the Sudanic people cluster. Some alternate names for this people group include: Azande, Zandi, Pazande, Sande, and Badjande. Most people also are familiar with Sango.

Ninety-five percent of the population are Christian, Independent, or Catholic adherents. Five percent practice indigenous religions. Forty percent of the people are Protestants while thirty-two percent belong to alternative types of Christian groups. Eighteen percent attend independent churches while ten percent are Roman Catholics.

The complete Bible had been translated by 1978, and the Jesus Film is accessible. Gospel recordings also exist.

Missiological Implications

1. Christian missionary efforts should take note of the tremendous lack of evangelistic tools that are available to many of the people groups in CAR. Many people groups do not have the Jesus Film or Bible translations.
2. Christian missionary efforts should seek to gain entrance for accurate Christian resources for biblical teachings. Christians must make efforts to overcome the syncretism and errors often found in the African Independent Churches.
3. Christian missionary efforts should introduce methods designed to share the Gospel with followers of ethnic religions and teach believers in CAR to use these methods
4. Christian missionary efforts should introduce proper teachings on contextualizing the Christian methods as a corrective to the Western tendencies in the churches that have given rise to the African Independent Churches.
5. Christian missionary efforts should find ways to minister to the many social and medical needs in CAR. The people in the northern region of the Central African Republic are in dire need to humanitarian aid. Their villages have been burned to the ground, and they are in constant fear for their lives. Many babies are dying because their mothers cannot properly feed them. Hospitals and doctors are in very short supply. Schools have been closed so traveling teachers are also desperately needed.
6. Christian missionary efforts must find ways to train workers, especially lay workers, to serve in the churches and in evangelism in CAR.
7. Christian missionary efforts need to introduce teachings that would relieve the fear of witchcraft with biblical teachings of the power of God to deliver from all satanic powers.

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