

## The Avikam of Cote d'Ivoire

The Avikam people of southern Cote d'Ivoire live in a tropical rainforest fringed by a coastal lagoon. The nearby city of Abidjan, the country's economic capital, is also home to many of them.

The majority of people earn a living from agriculture. Some are subsistence farmers, living off what they raise in their own fields. Others work in agricultural cooperatives that grow palm oil, coconut, cassava or bananas. Still others work for large producers of rubber and palm oil.

Christian workers from Africa and Europe brought the Gospel to the Avikam people about 100 years ago. Today a large percentage profess Christianity but also follow the rules of animistic traditions deeply ingrained in their cultures. Those strong in their faith often face daily pressures from those who insist on using fetishes — objects believed to have supernatural powers, or in particular, a man-made object that has power over others — to ward off evil spirits.

Avikam Christians are beginning work to translate the Bible. The Word of God in Avikam will give Christians the grounding in their faith they have lacked. Strengthened as Christ's disciples, they will be equipped to share His Good News with their animist neighbors and resist animist influences themselves. Scriptures set to music will enhance worship. This exemplary grass roots effort may well spark new, church-led Bible translations in other parts of Cote d'Ivoire.



representative photo

**Primary Religion:**

Christianity

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**

5%

**Churches:**

Many

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

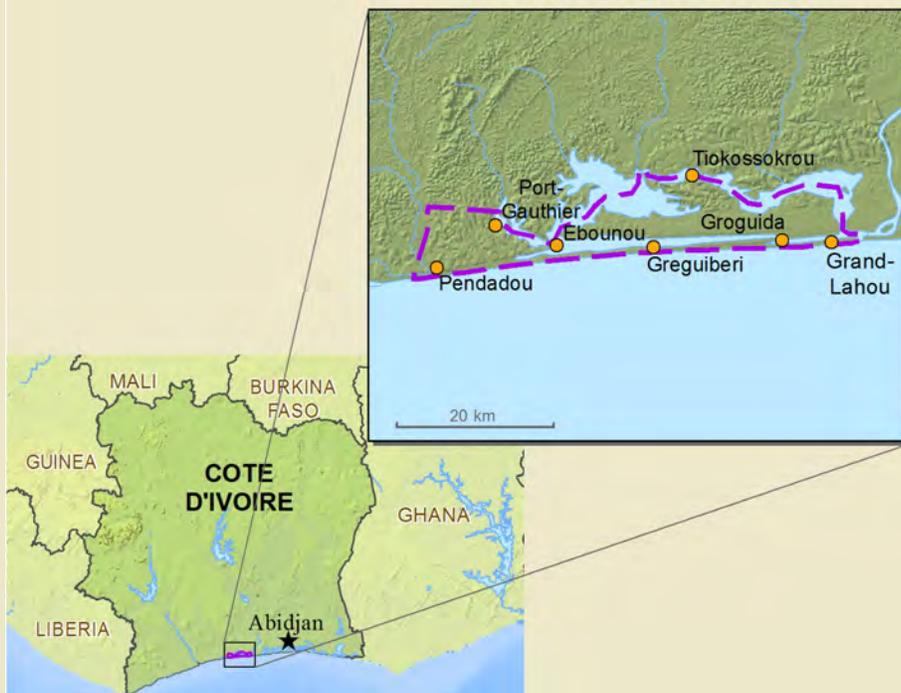
Bible portions

**Population (date):**

82,000



**AVIKAM HOMELAND**



## The Avikam of Cote d'Ivoire

---

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Is the Word of God Translated?

Bible portions.

Other Forms of Presentation

Audio recordings and JESUS film. The Avikam people supplied an unprecedented amount of human and material resources to help produce the "JESUS" film in their language. As a result, they were empowered to reach for new translation goals.

## **The Avikam of Cote d'Ivoire**

---

### **Status of Christianity**

#### **Religion and Response**

Need for Translation

The Avikam translators will produce printed Gospels, the Book of Acts, and some Epistles. These print Scriptures will then be put into audio-visual formats for wider distribution..

#### **Churches**

The Word of God in their language will give Christians the grounding in their faith they have lacked. Strengthened as Christ's disciples, they will be equipped to share His Good News with their animist neighbors and resist animist influences themselves.