

The Bambui of Cameroon

A visitor to Bambui village is likely to receive a warm reception from these friendly, hospitable people. The village situated along the Ring Road northeast of Bamenda. This is an anglophone area (schoolchildren are taught in English), and the use of Pidgin English is widespread. English and Pidgin play a significant role in community life, but the Bambui language still maintains its place as the heart language of most Bambui people.

Bambui people have a lot of contact with speakers of other languages. Bambui is surrounded by a number of related languages (Bambili, Babanki, Bafut, Mankon, Nkwen, Mendankwe and Awing). Bambui was thought to be a dialect of Bambili, but now it is believed that the two are probably distinct languages (and each group insists on its independent identity). Their attitudes toward literacy are very favorable. Interviewees said that they would appreciate being able to read and write all of the neighboring languages that they speak and understand.

The greatest resource of the Bambui people is their access to higher education. Being mostly subsistence agriculturalists, the general population is far from being wealthy. Yet they do have a good number of highly educated individuals. Bambui has a seminary, and the many higher education institutions of Bambili are nearby. Bambui is situated on a good road, making transportation to and from the nearby city of Bamenda quite easy. People have access to healthcare at a subdivisional hospital and two community dispensaries.

The majority of Bambui people see themselves as Christians, belonging to several churches: Catholic, Presbyterian, Baptist, Apostolic, and Full Gospel. Christians are eager to have God's Word in their language. Reportedly, many Scripture portions and doctrinal teachings have been translated into Mbui. Church leaders are enthusiastic say they hope to complete the entire Bible, though they have no training in linguistics or principles of translation.

*Image
Unavailable*

Primary Religion:

Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None in Bambui

Population (date):

9,600 (2002)



Map Unavailable

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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	Probably none.	
Response To The Gospel	The first church to be planted in Bambui was the Catholic Church, in 1940. Since that time, the Bambui people have seen the establishment of Presbyterian, Baptist, Apostolic, and Full Gospel churches among them. The church has grown rapidly from the beginning, to the point where 80% of Bambui people consider themselves Christians. We do not know how much of this is nominal or syncretistic. Reportedly, few people follow the traditional religion. Church members and leaders express genuine hunger for the Word of God in their own language. For instance, a public outcry ensue if the English Scriptures read during the Sunday services are not interpreted into Bambui so that all can understand.	
Comment (Churches)	Unknown. Some congregations are large; one Catholic church regularly has 700 people in attendance on Sunday morning.	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	There is no Scripture in the heart language of the people. Christians are eager to have God's Word in their language. Many Scripture portions and doctrinal teachings have been translated in Mbui, at least in draft form. The Catholic church is doing Scripture translation every week; they say they hope to complete the entire Bible eventually. Those doing the translation do not yet have any training in linguistics of principles of translation.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	People are not literate in their mother tongue.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	The Bambui people probably need Bible translation. Because they have a good number of educated people, they should be encouraged to undertake this ministry themselves but could benefit from training and consultant help.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	9,600	
World Population (Date)	2002	
Comment (World Population)	extrapolation from 1987 census figures	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Cameroon	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Situated along the Ring Road northeast of Bamenda, Tubah Subdivision, Mezam Division, North West Province.	
Country	Cameroon	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	Language name is Bambui, and an alternate name for it is Mbui. These are listed as a dialect of Bambili, but they are actually separate languages.	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	30% (old women and young children)	
Second Languages	Pidgin English (70+%)	
Linguistically Related Languages	BAMBILI	
Active Language Programs	Nothing official	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	Possibly as high as 50% in English (Most children, however, are literate in English to some degree.).	
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Publications In Vernacular	There are prayers, a Catholic songbook translated from English, a Bambui alphabet, a dictionary booklet on flora and fauna, and a Bambui diary/passbook.	
Comment (Literacy)	People are not literate in their mother tongue. Bambui people say they want to read and write all of the neighboring languages in addition to their own. They gave a well thought out list of reasons why they desire to be literate in their mother tongue.	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Community Development		Group Description
Comment (Health Care)	There are a subdivisonal hospital and two community dispensaries.	
Diet (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Diet)	The soil is fertile and the climate favors agriculture.	
Water (Quality)	Good	
Electricity	Yes	
Clothing	Everyone we met had shoes and clean, decent clothing.	
Transportation	Good road, easy to access the town of Bamenda.	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Authority / Rule	Hierarchical social structure. The chief is called a fon. His compound is referred to as the palace, and he has numerous wives.	
Self Image	Prestigious	
Education		Group Description
Primary School Enrollment	90% attend elementary school	
Secondary School Enrollment	60% attend secondary school (in neighboring village Bambili)	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	English	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English	
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Reached	
Reached Classification	Evangelized	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very receptive	
Items For Prayer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Pray that the initiative the Bambui people have shown for Bible translation will continue and result in high quality translated Scriptures that will speak to Bambui people's hearts. 2.) Thank God for the reported unity between Christians of various denominations; pray for this to continue. 3.) Pray for increased freedom from the spiritual bondage of traditional religions. 4.) Pray that the Jehovah's Witnesses and members of the Bahai Faith will not continue to influence the Bambui people. 	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1940	
By Whom	Catholics	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	Probable	
Available Scripture	None	
Form Of Scripture Available	None	
Uncertain Need Explained	Bambui has probable need of Bible translation, unless it is proven that they could use Bambili Scriptures (which also need to be translated).	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	Yes. Bambui is used for some radio broadcasts.	