



## The Southern Bobo of Burkina Faso

The Bobo Madare of Burkina Faso are speakers of the Bobo Fing language, and they number over 250,000. This ethnic group is traditionally divided geographically and linguistically into a northern group and a southern group. The southern group is estimated to number about 150,00 and the following information pertains to this segment of the population. The primary occupation of the Bobo Madare is farming. They farm millet, sorghum, peanuts, and tomatoes, along with raising a limited number of chickens, goats, and other livestock. Both women and men join in the daily agricultural chores. In addition to this, women are also responsible for all domestic work including cooking, washing, child care, and drawing water. Children are expected to help with chores at a very early age. Education remains a privilege for few children, and school enrollment creates a financial strain on any family. The men spend much time talking, sharing stories, and drinking beer. Because of their work load, women have little or no free time. Life remains challenging for the Bobo Madare peoples. Malaria, measles, meningitis, and malnutrition annually take many lives. Health care is often inaccessible and unaffordable. About thirty churches have been established in the southern area of the Bobo Madare. Over two thousand have professed conversions to Christianity, but the majority of the population remains rooted in traditional animistic beliefs. A translation of the New Testament in Bobo Fing was completed in 1989, and the completion of the Old Testament is expected in 1998. Though parts of the Bible are now available in the mother tongue of this ethnic group, there continue to be great needs for evangelization among the Bobo Madare.

**Primary Religion:**

Animism

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

1%

**Churches:**

30

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

New Testament

**Population (date):**

150,000 (1995)



Map Unavailable

# The Southern Bobo of Burkina Faso

## Item Name

## Item Note

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian (%)	1
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	1%
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	50
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	30
Believe Jesus Is A Myth (%)	19
Number Of Pastors	30
Number Of Missionaries Working	4
Number Of Communities	125
Number Of Churches	30
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Low literacy rate.

## Profile Summary

### Population All Countries

World Population For This People	150000
World Population (Date)	1995
Comment (World Population)	Some young people live and work in Cote d'Ivoire.

## Group Description

### Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name	Burkina Faso
Country Name	Burkina Faso

## Group Description

### Geography & Environment

Location	The region begins 20 km west of Bobo-Dioulasso and spreads to 40 km east of the city, stretching north to the region of Kouka in the Kossi province.
Country	Burkina Faso
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs
Geological Type	Plains
Elevation	200-300 m
Longitude	5W
Latitude	11N
Climate	The climate is hot and dry, with a wet season from June through September.

## Group Description

### Language & Linguistics

Comment (Language)	The people are attached to their mother tongue, and only speak Jula when they need to communicate with outsiders.
Alternate Language Names	Bobo Fi, Black Bobo, Bobo
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive
Percent Monolingual (%)	30
Second Languages	70
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Most men speak Jula for trade purposes. Some can also speak French or Bomu.
Linguistically Related Languages	BOGA
Linguistically Related Languages	BOGA
Comments (Related Languages)	The closely related language is Northern Bobo Madare.
Neighboring Languages	BWAMU

## Group Description

### Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	15
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## Group Description

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Item Name	Item Note
Literacy Attitude	Indifferent
Active Literacy Program	Yes
Publications In Vernacular	62
Comment (Literacy)	Less than 10% of the population is literate in Bobo Madare or Jula, and less than 5% is literate in French. The Christian & Missionary Alliance has published 62 titles in the mother tongue, and operates a literacy program in the area.

### Economics

### Group Description

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	US\$140
Occupation	The majority are subsistence farmers. Some are blacksmiths, and others are the village musicians.
Income Sources	Farmers sell surplus crops and livestock.
Products / Crafts	Blacksmiths produce tools.
Trade Partners	They trade among themselves, with the Northern Bobo Madare, and with the neighboring Tiefo peoples.
Modernization / Utilities	None
Comment (Economy)	The figure for the average income does not reflect what is earned by bartering, which is the most common form of trading in rural Burkina Faso.

### Community Development

### Group Description

Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Health Care)	Health care is improving. There are a few nurses and government dispensaries, but medicines are scarce and expensive.
Diet (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Diet)	The diet is very basic, consisting of a millet base, a leaf or nut sauce, and some meat and fruit.
Water (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Water)	Most villages have wells, although some run dry during the dry season.
Shelter Description	Houses are round mud huts with thatched roofs.
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None
Comment (Energy)	Wood and kerosene are the only available fuels.
Clothing	Villagers wear a mix of traditional and Western dress.
Transportation	Women usually walk, and men ride bicycles and motorcycles.
Infant Mortality Rate	18%
Life Expectancy	49
Leading Cause Of Death	malaria

### Society & Culture

### Group Description

Family Structures	The man is the head of the family, and usually marries several wives. Extended families live together.
Neighbor Relations	Relationships are stable, but not very close.
Authority / Rule	The eldest male rules his individual family, and a chief rules each village. There is no central authority for the people.
Social Habits/Groupings	People interact mainly within their own family group and village. Talking and visiting with others is very important.
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Identification With National Culture	Integrated
Self Image	Neutral
Judicial / Punishment System	Small conflicts are settled within the village. Government administrators preside over major disputes.
Celebrations	Funerals, marriages, and harvest ceremonies are important occasions.

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Item Name	Item Note	
Recreations	People frequently visit and talk with one another. Men drink beer and hunt.	
Art Forms	None	
Media	There are some radio broadcasts in the vernacular, and many more in French and Jula.	
Local Language Broadcasting	< 20 minutes daily	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive	
<b>Youth</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Boys help in the fields and herd livestock, and girls help with housework and childcare.	
Youth Problems (Teens)	A lack of jobs has forced many young people to move to the city, where they sometimes steal. Parents find it harder to solve these problems once the children have left the village.	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Youths need more job opportunities close to home, and training in improved agricultural techniques.	
<b>Education</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Schools	23	
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	40	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	100	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French	
Comment (Education)	The number of primary schools is growing.	
<b>Church Growth</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Reached Status	Selected	
Comment (Church Growth)	There are approximately 10,000 Catholic and 5,000 Protestant believers.	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Ancestral and spirit worship are common among the people, and continue to be practiced by some Muslim and Christian converts.	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat resistant	
Resistance / Receptivity	Though there is not overt opposition to Christianity, on a personal level many Bobo Madare are not willing to accept the Gospel. Persecution from Muslim and animistic leaders is to be expected.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	The Animistic concept of a sacrifice and the Muslim belief in one God may be used as bridges.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	The people are very open to spiritual ideas.	
Comment (Religion)	Approximately 50% of the population is animistic, followed by 40% Muslim and 10% Christian.	
Recommended Approaches	Planting churches to serve as evangelistic forces in the communities is an effective approach.	
Items For Prayer	Pray for the completion of the New Testament for the southern Bobo Madare. Pray for the planting of new churches. Pray that the Christian converts will have an understanding of the need to share the Gospel. Pray that Christians in the area will have the courage to endure persecution. Pray for the villages which have not yet been reached with the Gospel.	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Year Began	1949	
By Whom	Roman Catholic Church	
Comments (History of Christianity)	The Catholic church has much influence in the area.	
<b>Scripture</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Translation Status	Revision	

## The Southern Bobo of Burkina Faso

Item Name	Item Note
Available Scripture	New Testament
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed
Scripture Use	Majority of churches
Scripture Use	5
Comment (Scripture)	The Christian & Missionary Alliance (CMA) is currently revising the NT and working on a translation of the OT.

### Missions and Churches

### Status of Christianity

Organization Name	Christian and Missionary Alliance
Country Of Origin	United States
Main Ministry	Church Planting
Year Started	1958
Language Used By Workers	Bobo Madaré, Northern

### Christian Literature And Media Status

### Status of Christianity

Literature Available	None
Audio Recordings Available	There are Biblical stories on tape.
Films Available	None
Radio Programs Available	There are some Christian radio broadcasts.
Videos Available	None
Audio Visual Available	None