

## The Cuvok of Cameroon

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A progressive people, the Cuvok are resilient in the face of difficulties. Stomachs grow hungry each August when the previous harvest is depleted and the new crops are not yet mature in the fields. In this desert climate water is often scarce. Cuvok people live in simple, earthen homes in villages without electricity or running water. Most people are subsistence agriculturalists who also grow cotton as a cash crop. The main staple of their diet is millet. They also grow peanuts, beans, onions and other things. Pray for practical community development ministries to come to the aid of the Cuvok people and alleviate some of the hardship of life.

Cuvok is spoken in fifteen villages west of Maroua in the Mokolo Subdivision of the Far North Province.

This group is surrounded by neighboring languages Mafa, Mofu-South and Fulfulde. Many Cuvok people are using Fulfulde now as a language of wider communication. They also understand Mafa and Mofu-South to some degree, but generally not well. French bilingualism is low because so few people have the opportunity to attend school. The Cuvok people have definite need of Bible translation. Ask God to raise up qualified, Spirit-filled people to translate the Word of God into the Cuvok language.

There are a total of nineteen Christian congregations in the fifteen Cuvok villages (ten Eglise Evangelique, eight Catholic, one Baptist). The village of Bilyak has no church. Christians say that they really desire Bible translation, even to the point of having organized an interdenominational committee to discuss the idea. Because leadership in the area is Muslim, however, there are some people who might oppose Bible translation. Pray for the spiritual growth of believers, that people's lives will be profoundly impacted by the Word of God, and that many Cuvok people will turn from false religious ideologies to faith in Christ.

**Primary Religion:**

Animism

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

**Churches:**

19

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None in their language

**Population (date):**

7,000 - 10,000 (2001)



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# The Cuvok of Cameroon

## Item Name

## Item Note

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

### Profile Summary

Call Themselves Christian (%)	>50%
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	Cuvok interviewees said that more than half of their population practices African Traditional Religion, but then they said that the majority are Christians. Evidently there is a lot of overlap (syncretism).
	No Scripture exists in the heart language of the people; churches are using the Fulfulde Bible.
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	2%
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	>50%
Number Of Pastors	1
Comment (Pastors)	1 pastor, 11 evangelists, 8 catechists
Response To The Gospel	The church is relatively young in the Far North. Church growth among the Cuvok was rapid, to the point where there are nineteen local congregations, and the majority of people call themselves Christians. This may be mostly syncretistic because the presence of African Traditional Religion is still very strong among the Cuvok. There is a shortage of church leaders and good discipling ministries.
Number Of Communities	15
Number Of Churches	19
Comment (Churches)	There are a total of 19 Christian congregations in the 15 Cuvok villages (10 Eglise Evangelique, 8 Catholic, 1 Baptist)
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Illiteracy, syncretism, poverty
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None. No recordings, literature, films or videos of the gospel are available in their heart language. The Cuvok currently use the Fulfulde Bible.
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Cuvok people would benefit from most kinds of missionary service: medical, Bible translation and literacy, Bible teaching, agricultural community development, well-digging, famine relief, evangelism, etc.

### Population All Countries

### Group Description

World Population For This People	7,000 - 10,000
World Population (Date)	2001
Comment (World Population)	A minimal percentage is urban - most stay in the village.

### Countries Where People Group Lives

### Group Description

Country Name	Cameroon
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### Geography & Environment

### Group Description

Location	Cuvok is spoken in fifteen villages west of Maroua in the Mokolo Subdivision of the Far North Province.
Country	Cameroon
Ecosystem Type	Desert
Climate	Desert

### Language & Linguistics

### Group Description

Primary Language	CUVOK
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive
Percent Monolingual (%)	50%
Second Languages	Fulfulde
Linguistically Related Languages	MAFA
Comments (Related Languages)	Another is Mofu, South
Neighboring Languages	MAFA
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	Mofu, South is another.

## The Cuvok of Cameroon

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	10%	
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Comment (Active Literacy Program)	They desire to be literate.	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Income Sources	Cotton, a cash crop	
Trade Partners	SODECOTON buys cotton.	
Modernization / Utilities	None	
<b>Community Development</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Comment (Health Care)	A health care center distributes medications.	
Diet (Quality)	Poor	
Water (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Water)	It is scarce and must be dug up from dry riverbeds.	
Shelter Description	Earthen homes, thatch roofs	
Electricity	None	
Transportation	Very limited. People do not own cars; very few own motorbikes.	
<b>Society &amp; Culture</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Family Structures	Patriarchal. Some are polygamous.	
Authority / Rule	Local leadership is Muslim.	
Celebrations	There is an animist harvest celebration every year at the end of harvest in February. Everyone participates, and the Mafa and Mofu people come, too.	
Comment (Local Language Broadcasting)	The local radio station broadcasts Cuvok music once a week.	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive	
<b>Education</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Schools	9	
Comment (Primary Schools)	(2 public, 1 private, 6 parent sponsored)	
Primary School Enrollment	1,515	
Secondary Schools	0	
Secondary School Enrollment	0	
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	0	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	1: 52	
Comment (Teacher to Pupil Ratio)	(29 teachers for 1,515 students) = 1/52	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French	
<b>Church Growth</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Lay Leaders	11 evangelists, 8 catechists	
Bible Schools	0	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	1	
Comment (Christian Clinics/Hospitals)	There is a Baptist mission with a clinic some distance away (at Zidim), maybe twenty kilometers.	
Christian Literacy Centers	0	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>

## The Cuvok of Cameroon

### Item Name

Religious Practices & Ceremonies

Attitude To Christianity

Resistance / Receptivity

Current Needs

Items For Prayer

### Item Note

There is an animist harvest celebration every year at the end of harvest in February. Everyone participates, and the Mafa and Mofu people come, too.

Somewhat receptive

There are one-hundred and twenty Muslims among the Cuvok people. They resist Christianity, but both the Muslims and the Christians claim that they tolerate each other's religious differences well, saying, "We all get along."

Agricultural community development, famine relief, health care, Bible translation and literacy.

Christians are very open to Bible translation. Some really desire it, even to the point of having organized an interdenominational committee to discuss the idea.

Ask God to raise up qualified, Spirit-filled people to translate the Word of God into the Cuvok language.

Pray for the spiritual growth of believers, that they will turn from African Traditional Religion and fully embrace the Gospel.

Pray that the Word of God will have a profound impact on people's lives.

Pray that people will turn from false religious ideologies to faith in Christ.

### History Of Christianity In Group

By Whom

Missionaries

Comments (History of Christianity)

People say that the church is growing, gaining new members.

### Status of Christianity

### Scripture

Translation Status

Definite

### Status of Christianity

### Missions and Churches

Organization Name

Baptist

Number Of Adherents

200

Comment (Number Of Adherents)

1 evangelist

Number Of Congregations

1

Organization Name

Roman Catholic Church

Comment (Number Of Adherents)

There are eight catechists, and approximately three-hundred people attend each church.

Number Of Congregations

8

Organization Name

Église Évangélique du Cameroun, Congo

Comment (Number Of Adherents)

Adherents include one pastor and ten evangelists. Each congregation has roughly one-hundred and fifty attendees.

Number Of Congregations

10

### Status of Christianity