

## The Diodio of Papua New Guinea



The Molata, Giwau, and Miyalabi (the people who speak Diodio) are located in the western part of Goodenough Island in Milne Bay province. The Molata are concentrated in two districts: Awale and Diodio, making up a total of 80 km<sup>2</sup> in the southwest plain of the island. The Giwau and Miyalabi peoples are located in two districts: Utalo and Yauyaula, on the mountain range on the west of the island, north of the Molata area.

The inhabitants of these communities are primarily subsistence farmers, growing taro, yam, sweet potatoes, sago, and fruits such as coconuts, bananas, pineapples, and papaya. They also raise chickens and those by the coast fish. Some of the produce from their gardens is sold in the market in the village of Uwauwefo. Other produce is sold in Alotau (the provincial capital), a city that is 16 hours away by boat. They also travel to Alotau to buy products.

The majority of the Molata, Giwau and Miyalabi call themselves Christians and attend church. However, many continue practicing magic for success in their gardens and for hunting. There is no Bible in their mother tongue. Only the leaders and some of the educated people are able to read the Bible in English or in Dobu (the language of the church in the area).

After meeting with his whole village, one leader from the district asked the survey team with interest, "After all these questions, do you all believe that we will be accepted, that we will be able to have someone that could help us translate the Bible into our language?"

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

30%

**Churches:**

8

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None

**Population (date):**

2,900 (2004)



### MOLATA, GIWAU, MIYALABI HOMELAND



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Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	>90%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	30%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	40%	
Number Of Pastors	3	
Response To The Gospel	The gospel first came to the Milne Bay area over 100 years ago. The first missionaries were Methodist missionaries who began their work on Dobu Island. The inhabitants of Dobu had been cannibals and the Molata, Giwau, and Miyalabi's worst enemies prior to the missionaries' arrival. In 1981, an Australian missionary brought the gospel to Goodenough Island. Missionaries from Bwaidoka (in the south of Goodenough island) later brought the gospel to the area of the Molata, Giwau and Miyalabi in the 1970s. The Molata, Giwau and Miyalabi have accepted the Christian church and some of the practices of Christianity, but the people still return to their traditional spiritual customs in order to confront some daily situations.	
Number Of Communities	There are approximately eight villages.	
Number Of Churches	8	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	According to statistics from the government, 70% of the people are literate. In the schools there are no materials in the vernacular language. Literacy is carried out in English after the 3rd year of primary school. Because of this, it is believed that the adults know how to read, however their understanding of English is very limited, and there isn't literature in another language. In some churches the Bible is used in Dobu in addition to English, as well as portions in Bwaidoka.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	There are none.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Help from foreign missionaries is needed for the translation of the Bible or to teach national translators. The leaders of the villages and the leaders of the different churches are very ready to support this.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	2,900	
World Population (Date)	2004	
World Population (Urban Percent)	1.5%	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Papua New Guinea	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	Awale and Diodio are located on the plain on the west coast of Goodenough Island. Utalo and Yauyaula are on the mountain range on the east of the island. The area in the middle of the island is very mountainous so there is no road access there.	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	
Geological Type	Mountain, Slope	
Geological Type	Interfluvial	
Geological Type	Coastal	
Elevation	Molata 0-70m. above sea level. Giwau and Miyalabi 0-230m above sea level.	
Longitude	150 deg E	
Latitude	9 deg S	
Climate	Molata: tropical Giwau and Miyalabi: tropical. In each area there are southeast winds from July to November with torrential rains.	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	Molata: coastal, inter-fluvial Giwau and Miyalabi: Mountainous.	

## The Diodio of Papua New Guinea

### Item Name

Map Features

### Item Note

Aimoli (Awale): S 09.44595° E150.20073°  
Ukwabala (Awale): S 09.43060° E150.20122°  
Uwauwefo (Diodio): S 09.43257° E150.18678°  
Kelaiya (Diodio) : S. 09.42182° E 150.16556°  
Molawe (Utaló): S 09.39717° E 150.18660°  
Kaliwauto (Utaló): S 09.40254° E150.18048°  
Nimwiayena (Yauyaula): S 09.35808° E150.14037°  
Tutufelana (Yauyaula): S 09.32948° E150.11414°

### Literacy

### Group Description

Adult Literacy Percentage	86.1%
Percent Literate For Men	86.8%
Percent Literate For Women	85.4%
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive
Active Literacy Program	Yes
Comment (Active Literacy Program)	Education in the vernacular language for the first three grades of primary education.
Publications In Vernacular	There are none.

### Economics

### Group Description

Subsistence Type	Hunter-gatherers
Subsistence Type	Fishers
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	US \$530 per capita (national average).
Occupation	Agriculture (sweet potato, taro, tapioca, banana, papaya and coconut), hunt (wallaby) and fish.
Income Sources	: Sale of garden produce and fish in the market, and seasonal jobs in Alotau.
Products / Crafts	Mats, palm baskets, clay products.
Trade Partners	: Alotau (provincial capital)
Modernization / Utilities	Some people have lanterns; two people have a generator and video equipment; various people have agricultural tools.

### Community Development

### Group Description

Health Care (Quality)	Good
Comment (Health Care)	Health Care Comments: There is an aid post in Uwauwefo (Diodio). The Diodio and Awale people go there. The Yauyaula people go to the aid post in Aikawa. For major problems, all travel to the Wataluma mission hospital (in the north of the island) or to Bolubolu (in the west)
Diet (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Diet)	Approximately 50% of children have malnutrition.
Water (Quality)	Good
Comment (Water)	: All of the communities are near a stream or a river from where they get their water.
Shelter Description	Houses are made of bush materials. Floors are made from the trunks of betel nut trees, walls are made of sago palm or bamboo, and roofs are made of palm leaves.
Electricity	None
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Energy)	Kerosene for light (lamps) and firewood for cooking.
Clothing	Second-hand clothes bought in Alotau or Bolubolu.
Transportation	Canoes and motor boats.
Infant Mortality Rate	9.4% (children under 5 years of age)
Life Expectancy	57 years
Leading Cause Of Death	Malaria, Tuberculosis, AIDS
Comment (Community Development)	Infant malnutrition is common. Also ringworm is quite prevalent.

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Item Name	Item Note	Group Description
<b>Society &amp; Culture</b>		
Family Structures	Nuclear (Father, mother, and children). It is frequent for parents to permanently adopt a child into their home.	
Neighbor Relations	The relations with the neighboring villages are good. The majority of the problems that arise are over possession of ground. The chiefs in each jurisdiction resolve problems by means of their councils.	
Authority / Rule	Each jurisdiction has a leader and a representative that maintains the order of the villages in his jurisdiction. Each clan within the villages has a chief.	
Social Habits/Groupings	For social organization, people group into clans. Disputes between clans are resolved through the chiefs. They work together as a community in maintaining schools, churches, and aid posts.	
Cultural Change Pace	Slow	
Identification With National Culture	Integrated	
Self Image	Neutral	
Judicial / Punishment System	When someone causes problems in the community, the chiefs of the villages act as mediators. When a person is accused of a crime (adultery, attempted murder or stealing) the case is brought to the court and the guilty has to pay a fine, according to the crime.	
Celebrations	Singsing: Traditional dance with traditional clothing. The chief of the village puts these together when he wants. They do not occur very frequently, maybe once a year. Abutu or Sakali: A common celebration for one reason or another. In all of these celebrations the general trend is to give to others. It is a celebration in which large amounts of food are cooked, perhaps 5 pigs, some dogs, and many sweet potatoes. In some places, they make a tower that is higher than the houses (the houses being between a meter and a meter and a half high). These celebrations are also done as compensation for a misdeed, such as adultery. The man that committed adultery has to prepare a feast for the husband of the woman with whom he had committed adultery. The other man then holds another feast some 6 months later to demonstrate that the first celebration had not made the guilty man poor. Fasewana (marriages) and Luwana (funerals): Both occasions are realized as a large community feast.	
Recreations	Chewing betel nut, story telling.	
Art Forms	Decorative dress with shell jewelry, feathers, and red and black painting for men and women. Grass skirts for women. Mats of palm leaves. Nets, spears, bowls, and ceramic vases.	
Media	Empty gas tanks are used as bells to call people together for church or for a community gathering.	
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive	
Attitude To Change	Indifferent	
<b>Youth</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Secondary schools and technical training schools.	
Comment (Youth)	There is a secondary school on the island under the Wataluma district, which is 5-10 hour walking distance away. The secondary school offers housing in order that the students can live there. In the same district there is a technical training school run by the Catholic Church there.	
<b>Education</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Schools	6	
Comment (Primary Schools)	4 elementary schools (Prep and grade 1 and 2). 2 primary schools (grades 3-8)	
Primary School Enrollment	813	
Comment (Primary School Enrollment)	70% enrolled	
Secondary Schools	0	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Diodio	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	English	
Comment (Language Of Instruction)	The vernacular (Prep, grades 1 and 2) and English (grades 3-8).	

## The Diodio of Papua New Guinea

Item Name	Item Note	Status of Christianity
<b>Church Growth</b>		
Reached Status	Evaluated	
Reached Classification	Unreached	
Lay Leaders	10	
Bible Schools	0	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	0	
Christian Literacy Centers	0	
Comment (Church Growth)	Both the Catholic Church and the United Church perform infant baptisms.	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	They have church services every Sunday, Women's Society meetings each week, weekly activities for youth, and monthly meetings with all of the surrounding communities.	
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive	
Comment (Attitude To Christianity)	They attend church and participate with enthusiasm in the majority of events. They receive local and foreign missionaries well. Their personal relationship with God is very limited due to not having the Bible in their language. All of their knowledge of God they have gained from what they hear in church, which is in another language most of the time.	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive	
Comment (Attitude Religious Change)	They are open to change. However, many people, even pastors, continue practicing their traditions. The changes are held back by the lack of understanding from Scripture.	
Resistance / Receptivity	They do not seem to be resistant, but the lack of Scripture has left them in the dark. Scripture in their language would light their path with little resistance, since they are open to change.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	<p>The following is a story that they tell about the formation of a lake. In this story one can appreciate how one man gave his only daughter to save the whole village:</p> <p>“There was a man named Salibo. One day he went to hunt with a dog, but he did not find anything. Then the dog saw a lizard and started to pursue it. The lizard ran into a hole. The dog tried to follow it but, because the hole was very small, he couldn't get in the hole. So he started to scratch the ground. The man joined the dog, and both scratched the ground until they came up to a big rock. The man moved the rock and, suddenly, water came out that started to cover the whole area.</p> <p>“The lizard was very angry toward the thing that was letting the water out. The man fled. He was very scared that the water would cover the whole village and everyone would be at their homes at the time. The lizard left and the man tried to offer him food and pigs, but this did not please the lizard. He offered him his wife, and even so the lizard did not accept the offering. Then he offered him his daughter, and the water started to stop. He took his daughter, his only daughter, and threw her into the lake. The water stopped and the village was saved. His daughter married the lizard and they still live together on the bottom of the lake.</p>	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	In general, people understand the steps to salvation. But there is little Christian spiritual reality in their lives. It seems that they live in two worlds at the same time: the spiritual world of God and the church and the spiritual world of the legends, traditions, and spirits. Their legends are completely real for them. Very few of them are able to see that they live a close life with the God of Christianity.	
Items For Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-That people will attend the VITAL course that BTA and others are currently offering in Alotau, to train mother-tongue translators to supply the needs of these villages.</li> <li>-That the different people groups would have the interest and that they would be able to agree to send various people to this course.</li> <li>-That the leaders of the communities would support the chosen translators and that they would be able to supply the economic needs that this implies.</li> <li>-That the God of grace would give them more interest in Scripture and in having a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ.</li> <li>-Discernment to see the difference between a custom and having a relationship with Jesus.</li> </ul>	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		
Year Began	1891	
By Whom	United Church	

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Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Scripture</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Translation Status	Definite	
Available Scripture	None	
Reason For Urgent Need Of Translation	English comprehension is very low.	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No	
<b>Missions and Churches</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Organization Name	United Church	
Country Of Origin	Australia	
Main Ministry	Church Planting	
Year Started	1891	
Number Of Adherents	890	
Number Of Congregations	6	
Comment (Expatriate Workers)	0	
Number Of National Workers	8	
Number Of Local Workers	16	
Organization Name	Seventh-day Adventists	
Country Of Origin	Papua New Guinea	
Main Ministry	Church Planting	
Year Started	1969	
Number Of Adherents	40	
Number Of Congregations	1	
Number Of Expatriate Workers	0	
Number Of National Workers	1	
Number Of Local Workers	0	
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church	
Country Of Origin	Australia	
Main Ministry	Evangelism	
Year Started	1960	
Number Of Adherents	700	
Number Of Congregations	1	
Number Of Expatriate Workers	0	
Number Of National Workers	1	
Number Of Local Workers	1	