



The Kasena of Burkina Faso

The Kasena of southern Burkina Faso speak the Kasem language and inhabit an area along the Ghanaian border to the east of the town called Pô. The three languages Kasem, Nuni and Lyele belong to the same linguistic family.

The Kasena area is somewhat hilly. Like all of Burkina Faso the climate is very hot, but because of its southern location the Kasena area has an abundance of rains during the rainy season.

The traditional Kasena house is well adapted to the climate with few windows in order to keep out the heat. The houses are decorated with black, white and red colors, which people produce themselves. The flat roof can be used for drying goods, and there is strict separation between the animal and family quarters.

The Kasena compound, built for the entire extended family, is round with a wall that links the individual buildings. There are distinct living quarters for the men and women. Every married woman has an individual hut in which she cooks for herself and her children.

The economic activities of the region are strongly influenced by the area's proximity to Ghana. Many Ghanaian goods are imported and sold in the villages.

Dancing is an important part of Kasena culture. Dances are an integral part of most social events, and the Kasena take great pride in their abilities.

Primary Religion:

Animism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

15%

Churches:

40

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Portions available

Population (date):

180,000 (1994)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	15	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	15%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	5	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	30	
Number Of Pastors	35	
Number Of Missionaries Working	2	
Number Of Communities	50	
Number Of Churches	40	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Portions are available	
Translation Medium	print	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	There are no known hindrances, except for limited literacy and economic resources.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	There is some literature and one tape.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	No, the local Christian infrastructure is quite good.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	180000	
World Population (Date)	1994	
World Population (Urban Percent)	15	
Comment (World Population)	The population figures are close estimates.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	60 km to the west (10% of pop) and 30 km to the east (90%) of the town of Po in the southern part of Burkina Faso	
Country	Burkina Faso	
Ecosystem Type	Scrub Forest	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	200-300 m	
Longitude	1E	
Latitude	11N	
Climate	Hot and dry	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	Less flat than other parts of Burkina, some small hills.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	60	
Second Languages	10	
Second Languages	10	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	MOORE	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	MOORE	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	people who have traveled speak some Moore, the province capital has become bilingual to a certain extent.	

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Item Name	Item Note
Linguistically Related Languages	LYELE
Linguistically Related Languages	NUNI, SOUTHERN
Linguistically Related Languages	NUNI, SOUTHERN
Linguistically Related Languages	LYELE
Comments (Related Languages)	Nuni is also closely related to the language.
Neighboring Languages	MOORE
Neighboring Languages	GURENNE

Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	15
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive
Active Literacy Program	Yes
Publications In Vernacular	15

Group Description

Economics

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	US\$140
Occupation	subsistence farming, some low-scale marketing
Income Sources	cotton (very little), some commerce with Ghana
Products / Crafts	almost none
Trade Partners	Ghana, Mossi
Modernization / Utilities	There is an agricultural cooperative in almost every village, yet their economic functionality is limited.
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.

Group Description

Community Development

Health Care (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Health Care)	There are dispensaries in larger villages, and a small hospital in Po. The availability of medicines is limited.
Diet (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Diet)	Millet, peanuts, rice, corn, leaves, tomatoes, onions, beans according to season.
Water (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Water)	In some villages there are several forages, but in others it is very difficult to obtain safe drinking water.
Shelter Description	Shelter consists of mud-brick houses with flat roofs made of mud and wood.
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None
Clothing	Mostly western for men, women wear traditional clothing. Yet these fabrics are made outside of Kasem territory. At celebrations the traditional Kasem outfit is worn by men.
Transportation	Daily bus from Ouaga to Po, twice a week on to Tiebele. Bushtaxis on market days.
Infant Mortality Rate	127:1000
Life Expectancy	48
Leading Cause Of Death	malnutrition

Group Description

Society & Culture

Family Structures	Extended family, family boss (oldest member) gives orders. Less hierarchical than Mossi, women can keep the money they earn. Women have to pay for sauce, men furnish millet.
Neighbor Relations	Peaceful and relaxed
Authority / Rule	Chief in every village, hierarchy among chiefs. Chef de village, chef de terre have mostly traditional functions, whereas official functions have been taken over by fonctionnaires.

Group Description

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Item Name	Item Note
Social Habits/Groupings	Funerals, dancing, sing-alongs with or without dancing
Cultural Change Pace	Medium
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	The chief makes decisions in the villages; in towns government officials are in charge.
Celebrations	Funerals and dances are important occasions.
Recreations	dancing, drinking, sitting in market and talking
Art Forms	dancing, architecture (painted houses)
Media	some radio
Local Language Broadcasting	< 20 minutes daily
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	farming, some animal care
Youth Problems (Teens)	There are not enough schools or health clinics.
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Better education and health care are important material needs. The youth are searching for religious fulfillment.

Education

Group Description

Primary Schools	9
Primary School Enrollment	4000
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	10
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	100
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French
Language Of Instruction Later Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	French
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	8

Church Growth

Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Engaged
Total Baptized	10000
Lay Leaders	20
Comment (Church Growth)	Some people in the believer category are not baptized and vice versa.

Religion & Response

Status of Christianity

Religious Practices & Ceremonies	funerals, excision, healer and seer visits, sacrifices
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive
Resistance / Receptivity	The openness among the young people is more pronounced than among the old. In some very remote villages the resistance is stronger.
Religious Analogies & Bridges	There is a story that man has spoiled his relationship with God and can therefore not have a relationship with God.
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Many young people seek a new religion since they are not satisfied any more with their traditional religion. They turn to Christianity or Islam while still keeping their traditional beliefs. Most of the Protestants, however, are born again Christians.
Recommended Approaches	Evangelism by local villagers would be most effective.
Current Needs	The Kasena need the Bible and churches as well as economic help.

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Item Name

Items For Prayer

Item Note

Pray that the NT translation will be finished in 1996 and that it will be quickly printed and used.

History Of Christianity In Group

Year Began

1942

By Whom

Roman Catholic Church

Status of Christianity

Scripture

Translation Status

In Progress

Available Scripture

Portions

Form Of Scripture Available

Printed

Scripture Use

4

Scripture Use

Individuals & some churches

Status of Christianity

Comment (Scripture)

(Imported: Literature/Media:
Literature: 3 books of translations of NT texts, 3 booklets of OT narratives, 2 booklets with Bible studies in progress
Recordings: One tape has been made but is not widely used.
Film: 0
Radio: some Christian broadcasts (very short) from Ghana
Video: 0
Audio-visual: 0)
(Imported: Summary:
Word of God translated: Portions are available
Word of God form: print
Other forms of gospel: There is some literature and one tape.)

Missions and Churches

Organization Name

Apostolic

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

1978

Number Of Adherents

1200

Number Of National Workers

1

Number Of Local Workers

10

Number Of Workers Using Local Language

10

Language Used By Workers

Kasem

Organization Name

Assemblies of God

Country Of Origin

United States

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

1955

Number Of Adherents

5000

Number Of Local Workers

35

Number Of Workers Using Local Language

33

Language Used By Workers

Kasem

Status of Christianity

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Item Name	Item Note
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church
Main Ministry	Church Planting
Main Ministry	Church Planting
Year Started	1942
Number Of Adherents	8000
Number Of Expatriate Workers	2
Number Of National Workers	3
Number Of Local Workers	10
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	10
Language Used By Workers	Kasem

Christian Literature And Media Status

Status of Christianity

Literature Available	3 books of translations of NT texts, 3 booklets of OT narratives, 2 booklets with Bible studies in progress
Audio Recordings Available	One tape has been made but is not widely used.
Radio Programs Available	some Christian broadcasts (very short) from Ghana