

## The Katcha of Sudan



The Katcha people are descended from the largest clan of Kadugli in central Sudan and reside south of the Kordofan Province. Their language is called Katcha or sometimes Tolubi. A few also speak Arabic which is the national language in Sudan.

The Katcha keep cattle and farm. Most of their diet consists of what they grow and meat from livestock. For income they sell groundnuts, sim sim and sometimes cattle. Some migrate outside of their villages into towns and cities to work. It has been said that even when a Katcha is away, his heart and mind are still back home.

Their family structure consists of the extended family in which the husband's clan members reside with the family. In a polygamous marriage, all the wives live within the same compound but each has her separate hut in which she lives with her children. It is a sign of wealth for a man to have multiple wives.

Katcha people enjoy socializing and get along well with their own group and with neighboring people. They rely on one another for protection. Authority among the Katcha rests upon the clan elders that have been elected by the Katcha. Punishment depends on the crime committed and is decided in accordance with the government laws.

Tradition is extremely important to the Katcha and they hold firmly to it. They are not very receptive to those who try to change their culture. The Katcha are predominantly Pagan and many religious practices form the basis for their culture.

There is a definite need for Bible translation among the Katcha because they are not likely to accept the Gospel unless it is explained to them in their own language. Christianity is considered a foreign religion because it has not been presented in their own language and cultural context.

**Primary Religion:**

Tribal Religion

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

< 1%

**Churches:**

2

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

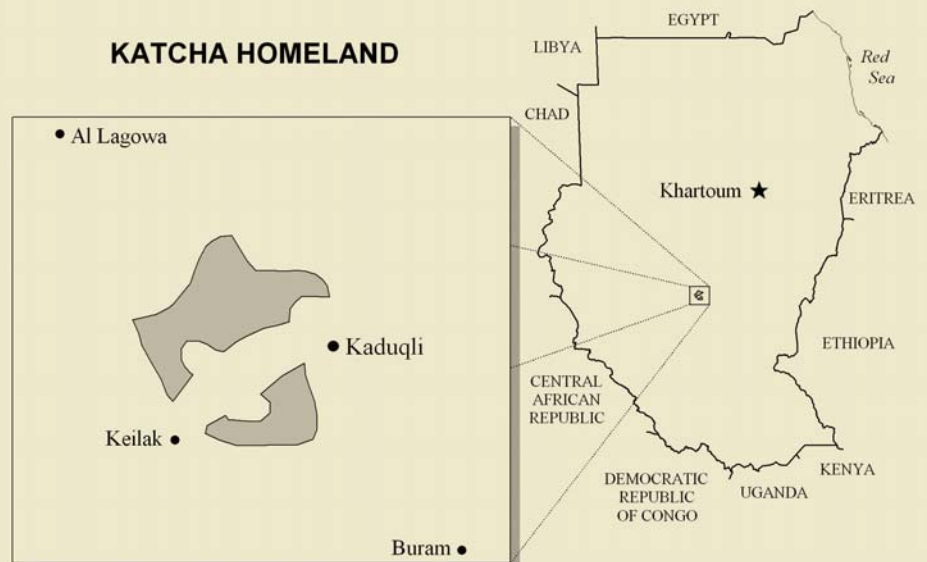
None

**Population (date):**

75,000 (1991)



**KATCHA HOMELAND**



# The Katcha of Sudan

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	2	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	< 1%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	40	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	50	
Number Of Churches	2	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	There is no Bible translation in the Katcha language.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Strong Islamic opposition and low literacy rate.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes, assistance is needed in the area of Bible translation, evangelism, improvement of education, literacy, and health care. Missionaries serving among the Katcha should be cautious and sensitive to the political situation.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	75,000	
World Population (Date)	1991	
Comment (World Population)	It has been estimated that the Katcha group may number as low as 20,000 people. A precise number is undetermined due to the lack of information that exists about these people.	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Sudan	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	Southern tip of Ethiopian plateau, south central Gamo Gofa province, near the Hamer-Banna.	
Country	Sudan	
Ecosystem Type	Semi-tropical	
Geological Type	Mountain Valley	
Climate	Usually very hot, but colder from December to March. It is rainy and hot from April to July.	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Alternate Language Names	ARI, ARA, ARO, AARAI, SHANKILLA, SHANKILLINYA	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Somewhat receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	90	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, SUDANESE SPOKEN	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, SUDANESE SPOKEN	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	The government forces the Katcha to learn Arabic and to accept Islam.	
Neighboring Languages	MORO	
Neighboring Languages	SHATT	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	1	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Occupation	Cattle keepers and farmers	
Income Sources	They sell ground nuts, sim sim and sometimes cattle. Some migrate to the north to work in industries.	

## The Katcha of Sudan

Item Name	Item Note
Products / Crafts	Bead necklaces and wooden carvings
Trade Partners	Arabs
Modernization / Utilities	None
Comment (Economy)	Even with scant resources, they show it is possible not only to survive but to enjoy good health as well.

### Community Development

### Group Description

Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Health Care)	There is only one dispensary and it is unknown whether it is still operating.
Diet (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Diet)	Sorghum, maize, wild fruit and berries; meat is also an important part of their diet.
Water (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Water)	They usually get water from the boreholes, but there is not a plentiful supply of clean water.
Shelter Description	Their homes are round or square mud huts with grass thatched roofing. They like to paint them for decoration.
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None
Comment (Energy)	Kerosene, firewood and dung.
Clothing	Women wear beaded jewelry and colorful wrapped skirts called Grubap. Men wear white or grey cotton robes called Jalabea.
Transportation	By walking or by donkey. The bus stop to get into the city is 18 miles away.
Infant Mortality Rate	Unknown
Life Expectancy	70 years
Leading Cause Of Death	Malaria, water diseases

### Society & Culture

### Group Description

Family Structures	It is usually an extended family with other clan members from the husband's side of the family. There is some practice of polygamy. In this case, the wives live within the same compound, but each has her own hut where she lives with her children.
Neighbor Relations	Neighbor relationships are very good. The Katcha enjoy socializing among themselves and with other groups. They look out for and protect one another. Neighbor disputes are rare.
Authority / Rule	Elders are either elected based on age or perceived capability. They mediate disputes and offer counsel.
Social Habits/Groupings	The Katcha are strongly tied to their culture, traditions and people. It is very difficult for them to leave. When a Katcha person is away from home, it is only physical. Mentally they are focused on where they came from.
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Identification With National Culture	Distinct
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	Punishment is issued depending on the crime committed. The community is also affected by the national law, and punishment is in accordance to it.
Celebrations	The Katcha enjoy many celebrations. Marriage is one of the most important events. The groom takes the bride from her home to his home during a great celebration. Other major celebrations include the naming of a child and harvest holidays. Though there is not much ceremony surrounding circumcision, no woman will marry an uncircumcised man.
Recreations	The Katcha enjoy sitting and talking, telling stories, dancing and music. They have 7 musical calabashes, each one with a different tone.
Art Forms	Painting their huts with different colored ashes.
Media	None
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat resistant
Attitude To Change	Very resistant

# The Katcha of Sudan

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Youth</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Both boys and girls have work responsibilities. Girls are expected to assist with domestic duties and boys herd animals, farm and sometimes migrate to towns for work.	
Youth Problems (Teens)	There is a systematic form of fighting that is controlled by the elders. Those who are having problems and disputes with one another will fight.	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	The Katcha would benefit from educational improvements as well as a strong development of Christian faith.	
<b>Education</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Schools	2	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English	
Comment (Education)	Arabic is taught from primary to university levels. Some receive instruction in English from junior school. Overall the educational opportunities for the Katcha are very limited.	
<b>Church Growth</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Reached Status	Adopted	
Total Baptized	1,000	
Comment (Church Growth)	Depending on the actual population of this group, there may be as few as 1 church for every 35,000 people	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant	
Resistance / Receptivity	The Katcha would be more open to Christianity if the Bible were translated into their own language.	
Recommended Approaches	It was recommended that those working among the Katcha must understand the people, their traditions, culture and heritage. The Katcha are resistant to anything new that changes their culture and tradition. Christianity would be accepted if it were presented within the Katcha cultural context. Caution and sensitivity are very important when dealing with Islamic issues. Work is needed in the areas of education and health care.	
Current Needs	Bible translation in the Katcha mother tongue. Christian workers in the Katcha community. Literacy improvement. More community development.	
Items For Prayer	Pray for peace in Sudan and an end to the civil war. Pray that Bible translation and evangelistic work will begin in the Katcha community. Pray that the Katcha will be receptive to the Gospel of Christ.	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Year Began	1930	
By Whom	Church Missionary Society (ANG)	
Comments (History of Christianity)	These missionaries are thought to have started work with education, church building and evangelism.	
<b>Scripture</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Translation Status	Definite	
Available Scripture	None	
Comment (Scripture)	There are currently no Christian organizations working among the Katcha as it is prohibited by the Sudan government.	
<b>Christian Literature And Media Status</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Literature Available	None	

## The Katcha of Sudan

<b>Item Name</b>	<b>Item Note</b>
Audio Recordings Available	None
Films Available	None
Radio Programs Available	None
Videos Available	None
Audio Visual Available	None