

The Koeniem of Nigeria



The Koeniem live in about 33 villages in Mikang Local Government Area in Plateau State, Nigeria. The paramount title holder of the people is called Long Koeniem. He is located in Lifidi, the central town. They estimated their population at 15,000.

They trace their origin from the old Kwararafa kingdom, where their ancestors began to migrate, through Maiduguri and Garram to their present location. The neighbours of the Koeniem are Tal, Piapung, Mupun, Ngas, a Kofyar dialect Mernyang, Tarok, Gomai, Jakattoe and Miship speakers.

They are farmers and hunters. They grow rice, yams, sorghum (guinea corn), millet, maize, beans, and groundnuts. Their main crops are: rice, millet and sorghum.

The Koeniem celebrate an annual festival called Moestai. The celebration begins with a hunting expedition. Then people from all their various locations come to Lifidi, to meet with the paramount chief. They showcase their various cultural heritages and special dances. The Npa (attire made from goat skin) is worn, and nkab, nguk and ngwenaan are special delicacies that are served at the occasion.

The people claim 75% Christian, 12% Muslim and 13% African Traditional Religionist. The denominations working among them are: Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN), Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), Anglican, Baptist and Catholic.

Primary Religion:

Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

70%

Churches:

Over 50

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

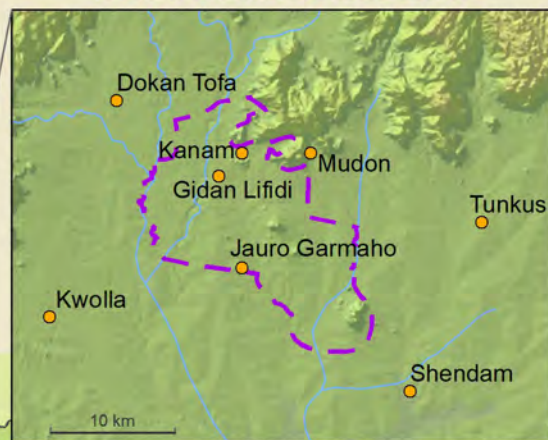
None use Koeniem

Population (date):

15,000 (2019)



KOENIEM HOMELAND



The Koenom of Nigeria

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Hindrances to Scripture Use

They do not have the Bible in their language, thus Hausa and English Bible Translations are used in the different churches.

Response to the Gospel

The Koenom seem to be stabilizing in the Christian Faith in the sense that 90% of the increase in the churches is due to children being born into Christian families.

Bilingualism

Koenom wives are from; Tal, Piapung, Mupun (a dialect of Mwaghavul) and Ngas all neighboring groups. the Mernyang (a dialect in Kofyar cluster), Jakattoe and Miship are also close neighbours. Most of these speech varieties are spoken within their communities and well understood by the Koenom.

Hausa is the a trade language, though the Koenom do not have such a great attitude to it. English is used as language of instruction in their schools. The younger generations have better proficiency in Hausa and English than the older generation.

Are Cross-Cultural Missionaries Needed?

They may need missionaries who will help the churches to train pastors.

Number of Christian Congregations Over 50

Churches using primarily vernacular None

Language of Wider Communication Hausa [hau]