

The Ma'di of Uganda & Sudan

**Image
 Unavailable**

The Ma'di people live along both sides of the White Nile from Rhino Camp in Northern Uganda northward across the Sudan border to a point about half way to Juba. Over 90% live in Uganda, many came from Sudan originally. They are now only a part of what used to be a large group stretching westward some distance across Zaire and northward on a parallel with Juba and Maridi. Several of the related groups, such as Kaliko and Lugbara, still recognize themselves as Ma'di and call their languages "Ma'di Ti", although they are now separated and their languages are no longer the same.

The Ma'do are primarily farmers and fishermen. They used to do more hunting and trapping, but there is very little game left in their area. They are industrious and even when the Ugandan Ma'di have been refugees in Sudan (during the 80s) or the Sudanese have been refugees in Uganda (during the 90s), they have done well in raising enough food. However, they have lacked many other things.

Many Ma'di have sought education and they are eager to progress. However, their remoteness and the displacements of wars have meant that they have had little opportunity for advancement, except leaving their communities. Some are found in Kampala, Nairobi, Juba and even Khartoum. Their language has been written 70 years, and the New Testament published in 1977; however, it is unreadable, except for those who already know what it says. The reason is that the language is so tonal that words can have as many as five different meanings, depending upon the tones; but tone, and other vowel qualities have been ignored in the orthography. A language committee has now decided to adopt tone marks into the orthography, and work on the new orthography is underway.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

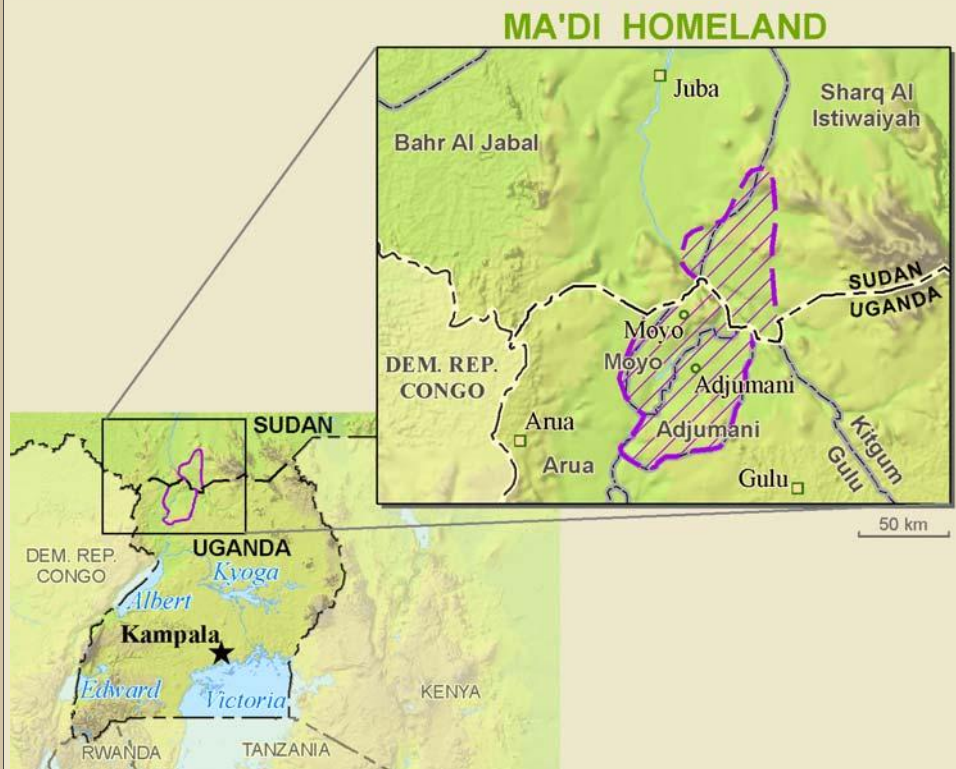
3

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

NT that is unreadable

Population (date):

232,920 (1976)



The Ma'di of Uganda & Sudan

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	70	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	Primarily Roman Catholic	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	10	
Believe Jesus Is A Myth (%)	20	
Number Of Churches	3	
Comment (Churches)	Ma'di church is strong.	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	New Testament (but unreadable)	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	The NT was written without including the tone, so is unreadable. Work on a new translation has now begun.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Some audio cassettes, literature, radio, videos and audio-visual materials are available.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Theological training for Ma'di leaders is needed. Cash is lacking even more in other parts of Uganda and is worse in Sudan.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	232920	
World Population (Date)	1976	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Uganda	
Country Name	Sudan	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Country	Uganda	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	4000 ft	
Climate	The climate is temperate most of the year with one dry and one rainy season.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	SWAHILI	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ENGLISH	
Linguistically Related Languages	MORU	
Linguistically Related Languages	KALIKO	
Linguistically Related Languages	AVOKAYA	
Linguistically Related Languages	LUGBARA	
Linguistically Related Languages	LOGO	
Neighboring Languages	BARI	
Neighboring Languages	ACHOLI	
Literacy		Group Description
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Comment (Literacy)	Very low rate of literacy. Those who are, are literate mainly in English.	
Economics		Group Description
Occupation	Most people fish or farm.	
Income Sources	Selling farm produce (including local brew) at market or from home. Some employment from government, relief agencies, church.	
Products / Crafts	Sesame, groundnuts, maize.	

The Ma'di of Uganda & Sudan

Item Name	Item Note	
Trade Partners	Mostly people bring their goods to town rather than trade with other groups.	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Diet (Quality)	Poor	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Shelter Description	The huts are usually round and relatively small. They are made of wood, bamboo and mud with grass and bamboo for the roof.	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Energy)	Electricity only in 3 - 4 larger towns. Most use wood as a fuel.	
Clothing	Used clothing in larger markets, as well as new cloth for sewing.	
Transportation	Very few vehicles. Most travel by bike or on foot.	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	When needs be men usually have the most influence and authority; although, many more husbands and wives are working cooperatively.	
Neighbor Relations	The Madi have very strong ties and relations with their neighbors... they are very important to each other.	
Authority / Rule	Obedient to governing authorities, formally organized under chiefs.	
Social Habits/Groupings	Drinking & parties are common, but sociable in most cases.	
Cultural Change Pace	Slow	
Identification With National Culture	Integrated	
Self Image	Prestigious	
Judicial / Punishment System	Courts do exist. Problems are first dealt with at the clan level, then the village level, followed by interaction with the sub-chief and finally with the chief.	
Celebrations	Madi weddings are a joyous time and often last 24 hours. Funeral dances for the aged last for weeks.	
Recreations	When the work is done and there is time to spare, many people sit and drink.	
Art Forms	Practical blacksmith using iron ore from time immemorial, also making baskets.	
Media	Few have radios. There is a 15 min daily broadcast on Radio Uganda for news only, and a further 30 min program once a week.	
Local Language Broadcasting	< 20 minutes daily	
Comment (Culture)	Postal services are available.	
Youth		Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Young people often accompany their parents as they work during the day in order to watch, participate and learn. Young boys sometimes find time to hunt in forests for fun.	
Youth Problems (Teens)	The biggest problem facing the youth is lack of education.	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Finding a way to attend school.	
Education		Group Description
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Madi	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Madi	
Language Of Instruction Later Years	English	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	English	
Comment (Education)	Primary schools are fairly well distributed, but finance limits attendance by many. (Books in Madi in preparation) One Catholic school	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Verified	
Reached Classification	Evangelized	

The Ma'di of Uganda & Sudan

Item Name	Item Note	
Comment (Church Growth)	3 Catholic churches.	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Many families still worship and sacrifice to household gods. Witchcraft and sorcery are parts of the traditional religion that are still practiced today.	
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive	
Resistance / Receptivity	The Madi are just waiting for someone to stir them up again.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	Cultural practices	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	The Ma'di people are very ready and open for more of Christianity.	
Recommended Approaches	Witnessing is the way the Madi are open to right now.	
Current Needs	Revival	
Items For Prayer	For revival. For the new translation team. For literacy work to begin.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1880	
By Whom	Roman Catholic Church	
Significant Events	In 1994, a translation team moved into the Ma'di area, to begin work on a new orthography, and eventually to begin Bible translation. Work on the orthography is nearing completion.	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	In Progress	
Comment (Scripture)	The NT published in 1977 is unused as it is unreadable. An agency has begun work on the production of a new orthography, and translation will begin soon.	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity
Organization Name	Pentecostal	
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church	
Year Started	1880	
Organization Name	Episcopal	
Organization Name	African Independent Church	
Christian Literature And Media Status		Status of Christianity
Literature Available		
	Some	
Audio Recordings Available	Some	
Radio Programs Available	Some	
Videos Available	Some	
Audio Visual Available	Some	