

The Mbuko of Cameroon

The Mbuko are grouped on and around a small chain of hills in the Dimare Department of the Far North Province of Cameroon. They are divided into clans according to their descent from one of the six sons of the original founder of the area. Agriculture forms the mainstay of their economy, and millet is the main crop.

Christianity began to have an impact in the 1970's when a Gemzek (neighboring people) woman married a Mbuko man, and her sons from a previous marriage began to share the Good News in their new home. The Mbuko have responded well to the Gospel and approximately 75% would call themselves Christian. The translation of the Bible is in progress. The Mbuko are very interested in having the Bible in their own language.

Tembew is a kind of toad with a fat belly, and the Mbuko have written a lullaby about it. If a person is looking after the child of another person and the child begins to cry for his or her mother, the babysitter will sing, 'You are crying for your mother, you have a toad belly'.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

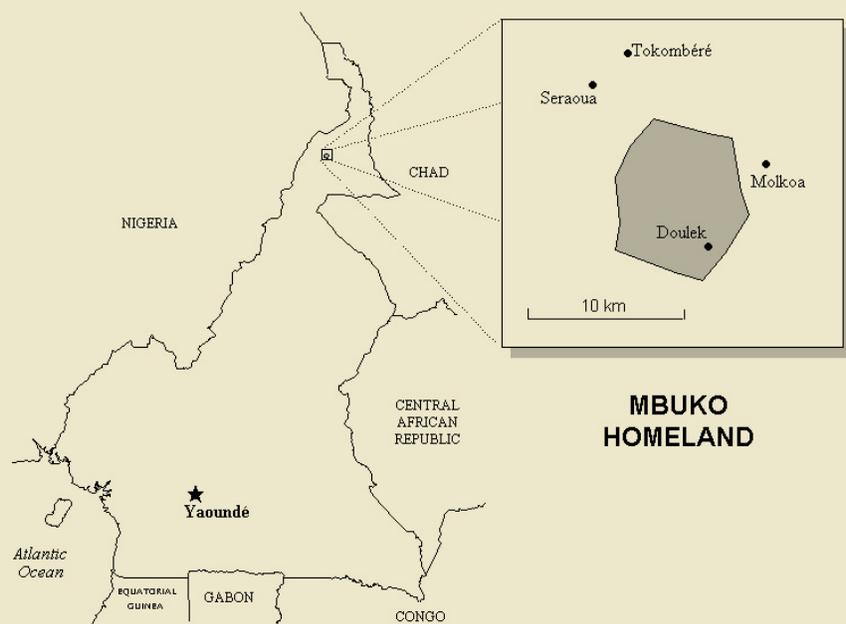
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Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Portions are available

Population (date):

15,000



**MBUKO
HOMELAND**

The Mbuko of Cameroon

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	75	
Believe Jesus Is A Myth (%)	20	
Number Of Pastors	7	
Number Of Missionaries Working	2	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	2 missionaries based on missionary ratio of 1: 7,500 and population of 15,000	
Number Of Communities	15	
Number Of Churches	22	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Portions	
Translation Medium	Print	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Finances	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	In addition to the Bible portions available, there are also books such as a book of folk tales, a writing guide, a series of literacy books, and other stories.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Bible translation help is needed and is being provided.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	15,000	
Comment (World Population)	Very few live in the urban area.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Cameroon	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Far North Province. The Mbuko are located mainly in the canton of Doulek in the administrative area of Meri, Department of Dimare.	
Country	Cameroon	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Other	
Elevation	750 meters	
Climate	Tropical. Dry season runs from November to April, wet season from May to October.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	Very few are monolingual. Most of the men speak Fulfulde and one or more the neighboring languages. Many of the women would also speak on of the neighboring languages.	
Alternate Language Names	Mbuku, Mboku, Mbokou	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FULFULDE, ADAMAWA	
Comments (Related Languages)	Moloko, Dugwor, Merey, Gemzek, and Muyang.	
Neighboring Languages	MELOKWO	
Literacy		Group Description
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Comment (Literacy)	There are over 10 publications in mother tongue. The literacy rate is 25%.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	50,000 CFA (~\$ 70)	

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Item Name	Item Note
Occupation	Farmers. Crops are planted and harvested by anyone. Crops include: millet, peanuts, cotton, dogtooth, and sweet potatoes. There is a blacksmith clan. Children learn techniques of agriculture from their fathers. Other trades include clay pots, etc. by the women and carving wood to make hoe handles, rain shelters, etc. by the men.
Income Sources	Sale of farm products and cotton.
Products / Crafts	Women make things with clay, men with wood. They mark objects with patterns to decorate them. In the case of wood items, they burn the pattern with a hot spear or arrow. Children make toys with the inner part of millet stalks.
Trade Partners	Moloko, Merey, Dugwor, Gemzek, and Muyang.
Modernization / Utilities	None

Community Development

Group Description

Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Health Care)	They go to a hospital in Meri.
Water (Quality)	None
Comment (Water)	Not available in all villages.
Shelter Description	Stone and mud huts, with occasional concrete buildings. A compound may consist of a visitor hut, the main sleeping hut, a kitchen for each wife, grain storage for each wife, a hut for practicing religion, an animal hut, a hangers for protection from the sun. Kitchens are taboo to men. Strangers sit under a shelter at the entrance to the compound. Friends go to a shelter more in the center, or even into a hut, though this is rare.
Comment (Energy)	Millet stalks. Wood is very limited.
Clothing	Men buy their wife one piece of cloth at marriage. Clothes are bought at the market, or made by a tailor from cloth bought at the market. Men must cover their genitals. Women must cover from the waist to the knees. Signs of beauty in a woman are slimness, paleness, being well dressed, having lots of hair, being well spoken, having even teeth. Jewelry is an adornment for beauty or is used to show wealth. Boys only pierce their ears if they are slaves. Chiefs may wear a red hat, although most now dress in Fulani clothing. Smart clothes may be either Fulani style or western style, depending on whether the occasion is more traditional or modern.
Transportation	Bicycle or by foot. There are some motorbikes and horses. There are bust taxis from Doulek to Maroua on Thursday, from Meri to Maroua on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.
Leading Cause Of Death	Malaria

Society & Culture

Group Description

Family Structures	Patrilineal. Children belong to the father's clan.
Neighbor Relations	There were wars as recently as seven years ago, but that has now ceased. There was a war in 1977 with the Gemzek over a boundary dispute (later settled by the national government). There were wars against the Moloko in 1988 and 1993 where the Mbuko won. A Moloko man and a Moloko man stealing livestock from the Mbuko person caused these wars.
Authority / Rule	There is a position of head chief (vacant as of May 2001). Each village has a chief. There are also traditional chiefs of rain, wind, land and of the cow festival.
Social Habits/Groupings	Divided into clans. The original founder of Mbuko has six sons, so there are six clans. There is also a blacksmith clan.
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Self Image	Neutral
Judicial / Punishment System	If there is a dispute between two clans, resulting from an accusation, then the accused clan will consult to see if there is any truth in the accusation. If not, then they will take a goatskin and summon the accuser or his clan. They will ask if he is ready to take the skin. If they believe that their accusation is justified, then the skin is split, and each clan will take a piece. The clans will then cease to mix, eat or drink together. An epidemic will strike the guilty party for generations, until reconciliation. To reconcile, the guilty clan brings millet and three goats, one for the accused family, one for the clan chief, and one for a feast between the parties. The reconciliation is enacted by taking dirt from an arm, mixing it with water, and drinking it. This ends the matter. To end a long running war between ethnic groups, a dog is cut in half. Each side takes one half, and the dog will attack the side that breaks the peace.

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Item Name

Celebrations

Item Note

Funerals, marriages, cow festival.

Recreations

Soccer, music, making model cars, visiting.

Art Forms

Dance and Music.

Youth

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)

Fetching water, caring for goats.

Group Description

Education

Primary Schools

7

Language Of Instruction Early Years

French

Language Of Textbooks Early Years

French

Comment (Education)

The Mbuko go to Meri for secondary education.

Group Description

Religion & Response

Attitude To Christianity

Somewhat receptive

Attitude To Religious Change

Very receptive

Comment (Religion)

They lack depth of teaching. They want a Bible in their language, and they need it.

Items For Prayer

Pray that the literacy program underway will not be dependency oriented.
Pray that the literacy committee will know how to fund the project and continue it.
Pray that the Bible translation can be completed.

Status of Christianity

History Of Christianity In Group

Significant Events

Sons of a Gemzek woman who married a Mbuko man in the 1970's.

Status of Christianity

Scripture

Translation Status

In Progress

Available Scripture

Portions

Form Of Scripture Available

Printed

Status of Christianity

Missions and Churches

Organization Name

Union des Églises Évangéliques du Nord du Cameroun

Country Of Origin

Cameroon

Number Of Local Workers

7

Status of Christianity

Christian Literature And Media Status

Literature Available

Songbook, diary, folk tales, David's story, Jonah, Portions of Mark. Luke is in progress.

Audio Recordings Available

None

Films Available

None

Radio Programs Available

None

Status of Christianity