

The Gunu of Cameroon



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The Gunu people of Cameroon call their language Nugunu. The majority of these speakers live a very basic farming lifestyle. Many families travel up to two miles to find drinking water. The combination of limited access to clean water and inadequate medical facilities exacerbates health problems and makes the people more vulnerable to recurring illness.

School fees present serious challenges for Gunu families, resulting in low levels of education.

Roman Catholic priests brought the gospel to the Nugunu area in 1927. Most Gunu faithfully attend church. Today, almost half of the population affiliates with the Catholic Church. Presbyterians and several other Protestant denominations also attract a significant following.

The Gunu are one of several people groups known collectively as the Yambassa. They live in the central part of Cameroon where French, one of two national languages, is widely used. The country was once known as “The Cameroons”. Different parts were ruled over by Germans, British or French. The Germans were displaced after World War I and at independence the two remaining parts were united.

Primary Religion:

Christian

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

Yes

Churches:

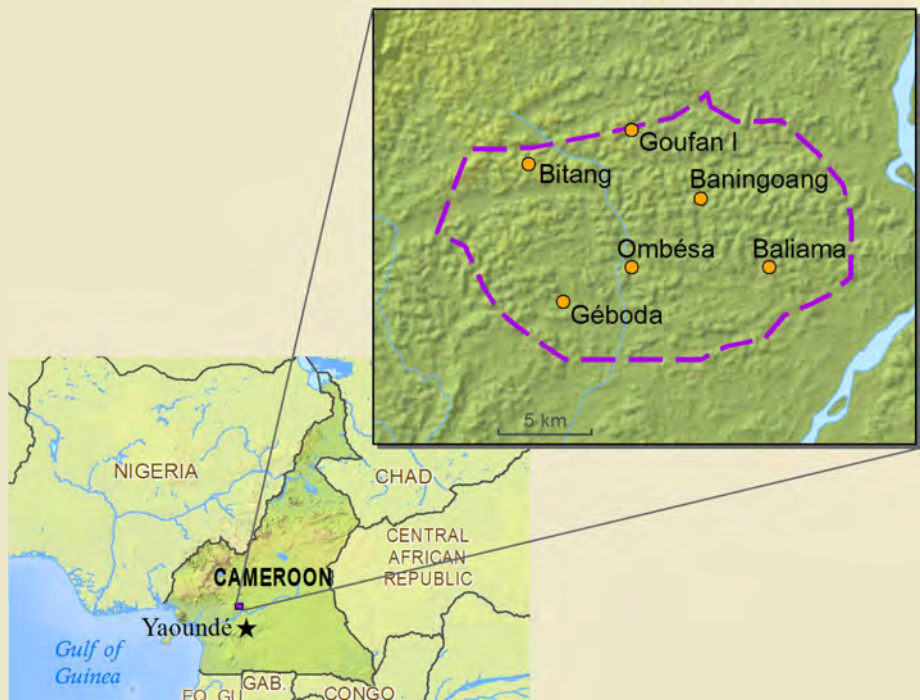
Yes

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

Portions

Population (date):

35,000 (Ethnologue 1987)



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Group Description

Population all countries

World Population For This People	35,000
World Population (Date)	1987 (Ethnologue)
Population (Urban Percent)	

Geography & Environment

Location	Centre region: Mbam-and-Inoubou division of Cameroon
Climate	
Comments	

Alternate Language Names

	Behie, Beke, Gounou, Gunu, Nu Gunu, Ombessa, Yambasa,
Percent Monolingual	
Other Mother Tongues	French

Linguistically Related Languages

<u>Name</u>	<u>Ethnologue (ISO) Code</u>
Gunu, or Nugunu	yas
Mmala (Begni)	mmu
Elip, or Libie	ekm
Yangben	yav
Baca (Bongo), or Nubaca	baf
Mbule (Mbola), or Dumbule	mlb
Bati (Kelleng)	btc

Neighboring Languages

Bafia, Tuki, Mimaala. Elip

Economics

Subsistence Type	Agricultural
Occupation	Subsistent farmers

Community Development

Health Care (Quality)	Inadequate facilities
Water	Limited access

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Status of Christianity

History of Christianity	<p>Roman Catholic priests brought the gospel to the Nugunu area in 1927. Today, almost half of the population affiliates with the Catholic Church.</p> <p>Presbyterians and several other Protestant denominations also attract a significant following. Jehovah's Witnesses are also gaining ground.</p>
Religious Practices and Ceremonies	<p>Most Gunu faithfully attend church but many go for only social reasons. Many Christians still practice animistic rituals and are afraid of sorcery.</p>
Is the Word of God Translated?	<p>The Gospel of Mark and the Book of Acts are published. 40% of the New Testament is in draft.</p>
Other Forms of Gospel Presentations	<p>The Roman Catholic catechism and liturgy.</p>
Language of Wider Communication	<p>French</p>
Translation status	<p>A team of 17 workers are engaged in working on this language. Five are translators, one is a typist, and the rest are literacy personnel.</p>
Spiritual Climate and Openness	<p>The Gunu community expressed a desire for Scripture in their mother tongue in 1992. They long to see their community transformed by God's Word, freed from fear and superstition and well grounded in Scripture to prevent attrition into various heresies.</p>