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## The Deaf of Solomon Islands The SISL Community

Although there are differences in how their language is signed between the Provinces of the Solomon Islands, there is a Deaf community in the capital city, Honiara, that represents most of the people. The Solomon Islands Sign Language (SISL) has been assigned the code *szs* in 2017 by the International Standards Organization .

In addition to the community in Honiara, there is also a Deaf village, Aruligo, west of the capital. Deaf people from all the islands have gathered in the capital and in the village.

Deafness is unfortunately quite common in the Solomon Islands due to poverty-related diseases such as malaria, meningitis, rubella, and otitis media. Attitude towards SISL is very positive, and the community worries that AUSLAN, which is taught at school, does not reflect their cultural and language needs.

According to Angela Murray & Joneti Rokotuibau, “Before 2008 there was not really an opportunity to get an education for deaf people. The San Isidro Care Centre in Aruligo was set up for those students who missed education. They came to the centre and learned sign language for the first time and met deaf students for the first time. It gives instruction in basic skills such as building, life skills, or agriculture. The aim is after that education they could go back to their home village and work there in the skills they learned.

**Primary Religion:**  
 Sign Language

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**  
 Unknown

**Churches:**  
 Unknown

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**  
 None

**Population (date):**  
 Potentially 3,000 (2017)



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## The Deaf of Solomon Islands

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### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian (%)	?
Believe In Jesus As God And Only Savior (%)	?
Have Not Heard Who Jesus Is	?
Number Of Missionaries Working	?
Response To The Gospel	?
Number Of Churches	?
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Missionaries who want to come along side the current evangelical Deaf workers would be welcome. Training of leaders is a critical need.

# The Deaf of Solomon Islands

## Group Description

### Geography

#### Climate

The *Solomon Islands* has an equatorial *climate* typical of many tropical areas, meaning it is usually hot and humid all year round. The *islands* have an average *temperature* of about 27 degrees Celcius with only very small changes from season to season.

### Population

#### Comment

When we speak about Deaf people as opposed to deaf people, we're making the distinction of, among other things, their language of preference. Simply stated, Deaf people identify with the Deaf culture and use that signed language; deaf people do not and prefer to use the spoken language. Estimating the population of a Deaf community is difficult. Quite honestly, no one knows how many Deaf there are in a given country. However, some generalities seem to hold true. In 1st world nations (like the US) 1-2 people in 1000 are Deaf; in those nations that are considered "2nd world", 3-4 people per 1000 are Deaf; in 3rd world nations, the numbers are much higher: 6-8 people per 1000 are Deaf. Again, this is an estimation only. There is absolutely no quantifiable documentation to support these numbers. But, they are the best we know.

As implied, the estimated number of deaf is always larger than the number of those who learn sign language and become part of the Deaf community. Some become deaf late in life. Some children's parents do not have the funds to send their child to a deaf school and some of these children never encounter others with whom to communicate. Almost all deaf children are born to hearing parents. Instead these children grow and work at home where they use gestures and sounds but do not have a true language. The number of these is unknown.

### Language & Linguistics

#### Primary Language

Solomon Islands Sign Language

#### Second Languages

Australian Sign Language

#### Comment (Second Language)

Some have been educated in Australian Sign Language. A very few can also use some signed English

### Literacy

#### Adult Literacy Percentage

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