

The Zhire of Nigeria



The People were originally a multi-tribal people who left their different clans in search of livelihood until they finally settled together in Kargako Local Government Area of Kaduna State. There are two major villages that make up the Zhire: Kenyi 1 and 2. Kenyi 1 is made up of 3 hamlets: Gigemso, Gindu, and Fei. Kenyi 2 is made up of 4 hamlets: Taha, Gyeng, Fogyang and Kongo.

They are very friendly and peaceful people. They enjoy a cordial relationship with their neighboring groups: Jaba and Koro, whom they consider their ancestral relatives. The people are estimated to be about 15,000.

They farm rice, maize, guinea corn, ginger, yam groundnut, and fonio (acha). Their men are also good hunters.

Zhire are 97% Christians, 2% Muslims and 1% Africa Traditional Religionist.

They have a government healthcare centre, a private dispensary, government primary and secondary schools; and a private secondary school. Almost 95% of children who are of school age attend the schools without any literature in Zhire.

Primary Religion:

Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

50%

Churches:

7

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

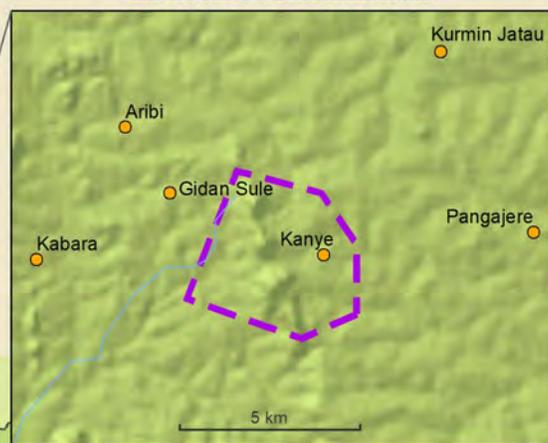
None

Population (date):

15,000 (2019)



ZHIRE HOMELAND



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Have They Heard The Gospel?

Hindrances to Scripture Use	There is no mother tongue scripture or any literature material available to the people in the local language. The church congregations include people from various ethnicities speaking several different languages so that Zhire is not used exclusively in the churches
Response to the Gospel	They have responded to the gospel. The churches in Zhire are growing rapidly, but the people are largely nominal.
Bilingualism	The youth are fluent in English, which is the language of instruction in their schools. The Zhire also speak Jaba and Koro well. They have the Jaba, Koro, Aribi, Hausa, Igbo, Bajju, Adara, and Fulani living among them. The use Hausa as a language of wider communication because of their mixed language areas and they understand it very well.
Cross-Cultural Missionaries Needed	In the area of literacy & education, and pastoral training because of the need for mother tongue teachers training and church discipleship.
Number of Christian Congregations	The seven Christian congregations among the Zhire are: Anglican, Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), Baptist Church, Roman Catholic, Deeper Life Church, Living Faith Church and Charismatic Renewal Ministries (CRM). Churches in Zhire use the Hausa and English translation of the Scriptures and preach mainly from the Hausa. All the denominations are interested in translation, though the CRM are comfortable with the English translation.
Churches using primarily vernacular	Four congregations
Language of Wider Communication	Hausa [hau]