



## The Mararit of Chad

The Mararit and the Ab Sharib call themselves also the 'Ibilak'. They basically speak the same language with some slight differences. They share a common ancestral heritage. Most of them live in the east of Chad, north-east of the major market town of Abeche.

The Ab Sharib branch of the Mararit people group moved northwards some time ago, into a more mountainous area. Both groups benefit from living in an area with plentiful water supply. The gardens around the rivers can be cultivated all year round and they don't have to move their herds around to find water like some other groups in northern Chad.

Agriculture lies at the heart of the life in Ibilak villages. Around the time the rains are expected, sacrifices are made before the seeds of their main staple, the millet, is sown. With that they ask for God's blessing of enough rain and a good harvest. These sacrifices probably go back to practices of pre-Islamic traditions, but today all the Ibilak profess to be Moslems.

In many ways they appear to be satisfied with life. Living in an area with good water supplies they can subsist well, sustaining a traditional lifestyle in ways passed down from their forebears. In recent decades there were large numbers who went elsewhere for work when there were years with famine conditions. These days many of the men travel to other places, such as the Sudan or Ndjamena. With extra resources in hand many have returned and many plan to return and resume their livelihood in their villages in the Ouaddai province.

The Ibilak are a totally unreached people group. Pray that they will become open to hear the Gospel and that "the feet of those bringing the Good News" will come to the heartland of these people who have yet to discover of who Jesus really is and what he could mean to them.

**Primary Religion:**

Islam

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

0%

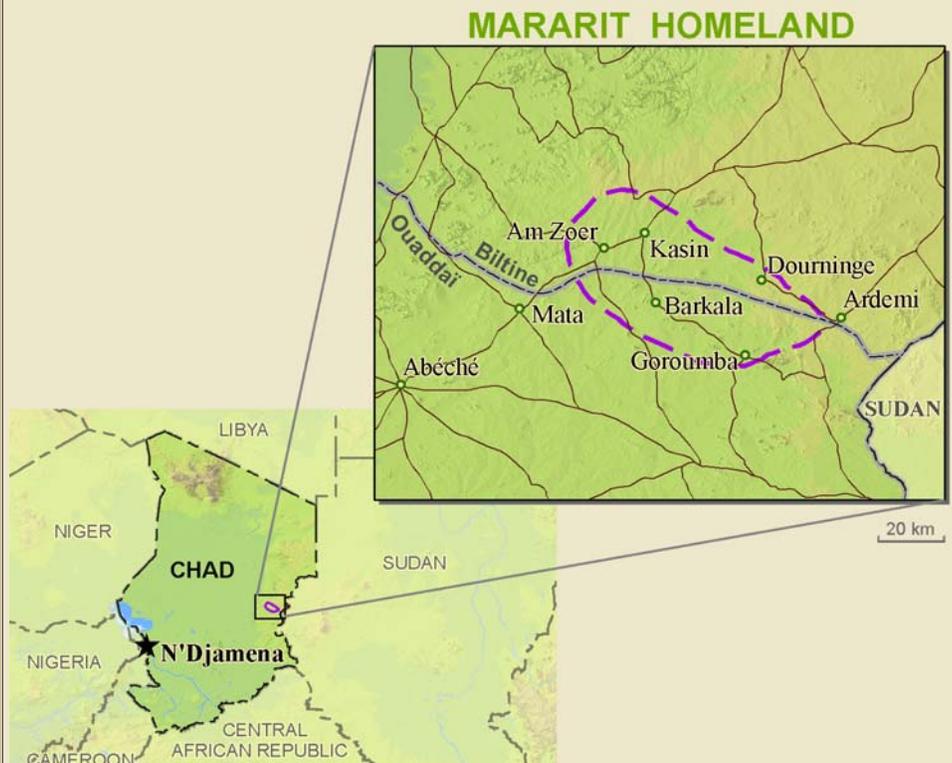
**Churches:**

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

No Bible

**Population (date):**

42,388



# The Mararit of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	0%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	100%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	0%	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	They have a need for the Bible to be translated into their mother tongue as well as a literacy program to teach them to read. Living among the Mararit to help with health care and education might provide opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	42,388	
Comment (World Population)	Alternate names are: Ibilak, Abou Sharib or Abou Charib, Ebiri, Ebiri, Abiyi, Merarit, Mararet, Buntaikaine	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Chad	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	Ouaddai Prefecture of Northern Chad, North East of Abeche.	
Country	Chad	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Mountain Slopes	
Elevation	1000 to 1500 m ab.sea le	
Longitude	21	
Latitude	14,5	
Climate	Dry season October to March, Very hot in April, rainy season, June to September.	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	Chief towns: Garoumba for the Mararit Branch, and Am Zoer for the Ab Sharib.	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Language	MARARIT	
Comment (Language)	Chadian Arabic as a second language has more prestige and affects the value put on the mother tongue.	
Alternate Language Names	Ab Charib, Abou Sharib, 'Ibilak, Merarit, Mararet, Abiyi, Abiri, Ebiri	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Somewhat receptive	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, SHUWA	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	The two main stream languages seem to be different. Mararit children understand Abu Sharib when they are older. Many are not proficient in Chadian Arabic or any other trade language, but Arabic as the language of Islam has therefore the prestige.	
Linguistically Related Languages	TAMA	
Comments (Related Languages)	Language branch: Tama sub-branch, Eastern Sudanic, Chari Nile of Nilo Saharan languages.	
Neighboring Languages	TAMA	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	7.5%	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat resistant	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Comment (Literacy)	There is no active literacy program in the mother tongue. There is interest in Arabic language development or even French for its practical and economic use. Few have expressed interest in their own language development.	

## The Mararit of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	Group Description
<b>Economics</b>		
Subsistence Type	Pastoralists	
Average Annual Income	<\$ 450 per year	
Occupation	Agriculture, cattle and camels.	
Income Sources	Millet, (doura, a variety of sorghum) maize, okra, peppers, tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, sesame, watermelon, peanuts, stock-cattle, camels.	
Products / Crafts	Milk, meat, fruit (bananas, mangoes, guavas) material woven from cotton, but not widely produced.	
Trade Partners	Massalit, Asongori, Tama, Maba, Mimi, Arabs, Daza, Beri (Bideyat, Zaghawa)	
Modernization / Utilities	No electricity in the villages.	
Comment (Economy)	A good percentage go to work in Sudan or elsewhere for a couple of years, to make money to take back to further their lives in the village.	
<b>Community Development</b>		
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	Infant mortality rate: 11.6% Child mortality rate: 19.4% Life expectancy rate : 63.4 years 108,373 patients per doctor, one dispensary has been set up by the government.	
Diet (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Diet)	Millet, milk, acacia gum. Some eat meat.	
Water (Quality)	Very good	
Comment (Water)	Wells are abundant. There is a good water table. Their water situation is so favorable that they don't have to move their herds around to find water like some other groups in northern Chad.	
Shelter Description	Straw round huts with cone shaped straw roofs, where straw is rare, millet stalks are used.	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Energy)	Most people light fires for light and warmth. Kerosene supplies are not plentiful, but some have kerosene lamps.	
Clothing	Men wear jalabyas, long robes and occasionally a white turban. Women in villages wear pagnes, which is a length of material wrapped around the bottom part of the body as a skirt or dress,(or they wear dresses) and short veils.	
Transportation	It is hard to get to this area without a 4wheel drive. Transportation to the villages is difficult because of unsealed roads, which during rainy season are virtually impassable. Travel is slow. There is no regular public transportation. Goods are taken to market on foot or by camels or donkeys.	
Infant Mortality Rate	16%	
Life Expectancy	63.4 years	
Comment (Community Development)	There is expressed need for dispensaries and hospitals.	
<b>Society &amp; Culture</b>		
Family Structures	Extended family, patriarchal. They are permitted to have more than one wife. Some have two wives, but three is very exceptional. They mostly marry among their own group, very rarely with other groups like the Asongories.	
Neighbor Relations	No problems or disputes with neighbors. An amicable overlap of culture in market situations. Haddad Arabs are somewhat disliked, but otherwise the Arabs are seen as brothers.	
Authority / Rule	They have a sultan, a Mararit, who resides in Adre. Imams are the village chiefs in the large villages and they are also given the responsibility for the smaller villages where there are secretaries responsible for some duties. A chef de race represents their people group in the city of Njamena. Men predominate in the authority structure.	
Social Habits/Groupings	Men and women eat separately, but they do some dancing together.	
Cultural Change Pace	Slow	
Identification With National Culture	Similar	
Self Image	Prestigious	

## The Mararit of Chad

Item Name	Item Note
Judicial / Punishment System	The sultan carries out judicial authority, Chef de race and chef de village, judges disputes and arbitrates in cases that arise.
Celebrations	Islamic celebrations, accession of sultan or appointment of local official, circumcision (male and female, around the time of transition into adulthood) name giving ceremony and National day.
Recreations	Talking with friends, visiting and dancing. Hunting is not practiced much these days.
Art Forms	They have their own music and dance.
Media	Radio only. They listen to Arabic radio from as far away as London. There is interest in radio in their own language.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive
Comment (Culture)	Some people are more open than others. Recent changes going on with the increased ownership of radios they try new dances and musical expressions. Arrival of schools has an impact.

### Youth

### Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Children help with the herds and agriculture. Girls help with childcare and housework.
Youth Problems (Teens)	Having school buildings completed or built.
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Primary school education is an expressed need. Some started with building schools, but have it not completed.
Comment (Youth)	Many who have been interviewed have not even one year of primary schooling, although many receive some education in Koran schools.

### Education

### Group Description

Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	7
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French
Comment (Education)	Most children go to Koran schools in the villages, run by the local marabout. Their instruction is in Classical Koran Arabic, with explanation in Chadian Arabic.

### Church Growth

### Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Verified
Reached Classification	World A
Comment (Church Growth)	There are no Mararit Christians known to this day. There is no Christian work going on in this people group.

### Religion & Response

### Status of Christianity

Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Ramadan, Eid Al-Adha, circumcision sacrifices are made of cattle, sheep or chicken, also when there is a death or prior to sowing the fields before the rainy season. Some pre Islamic practices and beliefs survive. Charms are worn by men, women and children to protect them against harm, evil spirits, fetishes and sickness. They are perceived as part of the practice of Islam. The items are made by marabouts. Marabouts may be different to imams and fakis (Koran teachers) in the community.
Attitude To Christianity	Very resistant
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant
Resistance / Receptivity	They have reservations because of Islamic teaching.
Religious Analogies & Bridges	As for Muslims with pre Islamic traditions. Sacrifices.
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Chad is a secular state and there is officially freedom of religion, but there is fear of Muslim family and community reactions which might mean ostracism or even death.
Comment (Religion)	Christianity may be regarded as the belief of other people groups that they are distant from.
Recommended Approaches	Living among the Ibilak to help with development needs and education, literacy or health-care would provide opportunities to share the gospel.

## The Mararit of Chad

### Item Name

Current Needs

### Item Note

They are in need of medical work, teachers, development work, literacy workers, translators, evangelists and church planting.

Items For Prayer

For the right workers to be called to this people. For the people to be opened to the good news. For a indigenous church to be raised up to be a witness and honor to the Lord and in the communities of the Mararit and the Abu Sharib.

### Scripture

### Status of Christianity

Translation Status

Definite

Available Scripture

None

Comment (Scripture)

There might audio cassettes available from Gospel Recordings International.

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature

No

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings

No

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos

No

Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio

No

### Christian Literature And Media Status

### Status of Christianity

Literature Available

No.

Audio Recordings Available

There might be a gospel recording (gospel recording catalog 1996, under Maba).

Films Available

No.

Radio Programs Available

They might be able to hear Christian Arabic Radio.  
Nothing in their language.

Videos Available

No

Audio Visual Available

No