

## The Afade of Cameroon and Nigeria



representative photo by Carsten ten Brink cropped CC

The Afade people live in the northern part of Cameroon, in an area a little south of Lake Chad. Their language area extends into Nigeria to the west.

Traditional rulers in the area are called sultans. Rulers of smaller regions are called blamas. The town of Afade is the hub of the language area with a few surrounding villages. A number of Afade speakers also live in the larger cities of Cameroon, Nigeria, and Chad.

Linguistically, Afade is one of eight Kotoko languages, and Afade speakers refer to themselves ethnically as Kotoko. A Latin script writing system has been developed for Afade but it is not currently in use.

The Kotoko are traditionally fishermen and farmers, making use of the seasonal rivers that flow in the area to irrigate their fields. It can be very difficult to access the language area during rainy season (June -September).

Islam dominates as the primary religion, with a good deal of syncretism with animism. It is not known if there are any Afade Christians. At this point, because of the activity of the Boko Haram, all missionaries have been asked to leave the north of Cameroon . There was a Nigerian missionary reaching out to the Kotoko but he was killed by the Boko Haram in 2011.

**Primary Religion:**

Islam

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

0.4% Nigeria  
 0.6% Cameroon

**Churches:**

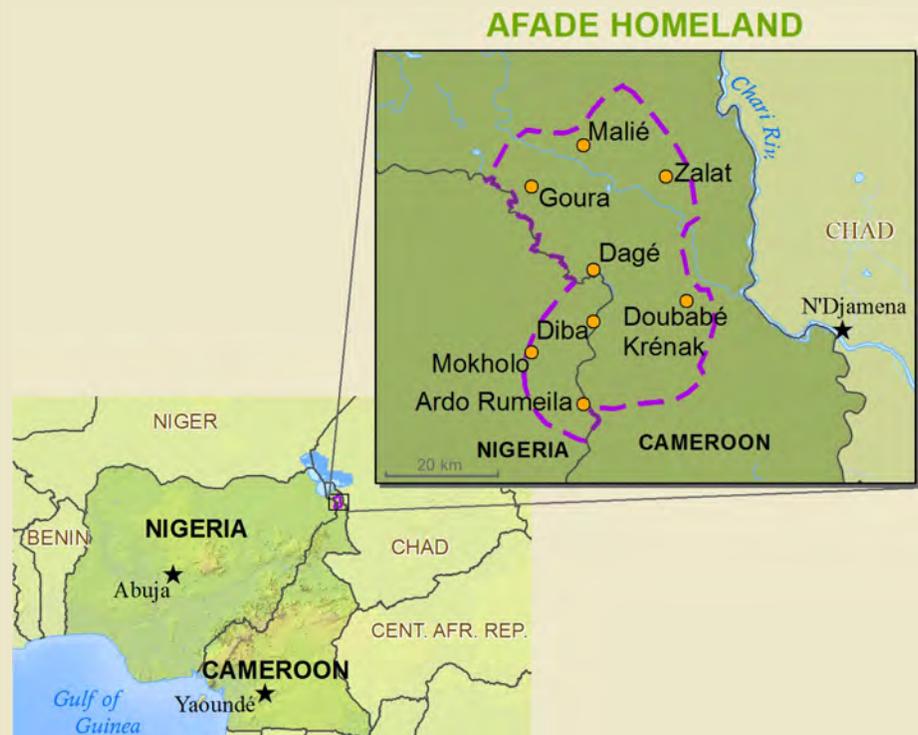
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**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

None in their language

**Population (date):**

5,000 (2004)



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### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian (%)	2% in Nigeria; 4% in Cameroon
Believe Jesus is a prophet, but not God's Son (%)	~ 100% are Muslim
Believe in their traditional religion (%)	most
Number of Pastors	0
Number of Missionaries Working	0
Comment	At this point, because of the activity of the Boko Haram, it is believed that all missionaries have left the north of Cameroon.
Response to the Gospel	There is no indigenous church.
Number of Churches	0
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No, but work is ongoing.  Hindrances To Scripture Use Literacy in French, the language of education, is quite low, and literacy in Afade is non-existent. No Scripture translation is ongoing, though work is being done in a closely related language. Islam presents a challenge as does the influence of a radical Islamic group, the Boko Haram, based in north-eastern Nigeria.
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Recordings: no Literature: no Films/ video: no Radio: Unknown
Bilingualism	Afade speakers use Shoa Arabic (a dialect of Chadian Arabic) primarily in the market place. There is a NT available for Chadian Arabic but it is unclear whether Afade speakers know that language well enough to use the scriptures that are available. French is used in the school system, but literacy rates in French are quite low.
Cross-cultural Missionaries Needed?	Yes. At this point, no Christian work is being done from within the community. Mission work coming from outside the community will need to be done once it is safe enough to work in the area.