

The Elip of Cameroon



representative photo

The Elip live in the savanna plains and are agriculturalists. They are part of the Mbam communities. Their income comes from the sales of vegetables and fruits. They also sell yams, manioc, plantain, macabo and taro in the neighboring village markets. They live in mud brick or concrete blockhouses with tin roofs. Some of the houses near the main road have electricity, while the other use wood as the main energy and fuel.

Generations of Elip people cling to traditional beliefs rooted in a fear of evil spirits. The fear of sorcery is prevalent, and the issue of sorcery is regularly raised at times of misfortune. The ongoing struggle is the power people attribute to the spirit realm.

Though a large majority of people in Mbam communities may attend church or profess Christianity, they lack a foundation in God’s Word. Because of the area’s multilingual nature, church leaders tend to conduct services in French — the national language. As a result, churchgoers often fall back into familiar traditional beliefs, and the next generation repeats the cycle. Truths from God’s Word in the mother tongue can tear down traditional strongholds.

Stories play a far more significant role than simple entertainment among the Elip people. Storytelling is a common way to relay vital information. This time-honored method will be utilized to reach people with God’s Word and address the most pressing spiritual issues.

Primary Religion:

Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

unknown

Churches:

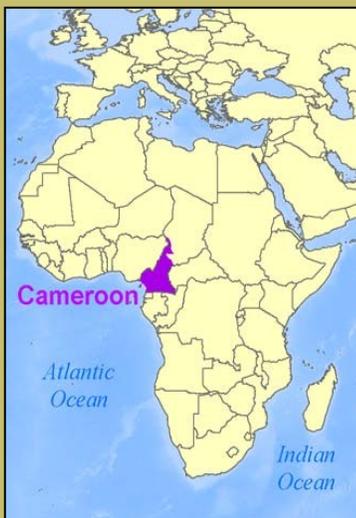
3

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

Portions

Population (date):

15,000 (2014)



The Elip of Cameroon

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian	50-100%
Is the Word of God Translated?	Plans are to add eight more oral Bible stories to repertoire, audio translation of Gospel of Mark and to determine next steps in Bible translation.
Response To The Gospel	The church may be largely nominal or syncretistic.
Jesus a Good Man/Prophet but not God's Son	unknown
Hindrances to Scripture Distribution	Community apathy toward print media. Narrow window to leverage intern-training opportunity for the greater Francophone translation context..
Cross-Cultural Missionaries Needed	Need missionaries to do Bible translation.

The Elip of Cameroon

Group Description

Geography & Environment

Location	Bokito Sub-Division, Mbam Devison, Centre Province.
Geological Type	Savannahs and plains
Climate	Equatorial.

Economics

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Occupation	Agriculturalists (swidden)
Income Sources	Sale of vegetables and fruits
Products/Crafts	Yams, manioc, plantain, macabo, taro.
Trade Partners	Neighboring village markets.

Community Development

Health Care	Poor
Comment	Two to three local pharmacies and one clinic (Catholic) are available, but people with serious cases have to travel for 25 to 30 kilometers to receive treatment.
Diet	Good
Comment	Agricultural produce (yams, manioc, vegetables)
Water	Poor
Comment	The pump system is failing. They are dependent upon stream water and water holes.
Shelter Description	Adequate. Mud brick or concrete block. Tin roof.
Energy/Fuel	Fair
Comment	Some houses have electricity if near the main road, but the majority use wood for fuel. Most of their villages are along the main surfaced roads.
Clothing	Mostly western.
Transportation	Fair. Most Elip villages are on main surfaced roads.
<u>Society & Culture</u>	
Media	Only available in French.
<u>Education</u>	
Primary Schools	2
Teacher to Pupil Ratio	50

The Elip of Cameroon

Language of Instruction Early Years
Comment

French

Two schools exist among them. Both are primary. French is the language of instruction for grades 1-3 in unmixed language areas. There are no titles in vernacular.

The Elip of Cameroon

Status of Christianity

Religion and Response

Attitude to Christianity Somewhat receptive

Scripture

Need for Translation Elip is related to Mmala and Yangben and could possibly use the same translation as these two speech forms.

Church Growth

Number of Missionaries Working 3

Number of Churches 3

History of Christianity

By Whom Roman Catholic Church

Mission/Churches

Organization #1 Roman Catholic Church

Comment Medical mission. Three Catholic nuns, whose ministry is pastoral and healthcare.