



## The Ble of Burkina Faso

The Ble live in southwestern Burkina Faso in a village west of Banfora and south of Sindou. They are surrounded by many other ethnic groups, including the Turka, the Senoufo, the Noumou, the Natiro, and the Kiramba.

Unlike Burkina's regions further north, the Ble have a fairly long rainy season, which should have a positive effect on farming, their main source of income. Yet the Ble remain rather poor and live in very modest conditions, similar to most rural burkinabe groups.

Due to the fact that only one small village speaks Ble, the entire population has become bilingual in Jula. Jula is the trade language of southwestern Burkina Faso.

The entire village of Bledougou is Muslim. According to the Ble, Islam has always been the prevailing religion. No Christian missionary work has been carried out among the people.

**Primary Religion:**

Islam

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

**Churches:**

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None, but nearly extinct

**Population (date):**

800 (1994)



Map Unavailable

# The Ble of Burkina Faso

## Item Name

## Item Note

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	few
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	100
Number Of Communities	1
Is The Word Of God Translated?	no
Translation Medium	The New Testament is in Jula, the Ble's second language
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	The strong Islamic presence may hinder Christian efforts.
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	No form of gospel presentation is available in the Ble language.
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	The Ble need help with literacy and community health.

## Profile Summary

### Population All Countries

World Population For This People	800
World Population (Date)	1994
Comment (World Population)	There are 800 Blés all living in one village. Only 500 continue to speak Blé. The other 300 live in different parts of the village and speak Jula and Senoufo.

## Group Description

### Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name	Burkina Faso
Country Name	Burkina Faso

## Group Description

### Geography & Environment

Location	One village west of Douna and south of Sindou, in southwestern Burkina Faso.
Country	Burkina Faso
Ecosystem Type	Scrub Forest
Geological Type	Interfluvial
Elevation	300 m
Longitude	6W
Latitude	10N
Climate	Tropical - hot with a fairly long rainy season

## Group Description

### Language & Linguistics

Comment (Language)	All are bilingual in Jula.
Alternate Language Names	DYALA, DYALANU
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Somewhat receptive
Second Languages	100
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	French is the official language of Burkina Faso, and also the language of education. Anyone with one or more years of schooling knows a little French.
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Jula is the trade language for southwestern Burkina Faso. Because there is only one village where Ble is spoken, any contact with outsiders is in Jula.
Linguistically Related Languages	MARKA
Linguistically Related Languages	MARKA
Linguistically Related Languages	JULA
Linguistically Related Languages	BOLON
Linguistically Related Languages	BOLON

## Group Description

## The Ble of Burkina Faso

### Item Name

### Item Note

Linguistically Related Languages

JULA

Comments (Related Languages)

Jula is the trade language for southwestern Burkina Faso. Because there is only one village where Ble is spoken, any contact with outsiders is in Jula.

Neighboring Languages

NOW

Neighboring Languages

TURKA

Neighboring Languages

SENOUFO, SICITE

Neighboring Languages

SENOUFO, SENARA

Neighboring Languages

NATIORO

### Literacy

### Group Description

Literacy Attitude

Somewhat receptive

Active Literacy Program

Yes

Comment (Literacy)

Literacy is in Jula, the trade language. Some may be interested in literacy in Ble, but at this point a literacy program in Ble doesn't look feasible.

### Economics

### Group Description

Subsistence Type

Agriculturalists

Average Annual Income

US\$140

Occupation

subsistence farmers

Income Sources

cultivating and selling cashews

Products / Crafts

Many sell cashews to the people in towns.

Trade Partners

They trade mostly with the Senoufu who surround their village.

Modernization / Utilities

There are no modern utilities in the village.

Comment (Economy)

The figure for the average income does not reflect what is earned by bartering, which is the most common form of trading in rural Burkina Faso.

### Community Development

### Group Description

Health Care (Quality)

Poor

Comment (Health Care)

There are no dispensaries or pharmacies in Bledougou.

Diet (Quality)

Poor

Comment (Diet)

millet, rice, corn, very few vegetables and meat, many seasonal fruits

Water (Quality)

Fair

Comment (Water)

The CFJA has a well that doesn't run dry, and the village is able to use that when their supply gets low.

Shelter Description

The Ble live in mud huts with thatched roofs.

Energy/Fuel (Quality)

None

Comment (Energy)

kerosene lanterns, wood

Clothing

Men and children wear western-style clothing, and women dress in traditional African garb.

Transportation

Some men ride bicycles, but for the most part people walk.

Life Expectancy

40

### Society & Culture

### Group Description

Family Structures

authoritarian, patrilineal

Neighbor Relations

stable, business ties

Cultural Change Pace

Slow

Identification With National Culture

Integrated

Celebrations

Traditional Muslim celebrations are observed.

Recreations

Men enjoy talking and trading in the markets.

Media

There is little to no media exposure in the village.

## The Ble of Burkina Faso

### Item Name

Local Language Broadcasting

### Item Note

None

Attitude To Outsiders

Somewhat receptive

Attitude To Change

Indifferent

### Youth

### Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)

boys: helping with the crops, taking care of the animals girls: helping with the crops, babysitting, housework

Youth Problems (Teens)

malnutrition, lack of money for education

Youth Greatest Needs (teens)

education, good medical care, a balanced diet

### Education

### Group Description

Primary Schools

1

Primary School Enrollment

35

Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled

100

Language Of Instruction Early Years

Dyula

Language Of Textbooks Early Years

French

Language Of Instruction Later Years

French

Language Of Textbooks Later Years

Dyula

Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous

1

Comment (Education)

The school is not a primary school, but more like a vocational school. It teaches subjects such as literacy in Jula, French literacy, and agricultural techniques. There is no primary school in Bledougou.

### Church Growth

### Status of Christianity

Reached Status

Evaluated

Comment (Church Growth)

The Ble have shown very little or no response toward the gospel. There are no known Christians and no churches in the village.

### Religion & Response

### Status of Christianity

Religious Practices & Ceremonies

Traditional Muslim celebrations are observed, along with some lingering animistic practices.

Attitude To Christianity

Somewhat resistant

Attitude To Religious Change

Somewhat resistant

Resistance / Receptivity

Resistance is seen in the fact that there is still no indigenous church.

Religious Analogies & Bridges

Islam can be a bridge.

Spiritual Climate And Openness

The Ble are 100% Muslim, and so are not likely to be open to Christianity.

Recommended Approaches

Missionaries may reach the young, who are more open to change and are acculturating to Jula speakers.

Current Needs

A stronger witness to the Ble is needed.

Items For Prayer

Pray for workers to bring the gospel, and that missionaries will find suitable cultural bridges.

### History Of Christianity In Group

### Status of Christianity

Comments (History of Christianity)

There is no missionary activity in this specific area.

### Scripture

### Status of Christianity

Translation Status

Unlikely

Available Scripture

None

Comment (Scripture)

100% of the people are bilingual in Jula, and Jula is starting to become the dominant language. Some children start a sentence in Ble but must finish it in Jula, and some children do not speak Ble at all. For this reason, a translation in the mother tongue is not necessary.

### Christian Literature And Media Status

### Status of Christianity

## The Ble of Burkina Faso

### Item Name

Literature Available

### Item Note

The New Testament is available in Jula, but most Bles are not aware that it exists.