

## The Bokoto of Central African Republic



At one time diamonds were the life blood of the Bokoto people. A hard days work was enough to provide for a family’s basic needs. But now there are no more diamond or forestry companies to feed the Bokoto speakers’ regional economy. Expatriates and bandits challenge every aspect of daily life and chip away at their hope.

For many, their only defense is to buy protection from local healers or appease lifeless gods. Christians have also confused Bible tenants as mere rituals.

Families now choose Africa’s other national resource: fertile land as subsistence farmers. They cultivate cassava , peanuts and corn and sell excess crops in markets. That’s their sole income — available if crops aren’t trampled by cows and goats.

Local economic conditions are driven by wealthy expatriates, who have significant cultural differences. And Bokoto speakers have little to defend their economy and land against continued exploitation.

Because of peoples’ increasing hopelessness, it was agreed that Bokoto people needed help quickly, so a Luke translation began almost immediately.

Early in the project Catholic, Apostolic and Cooperation churches all joined the effort. These pastors and congregations volunteered, provided translators and community checked excerpts for clarity and understanding. By the end of December 2011, they finished Luke and scheduled production for the “JESUS” film.

Given the community reception and need, the entire New Testament and six Old Testament books have been slated for translation. Before this large undertaking has even begun, Faith Comes by Hearing has agreed to provide Proclaimer broadcast tools to promote listening groups, evangelism and training.

**Primary Religion:**

Christian

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

15%

**Churches:**

Yes

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

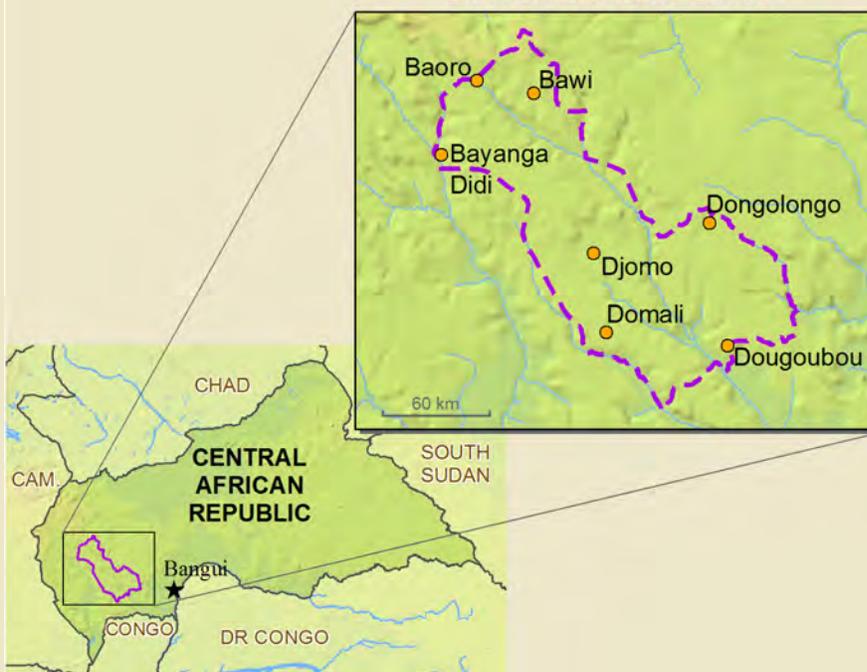
Portions

**Population (date):**

130,000



**BOKOTO HOMELAND**



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### Have They Heard The Gospel?

History of Christianity

About 80% of the people identify with Christianity: 51% are Protestant and 29%, Catholic; 15% are Muslim.

15% are Christians with an active, growing faith. They abandon fetishes, realizing they only give false hope.

Religious Practices and Ceremonies

In a crisis, many still turn to African traditional religion. Animism and ancestral worship enslave them to practices of appeasing lifeless gods. They think incantations influence judicial rulings, government actions and even church leadership. Payments for protection and healing take most of a household's available money.

Is the Word of God Translated?

The Gospel of Luke. Increased discipleship and outreach is stunted without God's Word to understand in their heart language.

Other Forms of Gospel Presentations

The JESUS film

Audio Recordings Available

Yes

# The Bokoto of Central African Republic

## Group Description

### Population all countries

World Population 130,000

World Population (Date) 1996

### Geography & Environment

Location Central Africa

Climate Generally tropical, with a wet season that lasts from June to September in the northern regions of the country, and from May to October in the south. During the wet season, rainstorms are an almost daily occurrence, and early morning fog is commonplace.

### Alternate Language Names

Other Mother Tongues Bhokoto, Bogodo, Bogoto, Bokodo, Bokpoto, Sangho

Dialects Bokoto (Ngata), Bokpan, Gbaya of Boda (Gbaya de Boda)

### Neighboring Languages

Ghanu, Banda-Banda, Banda-Yangene, Bofi, Gbaya-Bozoum

### Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage Public education in the Central African Republic is free and is compulsory from ages 6 to 14. However, approximately half of the adult population of the country is illiterate.

Higher education The University of Bangui, a public university located in Bangui, includes a medical school, and Euclid University, an international university in Bangui, are the two institutions of higher education in the Central African Republic.

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### Economics

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|------------------|---|
| Subsistence Type | Agricultural  |
| Occupation       | Farming: cassava, peanuts, maize, sorghum, millet, plantain |
| Income Sources   | Sale of vegetables and cotton; forestry and mining          |

### Community Development

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Health Care (Quality) | <p>As a member of the World Health Organization, the Central African Republic receives vaccination assistance, such as a 2014 intervention for the prevention of a measles epidemic. In 2007, female life expectancy was 48.2 years and male life expectancy 45.1 years. Care in childbirth is seriously lacking.</p> <p>Malaria is endemic and one of the leading causes of death in the Central African Republic. According to 2009 estimates, the HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is about 4.7% of the adult population (ages 15–49). In 2009 there was only around 1 physician for every 20,000 persons.</p> |
| Diet (Quality)        | Bokoto people depend on their own crops for food, which includes cassava, peanuts, corn and other vegetables.   |
| Comment               | Many people have fled their homes due to the civil war going on. This diminishes their ability to grow and harvest healthy crops and they must search the forests or depend on other sources for food.  |
| Water                 | 70% have access to good drinking water.   |

### Society & Culture

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Authority / Rule | France, ruled the country as a colony starting in the late 19th century. After gaining independence in 1960, the Central African Republic was ruled by a series of autocratic leaders; by the 1990s, calls for democracy led to the first multi-party democratic elections in 1993. The Central African Republic Bush War began in 2004 and, despite a peace treaty in 2007 and another in 2011, fighting broke out between government, Muslim, and Christian factions in December 2012, leading to ethnic and religious cleansing and massive population displacement in 2013 and 2014. |
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## **The Bokoto of Central African Republic**

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### Judicial / Punishment System

Like many other former French colonies, the Central African Republic's legal system is based on French law. The Supreme Court is made up of judges appointed by the president. There is also a Constitutional Court, and its judges are also appointed by the president.

### Recreations

CAR has a national football (soccer) team.

### Media

The Central African Republic has active television services, radio stations, internet providers and mobile phone carriers.

### **Education--Group Description**

#### Teacher To Pupil Ratio

AIDS-related deaths have taken a heavy toll on teachers, contributing to the closure of more than 100 primary schools between 1996 and 1998.

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### Status of Christianity

#### Religion and Response

Translation status

The Gospel of Luke was translated in 2011, and the JESUS film started. The entire New Testament and six Old Testament books have now been slated for translation.

Attitude toward Christianity

More than 70% identify with Christianity; but only 15% are active Christians who have turned away from traditional fetishes and ancestor worship.