

## The Bomu of Mali & Burkina Faso



The Bomu are a large people group based mainly in Mali; approximately 56,000 of the people live in Burkina Faso. Although they are considered themselves part of the Bwa peoples, their speech variety is distinct enough to be considered a separate language.

The Bomu are proud of their mother tongue, and eager to learn to read and write in it. For example, villages are known to ask those who have attended school to teach them to read. Nevertheless, there is still little in the way of formal literacy for the people, and any learning material must come from Mali to Burkina Faso.

The Bomu make their living by farming, herding livestock, gardening, and carpentry. They store their crops in mud-brick granaries. Government cooperatives exist to organize people for group farming projects. Families live together in rectangular houses with wood and mud roofs. Culturally, the father is the chief of the family. Men often have more than one wife and many children. A chief rules each village, and conflicts are usually settled within the community, although government officials may be called in for difficult cases.

The Bomu have been very receptive to Christianity, which has become a major religion among the people. Nevertheless, the influence of the traditional religion is apparent. The young are quite open to religious change, and thirty churches in the area are well equipped to reach their own people. However, the Bomu still require outside assistance so that literacy work may move forward.

**Primary Religion:**

Animism

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

**Churches:**

120

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

Complete Bible

**Population (date):**

361,700 (1991)



Map Unavailable

## The Bomu of Mali & Burkina Faso

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Number Of Pastors	60	
Number Of Missionaries Working	4	
Number Of Churches	120	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	N.T. since 30s. O.T. just finished translated.	
Translation Medium	written	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Portions of O.T.: Genesis, Exodus, Proverbs	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Less and less, the church is quite mature.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	361700	
World Population (Date)	1991	
Comment (World Population)	info from Ethnologue, 1996	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Mali	
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	They live in a triangle between San and Sofara in Mali.	
Country	Mali	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Plains	
Longitude	4	
Latitude	13	
Climate	Dry season (Oct.- Apr.) and rainy season (may-Sept.), Cold (Dec./Jan.) and Hot (Apr./May) seasons	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	info from Rose Nickel, CMA, 1997	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Comment (Language)	Info from Ethnologue, 1992 and from Rose Nickel, CMA, 1997. They are 50% monolingual.	
Alternate Language Names	Boomu, Boore, Bwamu	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	50	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	BAMBARA	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	BAMBARA	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Bambara is used on the market and with other Malians	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	French is used in education and in books.	
Linguistically Related Languages	BWAMU	
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Comments (Related Languages)	Bambara is used on the market and with other Malians	
Comments (Related Languages)	French is used in education and in books.	
Neighboring Languages	BAMBARA	
Neighboring Languages	DOGON	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Neighboring Languages	SENOUFO, MAMARA	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Publications In Vernacular	12	
Comment (Literacy)	There is a literacy program organized by the church and one organized by the government. info from Rose Nickel, CMA, 1997	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Occupation	farming	
Income Sources	grain(millet and peanuts), animals (goats and chickens), some cotton, colbeting and selling nuts, etc.	
Products / Crafts	spinning cotton, make baskets, mats, clay pots, tied chairs (wicker type).	
Trade Partners	Bambara	
Modernization / Utilities	CMDT(=Compagnie Malienne pour le Developpement du Textile) helps them with getting donkey carts, exporting peanuts, cotton, etc.	
Comment (Economy)	info from Rose Nickel, CMA, 1997.	
<b>Community Development</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	There are 4 dispensaries in the area. Hospital is in San, 70 km. away.	
Diet (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Diet)	Millet mush (too), mostly grain and leaves. Rice and meat are rare.	
Water (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Water)	There are wells in each village.	
Shelter Description	Mud huts with flat roofs.	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Energy)	They use wood for cooking. It is harder and harder to get.	
Clothing	Women wear wrap around skirts (pagne) and loose tops. Men wear trousers and shirts or traditional robes and home-spun cotton loose fitting shorts.	
Transportation	Bicycles, donkey carts, few motos.	
Infant Mortality Rate	20% befr.5 years.	
Life Expectancy	55 years	
Leading Cause Of Death	malaria	
Comment (Community Development)	info from Rose Nickel, CMA, 1997	
<b>Society &amp; Culture</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Neighbor Relations	close, They do a lot of work together.	
Celebrations	They love to dance and sing all night.	
Recreations	drinking strong tea, playing soccer, visiting, playing "wari".	
Media	Radio Parana, broadcasting from San, owned by the Catholics.	
Local Language Broadcasting	> 1 hour daily	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat resistant	
Attitude To Change	Somewhat resistant	
Comment (Culture)	info from Rose Nickel, CMA, 1997	
<b>Youth</b>		<b>Group Description</b>

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Item Name	Item Note	
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	farming like everyone else	
Comment (Youth)	info from Rose Nickel, CMA, 1997	
Education		Group Description
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French	
Comment (Education)	There is one school per 5 villages.	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Reached	
Bible Schools	1	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	2	
Christian Literacy Centers	10	
Comment (Church Growth)	info from Rose Nickel, CMA, 1997	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	There are protestants, Catholics and animists	
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Very open.	
Comment (Religion)	info from Rose Nickel, CMA, 1997	
Recommended Approaches	National pastors do evangelism as well as local Christians.	
Current Needs	literature production and revision of the N.T.	
Items For Prayer	publication process of the O.T.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1935	
By Whom	Christian and Missionary Alliance	
Significant Events	Students heard the Gospel from C&MA missionaries in San. They came home and shared it. Then missionaries were asked to go to Sanekuy. This is where the C&MA began it's work.	
Comments (History of Christianity)	info from Rose Nickel, CMA, 1997	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	In Progress	
Available Scripture	New Testament	
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed	
Scripture Use	Majority of churches	
Scripture Use	5	
Comment (Scripture)	N.T. has been translated but needs revision. O.T. translation is being finished presently (June 1997). Scriptures are being used a lot. info from Rose Nickel, CMA, 1997	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity
Organization Name	Christian and Missionary Alliance	
Main Ministry	Medical	
Year Started	1935	
Number Of Expatriate Workers	4	
Language Used By Workers	Bomu	
Christian Literature And Media Status		Status of Christianity

## The Bomu of Mali & Burkina Faso

<b>Item Name</b>	<b>Item Note</b>
Literature Available	C&MA has produced all their literature. There is a need for more literature. Very few books are available.
Audio Recordings Available	There is one recording done by Gospel Recordings.
Films Available	The Jesus film is available
Radio Programs Available	none
Videos Available	none
Audio Visual Available	none