



## The Fania of Chad

Living in relative isolation on the savannah plains north of the wide Chari River, the Fania are very proud of their identity. They are said to be related to the Bua, their cousins on the other side of the Chari River. But unlike the Bua, who are great fishers, the Fania are known for their hunting skills.

The elders of the villages remember the time when the wild animals were so plentiful, one could almost walk up to an antelope and catch it with bare hands. But now, because of the revolutionary changes which have affected the nation, it is impossible for the Fania to live off the wild game they hunt. They have had to resort to farming millet and raising chickens to supplement their diet. Even now, when a Fania farmer working in his field hears the yelp of a jackal or the snort of a warthog, he will want to drop his planting sabre and pick up his hunting spear.

**Primary Religion:**

Islam, Muslim-Animism

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

0%

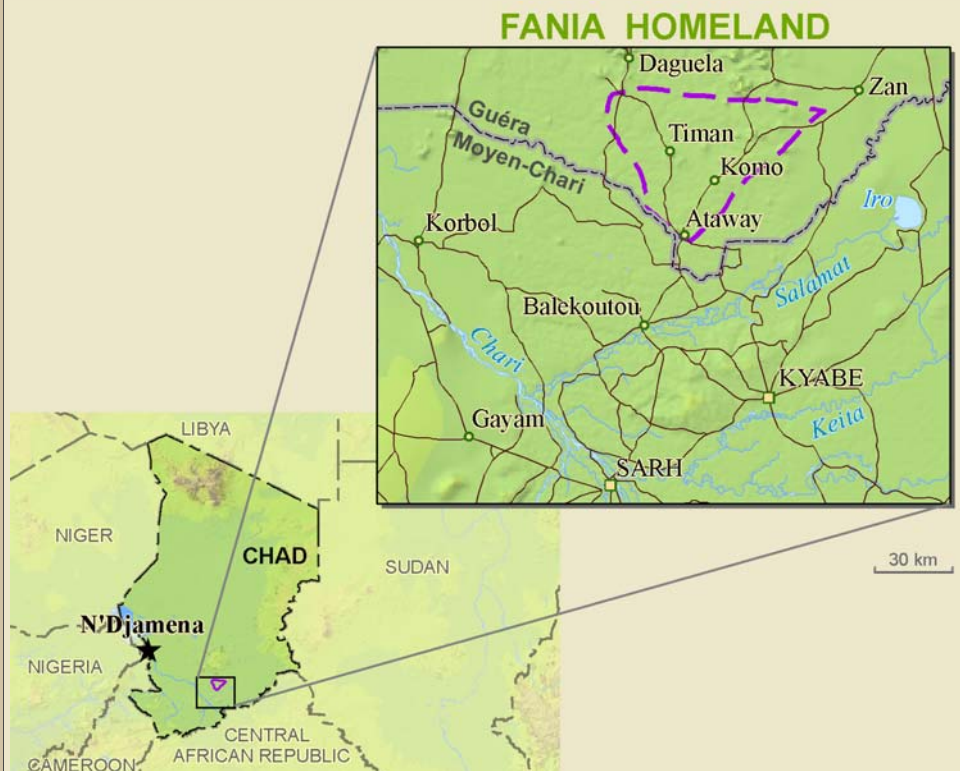
**Churches:**

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None in their language

**Population (date):**

2,000 (1993)



# The Fania of Chad

## Item Name

## Item Note

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

### Profile Summary

Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0%
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	100
Number Of Communities	16+
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No
Translation Medium	None
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Most of the people don't know how to read French, much less Chadian Arabic.
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes, there is a need for culturally sensitive Christians to work in Bible translation, literacy development, and medical missions in this isolated region of Chad.

### Population All Countries

### Group Description

World Population For This People	2,000
World Population (Date)	1993
World Population (Urban Percent)	300
Comment (World Population)	The population is spread out in small villages. There is a Fania quarter in Sarh.

### Countries Where People Group Lives

### Group Description

Country Name	Chad
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### Geography & Environment

### Group Description

Location	West of Lake Iro, North of Sarh, centered around Temki.
Country	Chad
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs
Geological Type	Plains
Elevation	250 to 500 meters above sea level
Longitude	18.5 degrees East
Latitude	10.3 degrees North
Climate	Dry, arid

### Language & Linguistics

### Group Description

Comment (Language)	Mana is not an alternate language name; Kobe is an empty village now. Monolingual population is probably less than 5%, since most Fania are able to communicate in Shuwa Arabic.
Alternate Language Names	None
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive
Percent Monolingual (%)	5
Second Languages	95
Second Languages	55
Second Languages	15
Second Languages	30
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	KOKE
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	BUA
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	BOLGO
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, SHUWA
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Item Name	Item Note	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	BUNAK	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	95% of those interviewed said they could always express themselves with confidence using only Chadian Arabic. This was evidenced in their ability to speak Chadian Arabic during the interviews.	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	55% of those interviewed said they could always speak and understand Koké confidently. Koké may be closely related to Fania and Bolgo linguistically.	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	30% of those interviewed said they were always able to speak Bolgo confidently. The Bolgo are their neighbors to the east.	
Linguistically Related Languages	BUNAK	
Linguistically Related Languages	BUA	
Comments (Related Languages)	It is said that the Fania are close cousins of the Bua; this is evidenced by the Fania village chiefs families being of clear Bua origin.	
Neighboring Languages	KOKE	
Neighboring Languages	BOLGO	
Neighboring Languages	ARABIC, SHUWA	
Neighboring Languages	ZAN GULA	
Neighboring Languages	BUA	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	15	
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Comment (Literacy)	85% of the Fania interviewed said they would like to learn to read and write in Fania first, if such a literacy program were developed for them.	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Pastoralists	
Average Annual Income	less than \$100	
Occupation	farmers of millet; hunters of wild game; wild honey gatherers.	
Income Sources	Selling their produce, wild game or honey at the Daguella market	
Products / Crafts	Raw produce sold only; no craft production observed	
Trade Partners	The Arabs trade milk and meat to the Fania for agricultural products. The Bua trade fish to the Fania. The other neighboring groups purchase the Fania's honey.	
Modernization / Utilities	millet granary cooperative set up by ONDR/Swiss Project; wells dug with assistance from Swiss Project/ONDR	
Comment (Economy)	The Fania men enjoy hunting and honey gathering more than farming.	
<b>Community Development</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Health Care (Quality)	None	
Comment (Health Care)	The Fania are 63 miles (105 km) from the nearest dispensary, on poorly maintained roads.	
Diet (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Diet)	Millet with green vegetables or meat (chicken, beef, wild game) in sauce.	
Water (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Water)	Most villages have wells; the water is clear and potable.	
Shelter Description	A round hut, made of mud bricks, with a cone-shaped straw roof.	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None	
Comment (Energy)	Nearest town with electricity is 70 miles (116 km) away, in Sarh. The Fania use brushwood for cooking and heating.	
Clothing	Woven fabrics, imported from outside Chad and bought from the Shuwa Arab tradesmen. Men wear long robes with long sleeves, and women wear wrap around skirts with a flowing robe-like overdress.	

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Item Name	Item Note
Transportation	Donkeys or donkey carts are occasionally available. Otherwise, most travel must be done on foot. There are no cars or bicycles in the Zan Gula area.
Infant Mortality Rate	18%
Life Expectancy	31 years
Leading Cause Of Death	Intestinal infections
Comment (Community Development)	The current lack of transportation has contributed to the cohesiveness of the group.
Society & Culture	Group Description
Family Structures	extended family.
Neighbor Relations	cohesive, interdependent
Authority / Rule	Village chiefs are subservient to the canton chief.
Social Habits/Groupings	No clan or caste system
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Identification With National Culture	Distinct
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	Chief and village elders settle disputes.
Celebrations	Islamic (Ramadan, Eid Al-Ahda...) No evidence of traditional celebrations observed.
Recreations	Socializing, evening dances
Art Forms	None observed
Media	Radio National du Tchad, broadcasts in Sara, Shuwa Arabic and French. Most of the Fania who have a radio to listen to the broadcasts seem to understand the Shuwa Arabic broadcasts well.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive
Attitude To Change	Somewhat resistant
Comment (Culture)	Outwardly, the Fania strongly identify with Islam. But, according to Anne-Marie Hochet (ONDR), there is a strong Margai (animistic) undercurrent. This needs to be researched further.
Youth	Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Helping in the family field. The older girls help with the housework and younger children, and carry water from the well. The boys learn how to hunt and gather honey from their fathers.
Youth Problems (Teens)	Premarital sex
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Social activities, something to do in the evenings together
Education	Group Description
Primary Schools	3
Primary School Enrollment	500
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	20
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	50
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French
Language Of Instruction Later Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	French
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	1
Comment (Education)	The spontaneous school in Maikondjo is said to be homogeneous; other schools serving the Fania are in Daguila and Melfi.
Church Growth	Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Evaluated

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Comment (Church Growth)

### Item Note

There are no Fania Christians and there are no Christians, national or foreign, reaching out in any way to the Fania at this time (1993).

### Religion & Response

### Status of Christianity

Religious Practices & Ceremonies

The Muslim Festivals (Ramadan, Eid Al-Ahda). No animistic practices or ceremonies observed.

Attitude To Christianity

Somewhat resistant

Attitude To Religious Change

Somewhat resistant

Resistance / Receptivity

They indicated they are content to be Muslims. It will take a demonstration of the love of God through a Christian worker there to open their hearts to the Good News, something they have yet to see.

Religious Analogies & Bridges

Jesus' sacrifice, as seen in the sacrifice of Abraham's son celebrated during Eid Al-Ahda. Such redemptive analogies may be useful, provided background is explained to the Fania, who do not know their religion's beliefs very well.

Spiritual Climate And Openness

The Fania strongly identify with Islam, but none of them observed prayers at sunset, a common practice of any serious Chadian Muslim.

Comment (Religion)

Anne Marie Hochet (ONDR) says that the Fania still practice the traditional religion, but, to preserve it, are not willing to speak about it with outsiders.

Recommended Approaches

Work with the Assemblées Chrétiennes du Tchad, as they have a vision for reaching the Guéra region for Christ. Also, medical missions and literacy work may provide an open door to begin an outreach among them.

Current Needs

The top priority for development, as the Fania see it, is the provision of community development and self help projects. Schools and adult education are also a major felt need. The region seriously needs a well-supplied dispensary or clinic.

Items For Prayer

Pray for God to send qualified, culturally sensitive Christian workers to the Fania. Pray for God to open the hearts of the Fania to the Good News.

### History Of Christianity In Group

### Status of Christianity

Comments (History of Christianity)

The Fania were identified as an unreached people group by AIM/TEAM in 1991.

### Scripture

### Status of Christianity

Translation Status

Probable

Available Scripture

None

Uncertain Need Explained

Bilingualism in Chadian Arabic

Comment (Scripture)

The group takes pride in their language, which is the only language used between themselves. Translation of the Scriptures into Fania may be the key to reaching them with the message of the Good News.

### Christian Literature And Media Status

### Status of Christianity

Literature Available

Nothing available in Fania.

Audio Recordings Available

Nothing available in Fania.

Films Available

Nothing available in Fania.

Radio Programs Available

Nothing available in Fania.

Videos Available

Nothing available in Fania.

Audio Visual Available

Nothing available in Fania.