



## The Cubeo of Colombia

**Primary Religion:**

Christian/Animism

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

20%

**Churches:**

21

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

NT available, OT summary

**Population (date):**

6,000 (1999)



Map Unavailable

# The Cubeo of Colombia

Item Name	Item Note	Profile Summary
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		
Call Themselves Christian (%)	20%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	20%	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	(1997)	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	75%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	5%	
Number Of Pastors	13	
Comment (Pastors)	Catholic: 40-50 young men trained as catechists in Mitu. Evangelicals: 13 pastors.	
Response To The Gospel	<p>Christianity was introduced to the Cubeo by Catholics. They were baptized without much teaching/understanding and without lifestyle change or need to respond to the Scripture. At first growth was rapid, but nominal. Since Scripture has been in Cubeo, there has been growth with understanding – gradual, but stable. People who became Christians really understood commitment and turned their back on satanic aspects of own culture (revealed by Holy Spirit).</p> <p>Evangelism is difficult among Catholics. 80% because of apathy: “I’m fine”.</p> <p>By becoming Christian they are disrespecting their whole ancestry because the culture revolves around shamans. Ancestry deals with the anaconda spirit and beliefs revolving around the spirit of the anaconda.</p> <p>Not as simple as presenting facts of Scripture as facts; embracing truth of Scripture obligates them to reject their cultural heritage</p>	
Number Of Communities	80-90	
Comment (Number Communities)	80-90 communities, but of those communities about 50 have 70-100 people in each community and the others are smaller villages except for the largest community which has over 200.	
Number Of Churches	21	
Comment (Churches)	<p>Of 66 villages that were visited, 15-18 had an evangelical church. Most villages have 70-100 people.</p> <p>Evangelicals would move to nearest village with an evangelical church.</p> <p>80-90 Cubeo in Colombia (emigration to Venezuela and Brazil because of per</p>	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	New Testament and summary of Old Testament (30%) Print, Audio [17 recordings of gospel stories], Video [film of Luke]	
Translation Medium	Printed, Audio and Visual	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Literacy is a skill they want to develop in Spanish. Primarily Christians are interested in literacy skills in Cubeo. Not many books in Cubeo. Cost: books are not easily replaced, since they are stored in the capital. Transportation into the area is only by air and there is a risk of terrorists.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	<p>Recordings: 17 on tape, of gospel stories and two personal testimonies</p> <p>Literature: Inductive Bible study books for Philemon, Philippians, Titus, Luke</p> <p>Film/Video: [New Media Bible] Luke film</p> <p>Radio: not sure – not at last point (Spanish broadcast ALAS HCJB)</p>	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	The Cubeo are hospitable and receptive to any visitors. Because of their receptivity to change, infant mortality has decreased and expected life span rates have increased. 80% of the villages have rainwater collection systems brought in by the government. However, there is always room for more community development and education.	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Colombia	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	In Colombia the Vaupes River and its tributaries between Miraflores and the Brazilian border; in Brazil near San Gabriel; in Venezuela near Puerto Ayacucho. Miraflores -- North end; Villa Fatima --South end.	
Country	Colombia	
Ecosystem Type	Tropical Forest	

## The Cubeo of Colombia

Item Name	Item Note
Geological Type	Riverine
Elevation	200-500m
Longitude	69.75-71.5W
Latitude	1-1.5N
Climate	Heavy rainy season is March to July. Dry season is Sept to Oct. Nov to Dec is somewhat rainy and Dec to Feb is the long dry season. Temperature is upper 70-90 degree Fahrenheit except for the rainy season where it can be as cool as 65. A couple days of the year it is into the 50s. This is when people sit around the fire. These are called "Sloth Days," because no one can work and they are compared to the lazy sloth. This is named after the legend that the sloth brings the cold weather as it travels northwest from Brazil.

### Language & Linguistics

### Group Description

Primary Language	CUBE0
Alternate Language Names	K0BEWA
Alternate Language Names	HEHENAWA
Alternate Language Names	K0BEUA
Alternate Language Names	CUVE0
Alternate Language Names	K0BÉWA
Alternate Language Names	KUBWA
Alternate Language Names	PAMIWA
Comments (Dialect)	Vaupés dialect (largest dialect). Querarí (middle) Cudujarí (smallest) Dialects do not cause difficulties in understanding
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive
Percent Monolingual (%)	5%
Second Languages	All Eastern Tucanoan languages. Most Cubeo's speak three languages, -- their mother's, father's, and an educational language.
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	2/3-80% have two MT. Cubeo is the lingua franca of NW Vaupés.
Comments (Related Languages)	Middle Tucanoan language family == Cubeo Letuama (used to be Retuará) Tanimuka [Eastern and [Western] Tucanoan as well]
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	Kakua
Active Language Programs	no
Corrections To Ethnologue Entry	Remove the " about 5% of the population are 7 years old or younger."  Spanish            Cubeo Men 10-30 = 90% 75% Men 31-50 = 70%50% Men 50+ = 50%30%  Women 10-30 = 80%65% Women 31-50 = 50%30% Women 50+ = 10%5-10%

### Literacy

### Group Description

Percent Literate For Men	SpanishCubeo 10-30 = 90% 75% 31-50 = 70%50% 50+ = 50%30%
Percent Literate For Women	SpanishCubeo 10-30 = 80%65% 31-50 = 50%30% 50+ = 10%5-10%
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat resistant
Active Literacy Program	No
Comment (Active Literacy Program)	One program a few years ago, where Cubeo was the language of instruction for kindergarten through 1st grades, and then in second and third grade they transitioned from Cubeo to Spanish. The program is no longer in use.

# The Cubeo of Colombia

## Item Name

Publications In Vernacular

Comment (Literacy)

## Item Note

Hymn book, biblical study books, dictionary, 50+ other books, newspaper that comes out 2-3 times a year (1986-1996, but unsure is still published)

Not much is available (57 titles). Spanish literacy is empowering. Literacy in Cubeo is mostly of interest to Christians. They also use Cubeo for writing letters, especially to daughters who have moved to another tribe. There is not much motivation to have oral traditions in print. They are interested in the prevention and cure of diseases. They place a higher priority on education in Spanish than Cubeo.

## Economics

Subsistence Type

Agriculturalists

Average Annual Income

\$300-400

Occupation

Farming. Some of them plant cash crops (fruits), mainly cocoa leaves and they also sell smoked fish. They carve mahogany key chain.

Younger people (most in 20s – 30s) with education have been nurses, dentists, schoolteachers, clerks in stores. Many men do manual labor. Women can be waitresses in restaurants or maids in Mitu.

Income Sources

Cash crops, smoked fish, coco leaves.

Products / Crafts

Baskets, fish traps, carved artifacts such as keychains, small canoes, arrows, spears, letter openers, etc. from mahogany wood.

Trade Partners

Exchanges baskets for manioc grating boards made by Curripacos.

Modernization / Utilities

Outboard motors (community owned/family), generator & satellite dish, government has installed fiberglass rainwater dishes/tubs (since 1998). In villages with boarding schools, toilets have to be flushed with a bucket of water.

## Group Description

## Community Development

Health Care (Quality)

Good

Comment (Health Care)

50% of Cubeos have a basic clinic within 4-6 hours of their home. Improvements have been made in dental hygiene. There are 50 clinics throughout the Cubeo region.

Diet (Quality)

Good

Comment (Diet)

No vegetables or milk. Two meals a day; dawn and dusk of manioc bread dipped in fish or meat stew with hot green peppers. Men provide protein and women provide carbohydrates; supplemented by seasonal insects, fruits and nuts. Sugar cane is also part of their diet.

Water (Quality)

Fair

Comment (Water)

80% of communities have fiberglass rainwater collection barrels since early 1990's and they have good water. The 20% without water barrels have water problems. Majority has good water.

Shelter Description

Packed dirt floor (the dead are buried in the floor). The smallest homes start about 25 by 30 feet and the largest 50 by 30 feet The house lasts 20 years, and the thatched roofs last 5-10 years. The roofs are either made of thatched palm or zinc. There are four house posts. Walls are lattice work filled in with mud baked by the sun, split palm walls, or on stilts arrived at by tree trunk balanced against door. Front door (river), back door (jungle) one room. Stoves are open fires; clay pots. 7 people usually occupy this house. One end has hammocks for sleeping, the other end is for cooking, and men receive guests in the middle inside the front door..

Electricity

There is electricity available in some of the bigger villages. Around 1992 & 1993 they installed electricity poles in Tapurucuara.

Energy/Fuel (Quality)

Good

Comment (Energy)

There is good quality of gasoline fuel for boats, but it is expensive and people have to go far to obtain the fuel. Wood is becoming more difficult to obtain because natural resources are dwindling.

Clothing

Women wear below knee length skirts with blouses tucked in. Men wear shirts and shorts. All but the aged purchase clothes. Older people make their clothes. No shoes.

Transportation

Every adult and many boys have their own canoe. The community has an outboard motor boat. They walk to their gardens.

Life Expectancy

close to 70

Leading Cause Of Death

Old age, TB, malaria

Comment (Community Development)

The government has done a vaccine program in the communities, and has done pre and post natal care training, which has decreased infant mortality.

## Group Description

# The Cubeo of Colombia

Item Name	Item Note	Group Description
<b>Society &amp; Culture</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Family Structures	Patrilineal nuclear family. Parents raise their own kids.	
Neighbor Relations	Good	
Authority / Rule	Head man; chosen based on respect. He knows Spanish well in order to deal with outsiders. Not necessarily the oldest man, not necessarily one of his sons. Usually it is a job for life; If someone has a disagreement, instead of confronting or resolving the issue, they ignore it or move away. Not many meetings, no pay; only meet if some pressing issue (such as electricity)	
Social Habits/Groupings	Function on sib level. 18 sibs: made up of clans. Dravidian kinship system; classification system. Older/younger based on linking relative. Parallel vs. cross cousins. Villages small, 3 to 4 or 18 to 20 houses. Ref. article Dr. William R. Merrifield.	
Cultural Change Pace	Medium	
Identification With National Culture	Distinct	
Comment (Identification with National Culture)	Feel culturally superior to other indigenous groups because 1) were slave owners, 2) lingua franca, 3) large group. Admire Spanish speaking culture for economic reasons. Don't want to become white (Colombian); don't like daughters to marry white men.	
Self Image	Prestigious	
Comment (Self Image)	See above comment	
Judicial / Punishment System	Judicial terminology difficult to apply to culture. Area/country laws are not applied to the Cubeo because of isolation. Ostracism (non-confrontational). They do not physically punish children; mostly discipline with verbal ridicule.	
Celebrations	Many Colombian holidays, celebrated with drinking and fireworks. The 20th of July is Independence Day. Cubeo holiday is the fruit & fish festival which occurs two times. Christians have Bible conferences instead of festivals. All participate in Colombian holidays.	
Recreations	Older people chew coco leaves (to numb hunger pains, to hallucinate). Sports such as soccer, basketball, volleyball (girls and boys). Group drinking for social recreation. The Christians participate in two Bible conferences instead of the traditional festivals..	
Art Forms	The people use red and black dyes to paint geometrical designs on their legs before dancing. They weave baskets and in past times created pottery (clay is disappearing)	
Media	Just about every household has a radio (Spanish radio with news and sports). Some TVs in larger villages.	
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive	
Comment (Attitude To Outsiders)	They are usually quite receptive to outsiders.	
Attitude To Change	Very receptive	
Attitude To Change	Very resistant	
Comment (Attitude To Change)	The Cubeo are very receptive to technological changes, but very resistant to ideological and spiritual changes.	
<b>Youth</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Carry water from river, bring firewood, feed chickens & put chickens away at night. Take care of younger siblings, and help bring food to the house by berry picking and nut gathering. Boys learning to fish starting at age 4 or 5. Children wash own clothes (from 3 or 4).	
Youth Problems (Teens)	Teen pregnancy, alcohol, and drugs because of drug trade.	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	The Lord! Either to be content with living way parents/grandparents did (subsistence) or, if educated, need to be provided with gainful employment to use skills learned at school.	
<b>Education</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Schools	75-80	
Comment (Primary School Enrollment)	80-90% of children have access to school.	
Secondary Schools	3 (1996)	

## The Cubeo of Colombia

Item Name	Item Note
Secondary School Enrollment	Most who want to go to school can. Very little opportunity for use of education in society.
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	33%
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	1:24
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Spanish
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Spanish
Language Of Instruction Later Years	Spanish
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	Spanish
Comment (Language Of Instruction)	If teachers know Cubeo then they help in the Cubeo language. Many evangelical families have kept the bilingual school books used in the early 1980s and the parents or older children teach the younger children at home to read and write in Cubeo.

### Church Growth

### Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Reached
Reached Classification	Evangelized
Total Baptized	Catholic: all as babies; most evangelicals baptized again as adults.
Lay Leaders	Evangelicals: 12.
Bible Schools	One school (Swiss Indian Mission) which is not in the area (Villavicencio--2 hours by plane)
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	0
Christian Literacy Centers	none

### Religion & Response

### Status of Christianity

Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Evangelicals: Sunday & midweek services, communions, baptisms. Animists: fish and fruit festivals, learn at catechists on Sundays. On a yearly basis a priest will come by river and bless marriages and baptize babies and say rite for deceased.
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive
Comment (Attitude To Christianity)	Very receptive because about 95% think they are Christian. 20% are very receptive because they are evangelicals, and the other 75% have been baptized by a priest as babies, so they think they are Christians.
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant
Religious Analogies & Bridges	The Cubeo have a flood story, but unsure of the religious analogy.
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Sickness is not a natural occurrence, but the result of poisoning most often through use of a shaman. It is natural for them to use the same methods against the person who caused the death through a shaman.  There is a dichotomy in the culture: Sharing is a cultural norm and to not share causes guilt and shame. Whereas asking a shaman to curse someone is a cultural norm and is not a cause of guilt or shame. Shamans are the ones the non-believing people turn to for protection. The new believer dealing with the cultural norms challenge their whole world view.
Comment (Religion)	Primary religion is Roman Catholic but they are syncretistic.
Recommended Approaches	None. Catholic Church still has much power. Getting through the terrorist presence is the greatest barrier for getting into the region. People will listen to the gospel and there are no constraints or restrictions in the country regarding evangelism.
Current Needs	The Cubeo are hospitable and receptive to any visitors. Because of their receptivity to change, infant mortality has decreased and expected life span rates have increased. 80% of the villages have rainwater collection systems brought in by the government. However, there is always room for more community development and education.
Items For Prayer	Pray against apathy and complacency. The Cubeo are not aware of own spiritual need. There is not much interest in changing the status quo.

### History Of Christianity In Group

### Status of Christianity

Year Began	January 1963
By Whom	New Tribes Mission
Significant Events	1989 New Testament published. 1994 summary of Old Testament published. Since 1996 they hold Bible conferences two times per year.

## The Cubeo of Colombia

Item Name	Item Note	Status of Christianity
<b>Scripture</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Translation Status	Scripture	
Available Scripture	New Testament	
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed	
Comment (Form of Scripture Available)	Audio recordings of Bible stories. Audio/Visual of Luke	
Scripture Published When	1989 New Testament, 1994 Old Testament summary	
Scripture Use	Majority of churches	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	yes	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	yes	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	yes	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	no	
<b>Missions and Churches</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Organization Name	New Tribes Mission	
Main Ministry	Other	
Comment (Main Ministry)	They are promoting Scripture use.	
Number Of Expatriate Workers	2	