



The Red Dogose of Burkina Faso

One of the many ethnic groups inhabiting Burkina Faso's southwest region are the Dogobe, often called the Red Dogose. They are distinct from the Dogoso, their neighbors to the south.

By trade the Dogobe are subsistence farmers, relying on such crops as millet, sorghum, maize, rice, and peanuts to meet their food needs. Their means permitting, they raise small livestock, such as sheep, goats and poultry. The wealthier individuals invest in a pair of oxen or even a tractor. Otherwise all cultivation and field work is carried out by hand. There are basically two ways to earn money: first, to sell any surplus crops and items like herbs; second, to spend a certain amount of time on a paid job in Cote d'Ivoire. Such times away from the home area can last from months to several years.

Health issues are a major concern for the group. Their staple foods lack proteins and vitamins necessary for a healthy diet. Malnutrition among children is quite common. Polluted water supply is another problem and guinea worm is widespread.

Concerning the spiritual domain, the Dogobe have seen a big change in the past two generations. In that time, there has been a great shift to Islam. Nevertheless, the traditional religion is still quite strong. In this set of beliefs, the world is inhabited by spiritists, who control nature and events. Sacrifices are needed to appease them and secure good health, good harvest and good hunting.

The Dogobe appear to be suspicious of outsiders, and this extends to the matter of Christianity. Within the last two decades, the Roman Catholic Church has attempted to evangelize the Dogobe with little success. WEC International has had several campaigns among the group, often using the Jesus film in Jula, the trade language in the area. WEC and another Christian group have planted small churches in the area. Work is progressing on Bible translation and literacy. Please pray for all these Christians reaching out to the Dogose.

Primary Religion:

Muslim Muslim-Animism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

Churches:

6

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Work has just started

Population (date):

20,000 (1998)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	0.3	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	adopted	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	50	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	10	
Number Of Pastors	6	
Number Of Missionaries Working	3	
Number Of Churches	6	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Work is in progress, just started.	
Translation Medium	none	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Work in Dogose is just beginning, so the hindrance at the moment is on two sides: Low literacy rate, no literacy program yet, and no Scriptures are available yet.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	No	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes, for evangelism, church planting, Christian teaching, literacy work and Bible translation.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	20000	
World Population (Date)	1998	
Comment (World Population)	Almost half of the population have moved to Cote d'Ivoire in search for jobs or better soil.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Southwestern Burkina Faso, eastern Comoe Province, and western Poni Province , both north and south of the main Banfora - Gaoua road.	
Country	Burkina Faso	
Ecosystem Type	Scrub Forest	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	300 to 400 meter	
Longitude	4W	
Latitude	10	
Climate	Hot year round.	
	Cooler and dry in December and January, warm and dry in February, hot and humid March through May, warm and rainy in June through September, hot and humid in October and November.	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	Around the village of Ouou the soil is particularly poor, very stony.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	The language is called Dogose and the people are called Dogobe,	
Alternate Language Names	Dogose Dorobe	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	2	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA	
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Item Name	Item Note
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Dogose is spoken in all areas of life and the people seem to be proud of it. Jula is the trade language in the area. French is the official language in Burkina Faso, and the medium of all formal education and of government administration. The extent of knowledge and use are largely dependent on the number of years spent in formal education.
Linguistically Related Languages	KAANSE
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Neighboring Languages	JULA

Literacy

Group Description

Literacy Attitude	Indifferent
Active Literacy Program	Yes
Publications In Vernacular	2
Comment (Literacy)	An alphabet book and a calendar is printed in Dogose. An extensive literacy effort is needed. Up to now there is only one class, and it is in Jula.

Economics

Group Description

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Average Annual Income	300 \$
Occupation	Subsistence farming is done by almost everyone. Some have paid jobs, those who moved away to Cote d'Ivoire to look for them.
Income Sources	Sale of surplus crops and herbs. Some hunt to supplement their income.
Products / Crafts	Pottery, baskets, tools, mostly utilitarian
Trade Partners	Ethnic neighbors
Modernization / Utilities	None
Comment (Economy)	The average income is the figure of UNICEF for the whole of Burkina Faso. It does not reflect, what is gained by bartering which is the most common form of trade in the area and it does not reflect any assets such as livestock.

Community Development

Group Description

Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Health Care)	There are dispensaries and pharmacies in the area in some of the villages. Gaoua, the closest town, has a small hospital, but the distance and the cost of transport and care makes it prohibitive for most Dogobe. Many Dogobe are interested in the local herbal medicines and one nurse actually is encouraging it.
Diet (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Diet)	The staple is millet or maize porridge, eaten with a vegetable or a leaf side dish and very occasionally a little meat.
Water (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Water)	Wells and dams provide most of the water. Many of this water sources are polluted and Guinea worms are a big problem. The villages not far from the main road Banfora- Gaoua have deep-bore wells.
Shelter Description	Generally sun-baked mud bricks for walls and straw roofs. The houses are arranged together around a courtyard and the whole extended family lives together in such compounds.
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Energy)	Firewood is the main energy source and is used for cooking and warmth. Kerosene is used in small quantities for light. Flashlights are also used.

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Item Name	Item Note
Clothing	Cloth is mainly produced in Burkina Faso and neighboring countries and fashioned by local tailors. Large quantities of western- style second hand clothing of all kinds are available in the market.
Transportation	Walking and bicycling is the main form of going places. Those who can afford it buy mopeds or small motorbikes. There are bush taxies and a bus that runs on the main road between Banfora and Gaoua.
Infant Mortality Rate	16%
Life Expectancy	47 years
Leading Cause Of Death	untreated illness
Comment (Community Development)	The figures below are the UNICEF figures for Burkina Faso as a whole and might be different locally.

Society & Culture

Group Description

Family Structures	There is very little family harmony.
Neighbor Relations	peaceful
Authority / Rule	The oldest men in the village is the chief, who makes small decisions. The land chief has the real authority for the (distribution of the) land. The Muslim Imam seems to have most authority. The society is very decentralized. As one missionary said, everyone does what is right in his own eyes.
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Identification With National Culture	Distinct
Self Image	Neutral
Celebrations	Dancing is quite common in the dry season.
Recreations	The most common past time is visiting others and talking, often in the market. Young men like to play soccer together.
Art Forms	Dancing together
Media	None
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Very resistant
Attitude To Change	Very resistant
Comment (Culture)	The Dogobe are suspicious of outsiders and are not the ones to make the first move towards them.

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Generally, the young people help in all farming and domestic tasks as appropriate for their gender and age and ability. Though more and more young people resist work in the fields.
Youth Problems (Teens)	Many have problems staying in school due to lack of school fees. There are not many openings to find a job.
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Freedom from boredom- especially for those with a little education. There is a big gap, between aspiration and reality, between the modern ideas and their limitations.

Education

Group Description

Primary Schools	7
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	30
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	60
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French
Language Of Instruction Later Years	French

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Item Name	Item Note	
Comment (Education)	<p>The Dogobe have one of the lowest rates of scholarship. There are very few villages with schools, and those that do have schools do not see many children from neighboring villages attending.</p> <p>In fact, in one of the villages on the main road, the number of children attending each year is decreasing rather than increasing. Elsewhere in the country, the number of children attending schools keeps increasing rapidly. The figures above reflect only the villages where there are schools.</p>	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Adopted	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Islamic celebrations.	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat resistant	
Resistance / Receptivity	The Dogobe seem to be quite suspicious of outsiders, which includes other religions. Various Christian groups have had little impact on the group over the years.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Christians are 0.3% of the people.	
Comment (Religion)	The three Christian churches in the area, WEC, AOG, and EPPE get along very well together.	
Items For Prayer	<p>An agency started with Bible translation in 1996. They are a team of four. Please pray that they are a living testimony of the love of Christ and that they may be progressing well and not get discouraged.</p> <p>Thank God for the harmony of the three churches and ask for blessing on their witness to their people.</p>	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	75	
By Whom	Roman Catholic Church	
Significant Events	The first Christian was converted around 1987 through the efforts of WEC International, based in Gaoua.	
Comments (History of Christianity)	<p>The Catholics were the first to have some sort of outreach among the Dogobe in the past. They had a house (not a church) in Ouo. There were four native Dogobe catechists; one is now a Muslim in Banfora, one is non practicing in Bawe and another is still Catholic and lives in Logie.</p> <p>The Catholics have now left and do not have any church or activity among the Dogobe.</p>	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	In Progress	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity
Organization Name	WEC International	
Main Ministry	Church Planting	
Number Of Adherents	50	
Number Of National Workers	3	
Organization Name	Assemblies of God	
Main Ministry	Evangelism	
Number Of Local Workers	2	
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	2	
Christian Literature And Media Status		Status of Christianity
Literature Available	None	
Audio Recordings Available	None	
Films Available	The Jesus film is available in Jula. Nothing in Dogose.	
Radio Programs Available	No	

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Item Name	Item Note
Videos Available	None
Audio Visual Available	None