



## The Duruma of Kenya

The Duruma people live on the semi-arid plains, one mountain range inland from the seacoast of eastern Kenya. The large city of Mombasa is the closest place Duruma may interact with other peoples. They are a mostly self-sufficient farming group with certain members becoming active traders with the outside world. All homesteads are members of one of 14 clans. Clan membership is determined by birth and not subject to change; the bride joins the husband's clan if differs from hers. Marriage within homesteads is discouraged but most marriages are within the 14 clans.

Each family unit is affiliated with one of the 14 clans. Males take care of families and they control the farming. Males also hunt wild animals and herd their domestic animals (i.e. cattle, sheep, goats and chickens). Boys help with this. Women do all household work assisted by girls and also do a great deal of the farming.

Land is owned by the clan, not by individuals. The sons inherit land from their fathers including any goods or money they may have. Daughters do not receive any part of the inheritance.

Visitors can be initiated into one of the 14 clans of his own choice if they pay a subscribed fee to the panel of elders of that clan (Normally a goat and a guard of liquor, which is equivalent to 20 liters). Such a visitor is even entitled to land of that clan, and can even use the names of that clan in his family. But for the land he is given, he is not supposed to plant permanent crops like coconuts, cashews, mangoes, citrus fruits and the like. After staying for a period of twenty years or more, such a visitor can be considered as one of the clansmen, but it will depend on his extent of respect and how he has lived peacefully with the clansmen who invited him.

**Primary Religion:**

Animism

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

30%

**Churches:**

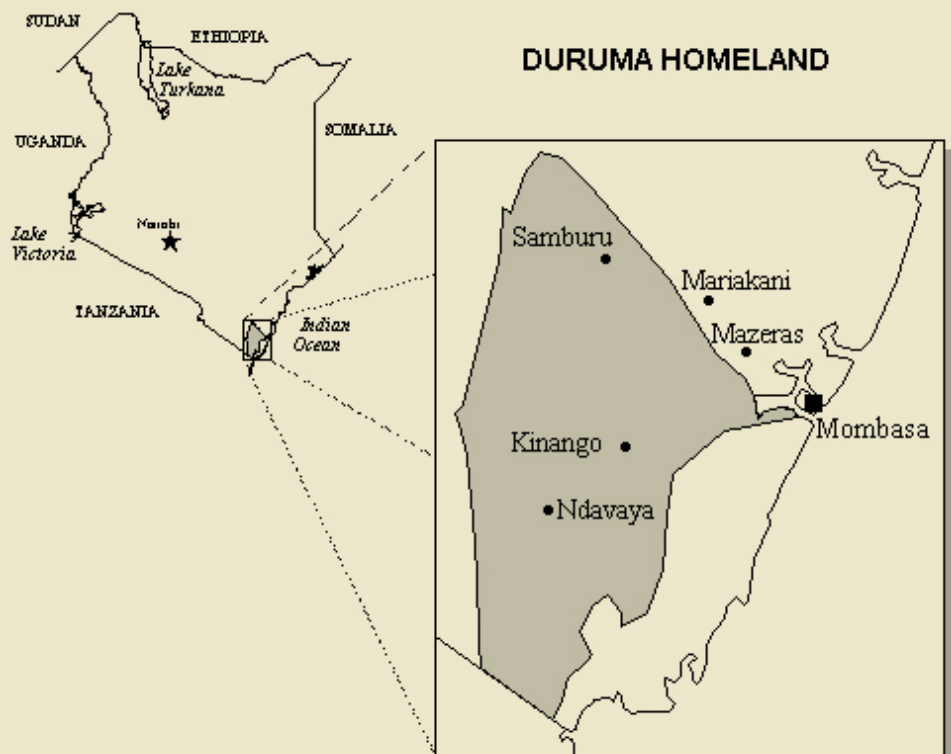
247

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

New Testament (2000)

**Population (date):**

247,000 (1989)



## The Duruma of Kenya

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	35%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	30%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	25%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	70%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	10%	
Number Of Pastors	300	
Number Of Missionaries Working	20	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	20, based on missionary ratio of 1:12,350 and population of 247,000	
Number Of Communities	5	
Number Of Churches	247	
Comment (Churches)	Strong expanding Christian churches exist that minister to animists and Muslims.	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	New Testament dedicated August 2000	
Translation Medium	Printed and dedicated in August 2000	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Low literacy rate, especially among the women. Duruma people do not yet appreciate the value of reading in their mother tongue.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	There are LRI recordings, Jesus Film, literature and locally recorded church music cassettes.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes, consultant help is needed for the Duruma translation and literacy workers. Training is also needed for pastors, Sunday school teachers and youth workers.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	247,000	
World Population (Date)	1989	
World Population (Urban Percent)	25,000	
Comment (World Population)	small number in Tanzania	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Tanzania	
Country Name	Kenya	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	Inland southeastern Kenya, about 35 miles from Mombasa	
Country	Kenya	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Mountains Mesa	
Elevation	2-300 meters	
Climate	Semi-Arid/Tropical	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Comment (Language)	There is a feeling that the mother tongue is backward and that it has no economic benefit.	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	SWAHILI	
Linguistically Related Languages	DIGO	
Comments (Related Languages)	None of these should use the same literature (Digo, Swahili, Duruma).	
Neighboring Languages	DIGO	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	Less than .5%	

## The Duruma of Kenya

Item Name	Item Note	
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Publications In Vernacular	18	
Comment (Literacy)	Literacy rate is 40%; 30% literate in Swahili	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Pastoralists	
Occupation	Husbandry, farming, small group of influential traders	
Income Sources	selling cattle (weekly auctions)	
Products / Crafts	Farm products	
Trade Partners	Coast people/Mombasa	
Modernization / Utilities	Piped water to common area. Some villages have some electricity (e.g. Kinango, Mariakani and Mazera).	
<b>Community Development</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Health Care (Quality)	Fair	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Shelter Description	Mainly thatched with grass and Makuti (palm).	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Energy)	Mainly firewood.	
Transportation	Poor; Black top roads first 12 miles out of Mombasa; then inadequate dirt roads.	
Leading Cause Of Death	Malaria, Aids, Measles, etc.	
<b>Society &amp; Culture</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Family Structures	People live in "homesteads" consisting of extended families of several generations. All land, herds, etc. are considered community property. Labor and produce are shared.	
Neighbor Relations	Friendly; a lot of intermarriage	
Authority / Rule	The Kenyan civil authority provide police, some government control and judiciary for violent crimes or inter-group crimes. Issues like burglary, theft and deceit are settled by elders. Family and land disputes are handled by elders. There is little divorce, even among Muslims.	
Social Habits/Groupings	Strong family ties	
Cultural Change Pace	Medium	
Identification With National Culture	Integrated	
Self Image	Prestigious	
Judicial / Punishment System	Tribunal of Elders	
Celebrations	Birth of a child, after harvest, burial and marriage.	
Recreations	Swimming, traditional dances and children's games.	
Media	Information is passed on mainly by word of mouth and through letters written to the village elders.	
Local Language Broadcasting	20 minutes to 1 hour daily	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Change	Very resistant	
<b>Youth</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Youth Problems (Teens)	Morality/Family/Insurrections	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	To hear the Word of God.	
<b>Education</b>		<b>Group Description</b>

## The Duruma of Kenya

Item Name	Item Note	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Swahili (specific)	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Swahili (specific)	
Language Of Instruction Later Years	Duruma	
<b>Church Growth</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	1	
Comment (Church Growth)	Missionaries from TIMO (AIC) and Team Vision	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Regular Christian and Muslim holidays. Christian exorcism of traditional spirits.	
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive	
Resistance / Receptivity	Muslims are indifferent; traditionalists are more positive.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	Cloth Isaiah 61:10 Sacrifices 1 John 4:9,10 Adoption Galatians 4:3-7 For Christians, all night prayer and praise meetings replace the traditional all-night dances.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Moderately open by Muslims. Very open at times by tradition animists. Since 1985, there has been a spirit of unity in the church, a real openness to work across denominational lines.	
Comment (Religion)	Increase supply of vernacular Gospel to support the indigenous churches.	
Current Needs	Word of God, health facilities and curbing poverty.	
Items For Prayer	Pray that the New Testament will transform the lives of the people.	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Year Began	1890	
By Whom	Methodist	
Significant Events	1950 Pentecostals and in 1970 onwards many other groups ( Salvation Army, Baptists	
Comments (History of Christianity)	First vernacular Gospels were influential in building the present Christian Church.	
<b>Scripture</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Translation Status	In Progress	
Available Scripture	New Testament	
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed, Audio and Visual	
Scripture Use	Individuals & some churches	
Comment (Scripture)	The Christians are demanding for local Scriptures but their pastors are claiming they cannot read Duruma as they are used to the Swahili Bible. The New Testament was dedicated on August 12th 2000.	
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	Anglican	
Number Of Expatriate Workers	10	
<b>Christian Literature And Media Status</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Literature Available	Yes, New Testament and other literature	
Audio Recordings Available	Gospel recordings, and local music cassettes	

## The Duruma of Kenya

<b>Item Name</b>	<b>Item Note</b>
Films Available	Jesus Film
Radio Programs Available	Baraka FM a Christian Station
Audio Visual Available	Comparative word lists between Duruma, Swahili, and English