

## Eastern Karaboro of Burkina Faso

The Kai, or Eastern Karaboro, are one of many small ethnic groups that inhabit Burkina Faso's southwestern region. The Kai are closely related culturally to the Syem, or Western Karaboro. Regarding language, however, the groups have a great deal of difficulty in understanding each other.

While the Syem are known for crafts and the production of palm vine, the Kai have a fine reputation as farmers. They grow what they need to feed their families and sell any surplus. Their major crops include millet, maize and peanuts, but they also grow rice, sesame, and yams. They raise livestock as their money allows. Hard work is a general characteristic of the group.

The Kai face certain difficulties, among them a low primary school enrollment, and poor health care. Trying to help in these areas is one of the goals of an adult literacy program in Kar, the language of the Kai. Kar speakers, with the help of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, have produced books on hygiene, health, agriculture, a basic reading primer and a math book. The team has even published a book designed as an initiation into basic French.

The Kai still strongly adhere to their traditional religion. This set of beliefs depicts a world full of spirits and other supernatural forces which control events and situations. Man can gain favor with the spirits through sacrifices. Islam, while having few adherents, is on the increase.

The Christian message has gained only limited ground among the Kai. The Gospel was first preached to them in the early 1980s, and eventually five small churches were born. Today, these churches continue. A big encouragement to these Christians is the fact that a translation of the New Testament into Kar has recently been published.

**Primary Religion:**

Animism

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

**Churches:**

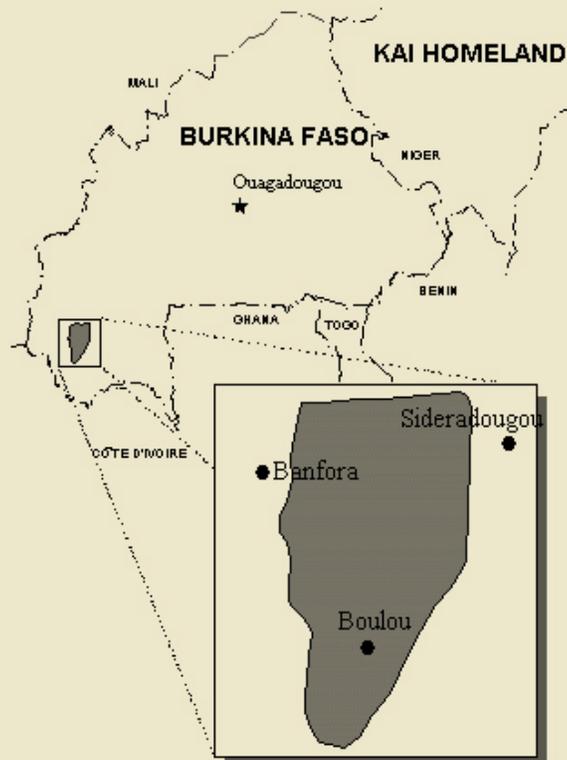
9

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

NT and parts of OT

**Population (date):**

40,000 (1998)



## Eastern Karaboro of Burkina Faso

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	1	
Comment (Jesus As God & Only Savior)	Work in progress	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	10	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	60	
Number Of Pastors	9	
Comment (Pastors)	1:3,667	
Number Of Communities	30	
Number Of Churches	9	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Yes. The New Testament, and part of the Old Testament.	
Translation Medium	printed	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	low literacy rate in their mother tongue. As the Kai Christians learn to read, they do buy the Scriptures.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Quite a bit of Christian literature is available in Kar. Films and cassettes are in Jula, available in Banfora.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	The Old Testament translation is still dependent on outside help and assistance. People would also need Christian teaching and church planting.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	40000	
World Population (Date)	1998	
World Population (Urban Percent)	6000	
Comment (World Population)	They call themselves the Kai in Burkina Faso.	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	Southwestern Burkina Faso, in a triangular area from 10 km north of Banfora east to 10 km north of Sideradougou, 40 km south of Tiefora.	
Country	Burkina Faso	
Ecosystem Type	Scrub forest	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	200 to 400 meters	
Longitude	4,5 degrees west	
Latitude	11 degrees north	
Climate	relatively cool and dry in December and January, warm and dry in February, hot and humid from March through May, warm and rainy June through September, hot and humid in October, drying up and warm in November. Hot all year round.	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Alternate Language Names	KAREKARE	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Jula is the language of commerce in the area. Relatively few women speak it. Men travel more, and therefore have more contact with other ethnic groups, so men learn it to be able to communicate.  French is the official language of Burkina Faso, and is the medium of almost all formal education and of government administration. The extent of knowledge and use of it is largely dependent on the number of years spent in formal education.	

## Eastern Karaboro of Burkina Faso

Item Name	Item Note	
Linguistically Related Languages	KARABORO, WESTERN	
Linguistically Related Languages	KARABORO, WESTERN	
Comments (Related Languages)	And all the Senoufo languages	
Neighboring Languages	KARABORO, WESTERN	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Publications In Vernacular	37	
Comment (Literacy)	A low literacy rate is still a problem. As the Kai Christians become literate, they do buy the Scripture. There is a New Testament and portions of the Old Testament printed. Additional translation is in progress. There is a set of booklets on biblical passages, a book explaining the Jewish culture, and a songbook.	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	300\$	
Occupation	Subsistence farming by almost every one. A very few small businesses such as carpentry, tailoring, small engine mechanics, in Banfora.	
Income Sources	Sale of surplus crops, mostly maize and millet.	
Trade Partners	local markets	
Modernization / Utilities	Electricity only in Banfora	
Comment (Economy)	Income figure is from UNICEF for the whole of Burkina and does not reflect what is gained by bartering and does not take livestock into account.	
<b>Community Development</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	There are very few dispensaries or pharmacies in the Kar speaking area. There are small hospitals in Kagounadeni and Tiefora, and a big hospital in Banfora. But the cost of transport and care makes doctor care prohibitive for most Kai.	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Diet)	Millet, sorghum, and maize are the main staples and are eaten with leafy gravy, sometimes vegetables, and very occasionally a little bit of meat.	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Water)	Small hand dug wells are the main source of water.	
Shelter Description	Small round huts made of sun baked mud bricks thatched with straw roofs. They are arranged in a circle around a common courtyard, where the extended family lives.	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Energy)	Firewood is the main source of fuel for cooking and warmth. Kerosene is used in small quantities for light. Some flashlights are also used. One compound in Kangounaba has a generator, Banfora has electricity, but not many of the Kai people would be hooked up.	
Clothing	Men wear western clothing. Large quantities of imported second hand clothing of all kinds are available in the local markets. Children almost always wear second hand clothing. Women wear a traditional skirt sometimes with a top. The cloth is mainly produced in Burkina or in neighboring countries, and is fashioned by local tailors.	
Transportation	Walking and bicycling are the most common mode of going somewhere. Some, especially in Banfora have mopeds and small motorbikes. There are buses and bush taxis that travel the main Gaoua-Banfora road. Bush taxis also connect some other villages on market days.	
Infant Mortality Rate	16%	
Life Expectancy	47 years	
Leading Cause Of Death	untreated illnesses	
Comment (Community Development)	The figures below are the ones from UNICEF from Burkina Faso as a whole.	

## Eastern Karaboro of Burkina Faso

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Society &amp; Culture</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Family Structures	The extended family lives together, with the patriarch being the chief.	
Neighbor Relations	Not close, as the Kai tend to keep to themselves.	
Authority / Rule	Kai are a very decentralized group. Each family group does what seems right in their own eyes.	
Social Habits/Groupings	Socially the group tends to be quite independent. They prefer living in small groups, as opposed to forming large villages. It is quite common to find colonies of Kai settling on previously unused land, having removed themselves from larger settlements.	
Cultural Change Pace	Slow	
Identification With National Culture	Distinct	
Self Image	Neutral	
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
<b>Youth</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Generally the young people help in all the farming and domestic activities as appropriate to their age and gender, and as they are able.	
<b>Education</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Schools	7	
Primary School Enrollment	872	
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	42	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	46	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French	
Language Of Instruction Later Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	Dyula	
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	6	
Comment (Education)	In the primary schools, the language of instruction and of the text books is French only. There are also three CFJA schools for older children who have not been able to attend school. At this time, 1998, there are agricultural schools with 37 students. Jula is the language of instruction in these schools. They teach literacy, basic mathematics in Jula and a bit of French.	
<b>Church Growth</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Reached Status	Adopted	
Comment (Church Growth)	The number of pastors and churches includes the two Catholic churches in the Kar area. It also includes a WEC church in Sideragoudou. The Full Gospel Evangelical church has one congregation. That congregation is 100% Kai, with a Kai pastor.	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Funerals and weddings are important events. There are many sacrifices made, especially before planting and harvest.	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat resistant	
Resistance / Receptivity	The Kai are hesitant about Christianity, as they are quite independent and traditionally minded. However, more and more Christians are gaining consideration in their communities.	
Recommended Approaches	It is important to teach the Christians to read the Bible and to reach out in their communities in a way that honors what they believe.	
Items For Prayer	Please pray that the Kai will use the translated Word. Pray too that God will touch the lives of more and more Kai, especially older men and women, who have much respect within their clans. Finally, pray that the good progress made to this point in literacy will continue as the reading and writing program has been turned over to the Kai themselves. Pray that they would have the determination to carry on with this work.	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
By Whom	Roman Catholic Church	

## Eastern Karaboro of Burkina Faso

### Item Name

Comments (History of Christianity)

### Item Note

It is uncertain when the Roman Catholic Church first started work in the area, but they now have two (2) churches in the main towns. The Christian and Missionary Alliance (C & MA) started work in 1977, and now has five (5) churches. WEC International is interested to start work among the Kai and some of the Kai attend the WEC church in Sideradougou. The Eglise Protestante de Pleine Evangile has one congregation, and it is 100% Kai, with a Kai pastor.

### Scripture

### Status of Christianity

Translation Status

In Progress

Available Scripture

New Testament

Form Of Scripture Available

Printed

Scripture Use

Individuals & some churches

Comment (Scripture)

Portions of the Old Testament are also done

### Missions and Churches

### Status of Christianity

Organization Name

Christian and Missionary Alliance

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

1977

Comment (Number Of Congregations)

5

Organization Name

Roman Catholic Church

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

Unknown

Number Of Expatriate Workers

0

Number Of National Workers

2

Organization Name

WEC International

Number Of Congregations

1

Organization Name

Eglise Protestante de Pleine Evangile

Comment (Number Of Congregations)

1

Number Of Local Workers

1

Number Of Workers Using Local Language

1

### Christian Literature And Media Status

### Status of Christianity

Literature Available

There are a set of questions on Biblical passages and a book explaining Jewish culture besides the Scriptures. There is also a song book.

Audio Recordings Available

Not yet.

Films Available

The Jesus film is available in Jula.

Radio Programs Available

None

Videos Available

None

Audio Visual Available

None