

## The Mpiemo of Central Africa



photo source [TSC](#)

In the early 1900s, the poorly armed Mpiemo people fled adversaries who were attacking their villages with firearms. Their flight along a river brought them to their current location where they settled in a densely forested area in western Central African Republic (CAR). There are also some Mpiemo villages in Cameroon and farther south in Congo

Today, Mpiemo people support themselves by farming, hunting, trapping and sporadic logging expeditions. Everyone grows manioc, the staple food; they eat both roots and leaves of this tuber. Other crops include peanuts, corn, squash, various greens, tobacco, coffee, taro, yams and bananas.

Modern commercial logging ventures bring both helpful and detrimental side effects. Because the companies employ large numbers of people, the local economy receives a much-needed but temporary boost. In its wake, logging ventures disrupt the forests' ecosystems, making hunting and trapping much less productive. Overhunting to satisfy the loggers need for meat has made game scarce. Many logging families no longer have gardens to turn back to for sustenance, adding to the disruption.

Poverty gnaws at the fabric of Mpiemo society. It impacts the quality of life, health and developmental opportunities for families. Some have abandoned their farms to pursue diamond mining with its illusive lure of instant wealth.

**Primary Religion:**

Traditional

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**

Some

**Churches:**

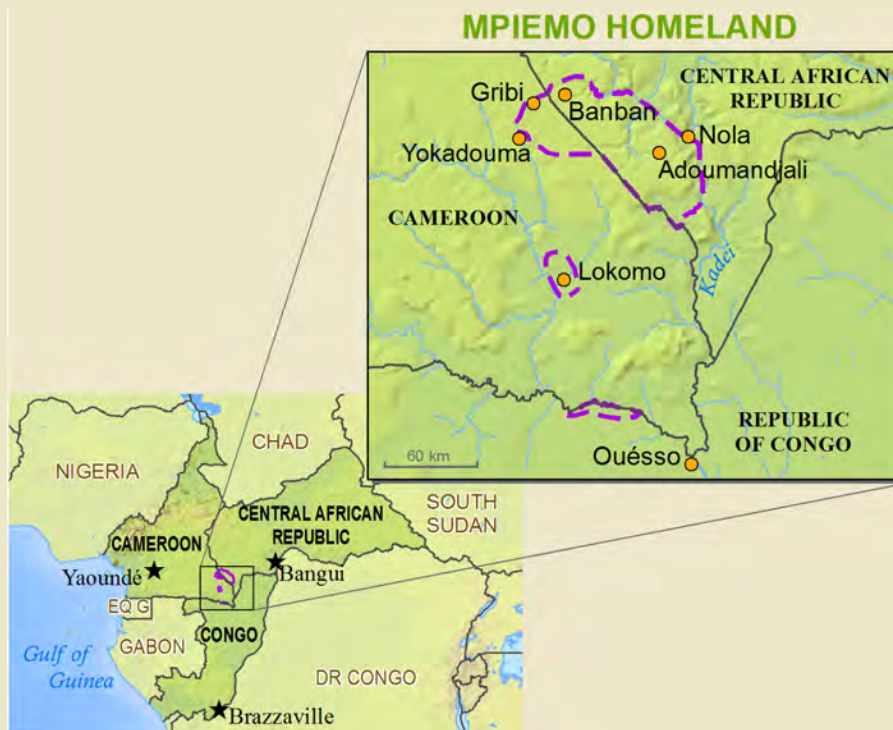
Yes

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

Portions

**Population (date):**

29,000 (1996)



**MPIEMO HOMELAND**

## The Mpiemo of Central African Republic

---

### Have They Heard The Gospel?

Response to the Gospel	As a result of the JESUS film, the Mpiemo church requested help with further Bible translation.
Estimated Number of Christian	About 75% attend church some of the time but most still practice animism
Is the Word of God Translated?	Gospel of Luke
Other Forms of Gospel Presentations	
Recordings	Translators plan to make Scriptures available in audio as well as print, since most Mpiemo cannot read their language yet.
Films/videos:	JESUS film
Radio:	The team will prepare radio programming and use digital players to broadcast Scripture to their community.
Hindrances to Scripture Use	Most people still depend on charms, fetish priests and ancestor worship.
Bilingualism	Most Mpiemo speakers are not bilingual in Sango
Language of Wider Communication or Trade Language	Sango [sag], French [fra]

## The Mpiemo of Central African Republic

---

### Group Description

#### Population all countries

World Population	29,000
World Population (Date)	(1996) Ethnologue

#### Geography & Environment

Location	In a densely forested area in western Central African Republic (CAR). There are also some Mpiemo villages in southern Cameroon and in Congo (Brazaville). Mambéré-Kadéï prefecture: Gamboula subprefecture; Sangha-Mbaéré prefecture: Nola subprefecture.
----------	--

#### Language

Alternate Names	Bimu, Mbimou, Mbimu, Mbyemo, Mpo, Mpiemo
Dialects	Jasoa (Jasua), Bidjuki (Bidjouki), Mpiemo.
Other Mother Tongues	Sango [sag]
Comment	Most Mpiemo speakers are not strongly bilingual in Sango
Linguistically Related	Mpiemo [mcx] (A language of Central African Republic) Mpumpong [mgg] (A language of Cameroon)
Neighboring Languages	Gundi [gdi], Ukhwejo [ukh], Pande [bkj], Gbaya, SW [mdo], Ngombe [nmj]

#### Economics

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists, hunters, trappers, logging
Products/Crafts	Manioc, peanuts, corn, squash, greens, tobacco, coffee, taro, yams and bananas
Income Sources	Logging and various crops above; diamond mining

## **The Mpiemo of Central African Republic**

---

### **Religion**

Religious Practices/Ceremonies      Mpiemo religious rites include ancestor worship and belief in various objects as gods. Attributing life and power to inanimate objects is called “animism” and requires its adherents to perform certain rituals in an attempt to control their environment. Mpiemo animists keep charms to protect them from illness or accident. They believe, for example, certain fetishes ensure successful hunting or prevent rain during a funeral. Priests in this system are reportedly able to identify witches, who may then be blamed and punished for perceived curses.

## **The Mpiemo of Central African Republic**

---

### **Status of Christianity**

#### **Religion and Response**

Translation status

A translation project was begun in 2012. The goal is to translate the entire New Testament and seven key books of the Old Testament.

Comment:

In Cameroon, Kako [kkj] is also used in religious services. There is a New Testament in Kako.