



The Northern Mao of Ethiopia

The Northern Mao of Ethiopia primarily reside in rural villages in western Ethiopia, around Bambassi town and in the Didessa River Valley. Most Northern Mao are farmers. The Northern Mao around Bambassi and in the Didessa River Valley share a common culture and language. However, the Northern Mao around Bambassi are predominantly Muslim, while those in the Didessa River Valley are predominantly Christian. Though Northern and Southern Mao recognize one another as having a shared cultural identity, they realize that their languages are completely different. When Northern Mao and Southern Mao people meet, they usually use another language, like Oromo, to communicate. A majority of Northern Mao people speak only their mother tongue and cannot adequately use Scripture in a second language. Their very low literacy rate suggests that a literacy program in the area may be difficult. It would be beneficial to also present Scripture in Northern Mao on audiocassettes. Though their motivation to read may be quite low, the Northern Mao Christians appear to have a great desire for Scripture in their mother tongue. During an interview, when asked what kinds of materials they would like to see translated into Northern Mao, they replied, “the Bible.”

Primary Religion:

Islam and Christianity

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

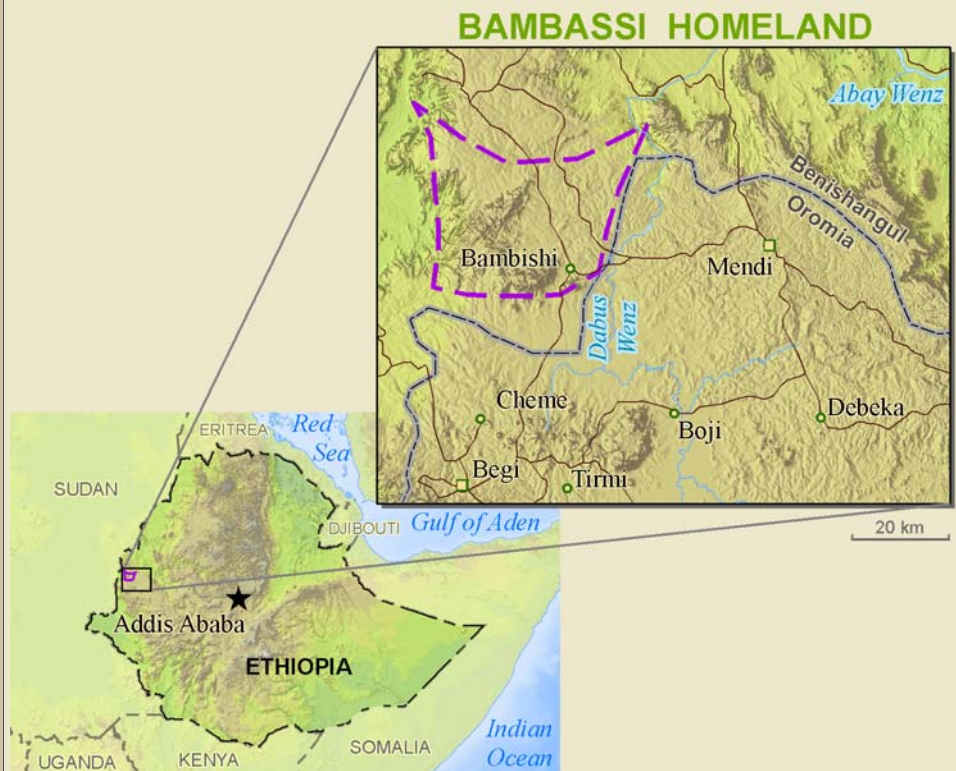
Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

No Scripture available

Population (date):

5,000 (1982)



The Northern Mao of Ethiopia

Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Call Themselves Christian (%)	~ 37%	
Comment (Call Themselves Christian)	~ 30 % Orthodox 7 % Protestant < 1 % Catholic	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	55	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	~ 6%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	?	
Response To The Gospel	The Northern Mao in the Didessa Valley recently settled that area and probably converted to Christianity after settling there. The Mao Christians in the Didessa Valley expressed a particular interest in having the Bible translated into Northern Mao. One Northern Mao man even asked for an Amharic copy of the Bible for the church. The Northern Mao around Bambassi are mostly Muslim.	
Number Of Communities	The Northern Mao primarily live in two woredas (administrative regions similar to counties), Bambassi woreda and Belo Jagonfoy woreda, in the western part of Ethiopia in the Beni Shangul Gumuz region.	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Literacy rate in a second language is very low and the Northern Mao language has not yet been developed. Bilingual ability is inadequate to use translated Scripture in any other language.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	There are no recorded or written forms of the Gospel available in Northern Mao. The Jesus Film and the Bible are available in Western Oromo and Amharic. However, around 75% of Northern Mao people are monolingual, making materials in second languages insufficient to reach all of the Northern Mao people.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Outside assistance required from missionaries includes medical care, evangelism, and Bible translation. The Northern Mao, particularly in the Didessa Valley area, seem open to change.	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	5,000	
World Population (Date)	1982	
World Population (Urban Percent)	<1%	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Ethiopia	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Beni Shangul Gumuz Region, in and around Bambassi Town and the Didessa River Valley, in Bambassi Woreda and Belo Jigonfoy Woreda.	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	~ 1300 meters	
Longitude	35 degrees E	
Latitude	9 degrees N	
Climate	Tropical	
Comments (Geography & Environment)	plains and some riverine, shrub land and savannah	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Dialects	Kere, Bambassi	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	~75%	
Second Languages	Oromo: ~ 15 %; Amharic ~5%; Berta ~2%; Gumuz <2%	
Linguistically Related Languages	Hozo	
Linguistically Related Languages	Seze	

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Item Name

Corrections To Ethnologue Entry

Item Note

Change the name "Bambassi" to "Northern Mao." Add "and the Didessa River Valley, in Bambassi Woreda and Belojigonfoy Woreda" to the location, "Beni Shangul Region, in and around Bambasi." Omit "Arabic" from the list of bilingualism ability. Change "Muslim" to "Muslim in Bambassi, Christian in the Didessa River Valley."

Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	5.3
Literacy Attitude	Indifferent
Active Literacy Program	none
Publications In Vernacular	none

Group Description

Economics

Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists
Occupation	Farming
Income Sources	sorghum, other grains, onions, spices, and other crops
Products / Crafts	baskets, pottery
Trade Partners	baskets, pottery
Modernization / Utilities	little to none. Most Northern Mao live in rural villages with no utilities. Some nearby towns have limited electricity.

Group Description

Community Development

Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Diet (Quality)	Poor
Water (Quality)	Poor
Shelter Description	reed and bamboo, wood and mud, or wood and thatch huts
Electricity	none in villages; mostly lit by kerosene lantern in towns
Comment (Energy)	firewood & leaves
Clothing	mostly tattered modern clothes, not too different from the highlanders in the towns. All of the women wear skirts and many wear scarves.
Transportation	mostly by foot or mule
Infant Mortality Rate	under 1 year- 140 deaths per 1000
Life Expectancy	46.5 years

Group Description

Society & Culture

Family Structures	The Northern Mao are divided into clans, sub-clans and nuclear families. They recognize the clans of Southern Mao (Hozo and Seze) as being ethnically and culturally Mao. Yet, they realize that their language is completely different.
Neighbor Relations	peacefu
Authority / Rule	the local Ethiopian government
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Comment (Cultural Change Pace)	slow to medium
Identification With National Culture	Distinct
Self Image	Neutral
Celebrations	They have feasts and dances for certain occasions.
Media	Little to none
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive

Group Description

Education

Group Description

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Item Name	Item Note	
Primary School Enrollment	~3%	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Amharic	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Amharic	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Classification	Unevangelized	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Comment (Attitude To Christianity)	very receptive in the Didessa River Valley; somewhat resistant around Bambassi	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive	
Resistance / Receptivity	Somewhat receptive	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	The Christians in the Didessa River Valley are open. The Northern Mao around Bambassi are Muslim.	
Recommended Approaches	Audio recordings of Scripture and perhaps, after a script is developed, large scale adult literacy programs	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	within the past 2 generations, around the 1970s (?)	
By Whom	perhaps by protestant Oromo Christians	
Significant Events	The Oromo, as well as the Northern Mao and other ethnic groups, settled in the Didessa Valley very recently.	
Comments (History of Christianity)	Mekane Yesus is a strong denomination among the Oromo of nearby areas and Oromo is the language used in the churches in the Didessa Valley. Ethnic groups such as Northern Mao and Berta, who are usually Muslim, and Gumuz, who usually follow their traditional religion, are Protestant Christians in the Didessa Valley.	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Available Scripture	None	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity
Organization Name	Food for the Hungry, Int'l	
Main Ministry	Community Development	
Comment (Main Ministry)	(in the Belo Jegonfoy Woreda, where the Didessa Valley Northern Mao are located)	
Comment (Expatriate Workers)	National and expatriate missionaries are involved in the ministries of FHI	
Number Of Workers Using Local Language	0	