

The Basoga of Uganda



representative photo

The Balamogi and Basiki live in Eastern Uganda, south of Lake Kyoga. They are clans of the second largest people group in Uganda, the Basoga, and speak the Lusoga language varieties of Lulamogi and Lusiki.

The Balamogi and Basiki are predominantly subsistence farmers growing millet, maize, sweet potatoes, rice and cassava. Cash crops include rice, cotton, watermelon, groundnuts and coffee. The Basiki and Balamogi also rear animals such as cattle, goats and chickens on a small scale.

The Roman Catholic and Anglican churches are predominate in the Balamogi and Basiki areas. There are also many Pentecostal churches and a few Baptist and Seventh Day Adventist churches. The Balamogi and Basiki have been evangelized with the Gospel but their response has mainly been nominal. Many profess to be Christians but in practice continue to mix traditional religions and do not have a meaningful relationship with Christ

Primary Religion:

Christian/Traditional

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

25%

Churches:

Unknown

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

New Testament

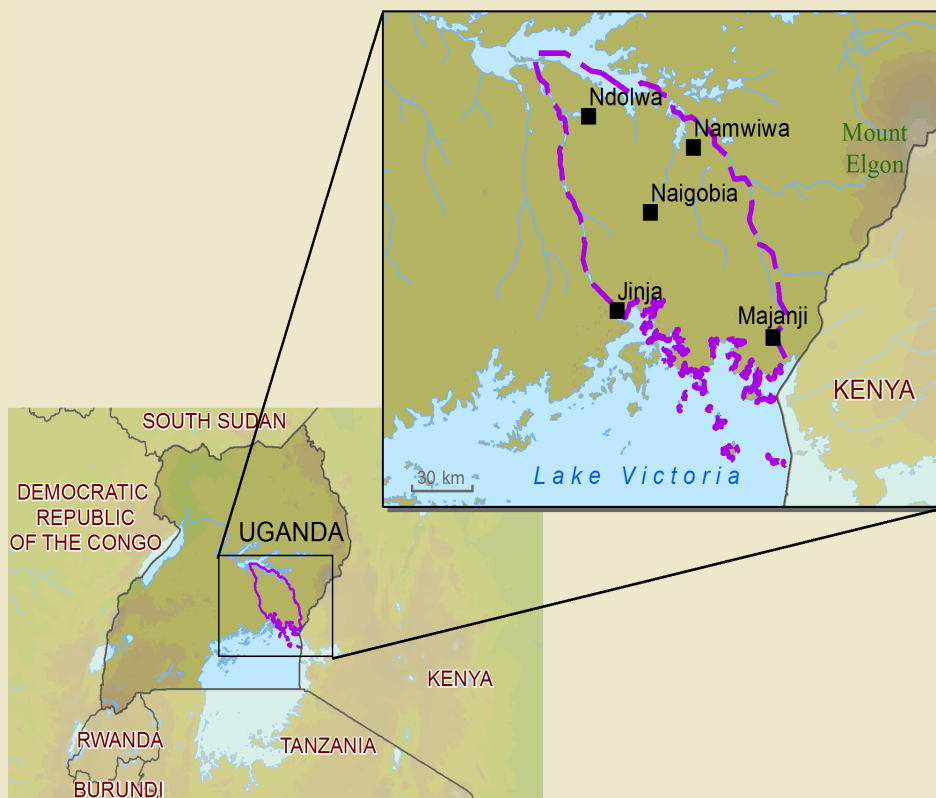
Population (date):

184,962 Balamogi

169,156 Basiki (2005)



SOGA HOMELAND



The Lusoga of Uganda

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian	75%
Believe In Jesus As God And Only Savior	25%
Believe Jesus Is A Prophet, A Good Man But Not the Only Savior	25% Muslims
Believe In Their Local Traditional Religion Comment	Unknown as this is done in secret. Church leaders report a lot of syncretism with people mixing traditional religions with Christianity. Many “Christians” still secretly visit witch doctors.
Have Not Heard Who Jesus Is Comment	0% All have heard but not all have responded.
Attitude to Christianity	Somewhat receptive
Attitude to Religious Change Comment	Indifferent Owning a Bible is not a high priority.
How Have They Responded to the Gospel?	Slowly and with a lot of syncretism, seemingly not giving up old traditional religion and practices entirely.
Number of Churches	Unknown
Number of Communities	Unknown
History of When Christianity Began	1894
History of Christianity By Whom	Anglican Church of Uganda.
Significant Events Comment	The Anglicans were followed by the Roman Catholics, who started their first church in the area in 1911. Pentecostals, Baptists and Seventh Day Adventist have only been in the area for the last 15 to 20 years.
Is The Word Of God Translated?	There is a Lusoga New Testament, which Lulamogi and Lusiki are language varieties of.
Other Forms of Gospel Presentations Available Comment	Literature: Yes The complete Luganda Bible (Old and New Testaments) which is used by many Christians in Southern Uganda. Luganda is closely related to Lusoga and at least partially understood by speakers of that language.

The Lusoga of Uganda

Hindrances to Scripture Distribution	Poverty and sociolinguistic reasons. The Balamogi refuse to use the Lusoga New Testament, which was translated in another variety of Lusoga, Lutenga. Lugwere portions of Scripture are unavailable at the moment apart from the book of Jonah. There is some reluctance by the Basiki to use Lugwere. The Luganda Bible is used in many churches but is not understood very well.
Cross-Cultural Missionaries Needed	No, probably not, although there is a need for evangelism and discipleship within the area. This could most effectively be done, however, by Ugandan missionaries instead of expatriates.

The Lusoga of Uganda

Group Description

Environment

Comment

The Balamogi and Basiki are mainly located in the Iganga and Kaliro Districts of Uganda, which are covered by woodlands, thickets and bushes. The climate is moderate with heavy rainfall and moderate temperatures, averaging around 21* C. Altitude is 914 m and 1, 161 m above sea level.

Economics

Subsistence Type

Agriculturalist

Occupation

Subsistence farmers raising millet, maize, sweet potatoes, rice and cassava.

Income Sources

Coffee, cotton, rice and groundnuts.

Trade Partners

Surrounding people groups such as the Baganda, Bagwere and Ateso.

Modernization/Utilities

Most Balamogi and Basiki live in rural areas with little electricity or running water.

Community Development

Shelter Description

In rural villages homes consists of one to two bedrooms and are made of mud or cement walls with tin or thatched roofs.

Electricity

Most rural houses do not have electricity although some in urban areas do.

Energy/Fuel

Charcoal and wood

Clothing

Secondhand Western clothes.

Transportation

Walking, bicycles, public transportation in buses and bush taxi's.

Society/Culture

Family Structure

Patriarchal with an emphasis on clans .

Neighbor Relations

Good working relationships with all the people groups surrounding them

Cultural Change Pace

Medium

Identification With National Culture

Integrated

Self Image

Neutral

Recreation

The Basiki and Balamogi have a distinct way of blessing seeds. A blessing for groundnut is called "Kungona" and is done simply by throwing the groundnut husks into the road where passersby will walk over them. The blessing for millet, called "Kwakiira," is done by preparing a feast, offering a blessing for the millet, and then eating.

The Lusoga of Uganda

Recreations	Preparing and drinking local brew together
Attitude to Outsiders	Receptive
Attitude to Change	Indifferent
History of People Group	The Balamogi and Basiki, clans of the Basoga, are thought to have originated from Ethiopia. They are believed to have migrated down through Sudan, Northern Uganda, Bisinia, Buganda, and Nakasongola, before settling in the Bulamogi and Busiki areas. Those that continued the migration on into Pallisa are now known as the Bagwere people and are speakers of a different, although related, language. According to various interviews, the Balamogi claim to be the “real Basoga” and believe that all Basoga are derived from them.
<u>Youth</u>	
Labor and Tasks (6-12 years)	Scaring birds from rice, working in gardens, helping herd and rear animals, fishing, baby-sitting
Youth Problems (Teens)	Pregnancy or early marriages
<u>Education</u>	
Primary Schools	Approximately 110 in Busiki County and at least 10 in Bulamogi County (Bulamogi County is a district of its own now called Kaliro District. Busiki County is supposed to become a district of its own in June 2006.)
Comment	No data was available for the whole of Bulamogi County, just for the sub-county of Gadumire.
Primary Schools Enrollment	257,234 total in Iganga District (part of which is the Basiki area), 219,379 total in Kamuli District (part of which is the Balamogi area 157,700
Comment	These are for the total students enrolled in each District, not just the Basiki or Balamogi students
Secondary Schools	18 in Busiki County; 1 in Bulamogi County
Eligible Number of Students Enrolled	85% in Primary Schools
Number of Teachers	5,257 Iganga District (part of which is the Basiki area), 4,027 in Kamuli District (part of which is the Balamogi area.)
Comment	Again, these are figures for the entire districts, not just the Busiki and Bulamogi counties
Language of Instruction Early Years	P1-P3 English and Lusoga
Language of Instruction Later Years	English, P4 and up
Language of Textbooks Later Years	English

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Language of Textbooks Later Years

English

Comment on Language

Although the language of instruction is predominately in English, children usually do not come to school knowing any English and only begin to understand well by P4 or P5.

Comment on Education

Education is very important to Balamogi and Basiki parents and is highly valued.

The Lusoga of Uganda

Mission and Churches

Organization #1	Anglican Church of Uganda
Year Started	1894
Number of Adherents	701,524; Total is for Iganga and Kamuli Districts, not just specifically Balamogi and Basiki
Number of Local Workers	Unknown
Number of Workers Using Local Language	Most
Language Used by Local Workers	Lusoga, Lutenga, Lulamogi, Lusiki, English, Luganda.
Organization #2	Roman Catholic Church
Year Started	1911
Number of Adherents	268,661; Total is for Iganga and Kamuli Districts, not just specifically Balamogi and Basiki
Number of Expatriate Workers	A few, predominantly from Europe. Especially Germany and the Netherlands. They are not based necessarily within the Balamogi and Basiki areas, however, but in the larger towns of Jinja (Basoga area) and Iganga (Basiki area).
Number of National Workers	Most
Number of Local Workers	Most
Number of Workers Using Local Language	All
Language Used by Local Workers	Lusoga, Lutenga, Lulamogi, Lusiki, English, Luganda.
Organization #3	Pentecostal Churches
Year Started	Varies but mostly in the last 15 to 20 years.
Number of Adherents	46,970; Total is for Iganga and Kamuli Districts, not just specifically Balamogi and Basiki
Number of Expatriate Workers	Few is any
Number of National Workers	Most if not all
Number of Local Workers	Many
Number of Workers Using Local Language	All
Language Used by Local Workers	Lusoga, Lutenga, Lulamogi, Lusiki, English, Luganda
Organization #4	Seventh Day Adventist
Number of Adherents	21,459; Total is for Iganga and Kamuli Districts, not just specifically Balamogi and Basiki