



The Tubu of Niger

The Tubu, with a population of 4-500,000, are spread over four countries: Chad, Lybia, Sudan, and Niger. In Niger there are about 30-90,000, depending on the source.

The word "Tubu" is a Kanuri word and means "the people of Tibesti". There are four sub-groups of Tubu, each of which has its own dialect: Teda, Daza, Azza, and Kamadja.

The Teda and the Daza are on a higher hierarchical level than the Azza and the Kamadja. The two groups found in Niger are the Teda (between 2,000 and 5,000) and the Daza (around 60,000).

Traditionally, the Teda and the Daza have made their livelihood by herding. The Teda raise camels, the Daza camels and cattle. Both these groups raise goats, whereas the Azza are known as blacksmiths. The lifestyle of herders in these desert regions requires living in tents. This, however, has been changing drastically over the past few years. Droughts and economic problems have caused numerous group members to leave their traditional lifestyle and become more sedentary.

The family structure is hierarchical and male dominated, yet the women have more freedom than in other African groups. Men and women live mostly apart from one another. The divorce rate is surprisingly high. Social life is centered around the tea ceremony. Hospitality and friendship are central values.

The Tubu are basically 100% Muslim.

Primary Religion:

Muslim Muslim-Animism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

< 1%

Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None in their language

Population (date):

200,000 (1971)



Map Unavailable

The Tubu of Niger

Item Name

Item Note

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	< 1%
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	100
Number Of Missionaries Working	9
Is The Word Of God Translated?	no
Translation Medium	none
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	The people are hard to keep track of and often illiterate
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	1 family from SIL and one from SIM are already there, five missionaries from Frontiers are about to start working there.

Profile Summary

Population All Countries

World Population For This People	200000
World Population (Date)	1971
Comment (World Population)	urban population below 10%

Group Description

Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name	Niger
Country Name	Niger

Group Description

Geography & Environment

Location	spread out over four countries around Lake Chad: Chad, Lybia, Sudan, Niger. In Niger the town of N'Guigmi is a center.
Country	Niger
Ecosystem Type	Desert
Geological Type	Plains
Elevation	300
Longitude	13 E
Latitude	14 N
Climate	Hot and dry, desert.
Comments (Geography & Environment)	Some Teda in Chad live in the mountains.

Group Description

Language & Linguistics

Comment (Language)	Teda is one dialect of the four dialects of the Tubu.
Alternate Language Names	Teda, Daza, Azza, Kamadja all belong to the dialects of the Tubu.
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive
Percent Monolingual (%)	20
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, STANDARD
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	HAUSA
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	HAUSA
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, STANDARD
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	know %
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	don't know %
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	don't know %
Linguistically Related Languages	TAMAJEQ, AIR
Linguistically Related Languages	FULFULDE, KANO-KATSINA-BORORRO

Group Description

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Item Name	Item Note
Linguistically Related Languages	KANURI, MANGA
Linguistically Related Languages	HAUSA
Linguistically Related Languages	ARABIC, STANDARD
Linguistically Related Languages	HAUSA
Linguistically Related Languages	TAMAJEQ, AIR
Linguistically Related Languages	KANURI, MANGA
Linguistically Related Languages	ARABIC, STANDARD
Linguistically Related Languages	FULFULDE, KANO-KATSINA-BORORRO
Comments (Related Languages)	Don't know %
Comments (Related Languages)	Variety of Fulfulde is a guess
Comments (Related Languages)	Variety of Kanuri is a guess
Neighboring Languages	KANURI, MANGA

Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	5
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive
Active Literacy Program	Yes
Publications In Vernacular	1
Comment (Literacy)	lit probably below 5%, publication is a newspaper.

Group Description

Economics

Subsistence Type	Pastoralists
Average Annual Income	unknown
Occupation	herding producing crafts
Income Sources	proceeds from camel and artwork sale.
Products / Crafts	blacksmith's work
Trade Partners	Kanuri, Nigeria
Comment (Economy)	average income below Niger average

Group Description

Community Development

Health Care (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Health Care)	Poor quality is also due to nomadic lifestyle.
Diet (Quality)	Poor
Comment (Diet)	Teda pride themselves in being able to live on very little food and drink
Water (Quality)	Fair
Comment (Water)	Quality differs according to individual villages.
Shelter Description	good. Nomads live in tents.
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	None
Comment (Energy)	Kerosene in towns. Wood for cooking.
Clothing	mostly traditional African.
Transportation	camels
Infant Mortality Rate	22.4%
Life Expectancy	45 (Niger)
Leading Cause Of Death	pulmonary diseases
Comment (Community Development)	ch mort is for Department de Diffa, life exp. probably lower than Niger average

Group Description

The Tubu of Niger

Item Name	Item Note	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	women have more freedom than in other African groups	
Neighbor Relations	frequent tensions. Tubu are known to be very aggressive when their honor and freedom is jeopardized.	
Authority / Rule	chief has less power than in other African groups	
Social Habits/Groupings	hospitality and tea ceremony	
Cultural Change Pace	Medium	
Identification With National Culture	Integrated	
Self Image	Prestigious	
Judicial / Punishment System	revenge with higher groups, capture slave with lower groups, when a murder has been committed.	
Celebrations	marriages, Tabaski, Ramadan	
Recreations	very little	
Art Forms	blacksmith's work	
Media	TV news in Tubu dialect in Niamey	
Local Language Broadcasting	< 20 minutes daily	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Change	Somewhat resistant	
Comment (Culture)		
Youth		Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	taking care of animals; girls: housework, cooking, looking after younger siblings; boys: drawing water	
Youth Problems (Teens)	educational and medical situations	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	more and more adequate schools and healthcare, good rains so their pastures can be replenished	
Education		Group Description
Primary Schools	20	
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	25	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	30	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	French	
Comment (Education)	probably very few schools more than 90% homogenous. There are Koranic schools too where Arabic and the Koran are taught.	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Adopted	
Comment (Church Growth)	very few believers, no pastors/lay leaders known	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Muslim festivals, fasting, daily prayers, almsgiving	
Attitude To Christianity	Very resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant	
Resistance / Receptivity	Most Tubu are willing to listen, but not to change	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	adapt worship style, buildings to something that is familiar to Muslims (take off shoes, sit on mats)	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	oppressive due to Islam, not very open	
Comment (Religion)	no indications for religions practices, analogies and openness	

The Tubu of Niger

Item Name

Recommended Approaches

Item Note

adapt worship style building to something that is familiar to Muslims

Current Needs

economic needs, adequate rains

Items For Prayer

rains, improvement of medical and educational situations, more openness for the Gospel

History Of Christianity In Group

Status of Christianity

Year Began

1994

By Whom

SIM International

Significant Events

1994: two families moved to the area, seven more missionaries are planning to do so within the next few years

Scripture

Status of Christianity

Translation Status

Definite

Available Scripture

None

Comment (Scripture)

(Imported: Literature/Media:
Literature: 0
Recordings: recordings done by Gospel Recordings exist but there are questions as to how widely they are used
Film: 0
Radio: 0
Video: 0
Audio-visual: 0)
(Imported: Summary:
Word of God translated: no
Word of God form: none
Other forms of gospel: none)

Missions and Churches

Status of Christianity

Organization Name

Gospel Recordings

Country Of Origin

United States

Main Ministry

Community Development

Main Ministry

Community Development

Year Started

1994

Number Of Expatriate Workers

5

Organization Name

SIM International

Country Of Origin

United States

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

1994

Number Of Expatriate Workers

2

Language Used By Workers

Tedaga

Christian Literature And Media Status

Status of Christianity

Audio Recordings Available

recordings done by Gospel Recordings exist but there are questions as to how widely they are used