

The Tunia of Chad

**Image
Unavailable**

Standing in an unstable canoe dug out from a large log, the men are balanced attentively, with their spears slightly raised. Down the river are more canoes, and men are casting out the huge nets and working together to pull them back in again. The method of fishing isn't as important as the results, as being successful fishermen has always been a priority for the Tounia men. Life in the village requires hard work and tough spirits. The people are kept busy from sun-up to sun-down making sure that there will always be food on the table. Without any modern conveniences, the people learn to depend on each other and on their own strength. Only a handful of Christians exist among the Tounia, and the Gospel has yet to become really personal to them. In order for these Christians and the rest of the Tounia to experience the fullness of God's message, they need to hear the Gospel in their own language. They are so open to outside help and so eager to learn, it seems the time is right for the Lord's laborers to go in. Please pray that the Lord would raise up individuals who will live among the Tounia to teach them and share the Gospel with them in a way that will change lives.

Primary Religion:

Tribal Religion

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0.2%

Churches:

0

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

No Scripture

Population (date):

2,500 (1994)



Map Unavailable

The Tunia of Chad

Item Name

Item Note

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Profile Summary

Call Themselves Christian (%)	>20%
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0.2%
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	3%
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	97%
Number Of Pastors	0
Number Of Missionaries Working	0
Response To The Gospel	Indifference; It is not known how the Christians came to be Christians.
Number Of Communities	11
Number Of Churches	0
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Not in the Mother Tongue.
Translation Medium	None
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Illiteracy
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Gospel Recordings has a cassette in the Tunia language.
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Medical missions, Bible Translation, literacy work, development, church planting, evangelism, discipleship.

Population All Countries

Group Description

World Population For This People	2500
World Population (Date)	1994
World Population (Urban Percent)	40%
Comment (World Population)	Approximately 40% of the Tunia live in urban areas, mostly in Sarh.

Countries Where People Group Lives

Group Description

Country Name	Chad
--------------	------

Geography & Environment

Group Description

Location	The villages are located in southern Chad, in the Moyen-Chari prefecture. They live in and nearby the city of Sarh.
Country	Chad
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs
Geological Type	Riverine
Elevation	300-700m
Longitude	18 degrees E
Latitude	9 degrees N
Climate	hot and dry with a rainy season April through October

Language & Linguistics

Group Description

Primary Language	TUNIA
Alternate Language Names	TOUNIA
Alternate Language Names	TUN
Alternate Language Names	TUNYA
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive
Percent Monolingual (%)	5%
Second Languages	Chadian Arabic, Sara (Madjingay)
Comment (Second Language)	Approximately 70% of the Tunia in Sarh and 30% in the villages speak Sara Madjingay adequately
Linguistically Related Languages	BUA

The Tunia of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
Neighboring Languages	NIELLIM	
Active Language Programs	No	
Language Stability	Stable	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	11%	
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Publications In Vernacular	None	
Comment (Literacy)	Adult Literacy rate is the national average. It may indeed be lower in the actual Tunia area.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Fishers	
Average Annual Income	<\$450	
Occupation	fishing, farming, hunting	
Income Sources	selling the produce from the fishing, farming, and hunting.	
Products / Crafts	cotton, millet, fish	
Trade Partners	buy milk and meat from Arabs	
Modernization / Utilities	Organization Nationale de Developpement Rurale (ONDR) runs cooperatives in the area.	
Comment (Economy)	Average annual income is based on national average in 1994	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Health Care)	There is one dispensary for villages south of the Chari river, but the villages on the northern bank lack dispensaries. These northern villages are approximately 30 miles from Sarh which has a hospital.	
Diet (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Diet)	Their diet includes a variety of meats and vegetables.	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Water)	Because they live along the river, water is available to them, however, it is not clean and potable water.	
Shelter Description	They live in round huts made of straw.	
Electricity	None	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Energy)	The closest community with electricity is Sarh.	
Clothing	The men wear pants and shirts, while the women wear wrap-around skirts called pagnes.	
Transportation	Transportation to the city is easily achieved because of the close proximity to Sarh. Those living on the north bank of the Chari River must cross the river by ferry. Travel to local villages is done by walking, riding donkeys, or riding bicycles.	
Infant Mortality Rate	12.3	
Life Expectancy	47	
Leading Cause Of Death	intestinal infections	
Comment (Community Development)	Information on child mortality, life expectancy, and leading cause of death is based on the national average (1994). Intestinal and other infections are due largely to lack of sanitation and clean water.	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Family Structures	extended family	
Neighbor Relations	The Tounia have good relations with the Niellim, Bua, Tumak, and Ndam. However, they do not associate well with the Arabs, since they perceive the Arabs as dishonest.	

The Tunia of Chad

Item Name	Item Note
Authority / Rule	Village chiefs are subservient to the canton chief (sultan) who resides in Kokaga, just outside of Sarh.
Social Habits/Groupings	no clan or caste system
Cultural Change Pace	Rapid
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Self Image	Neutral
Judicial / Punishment System	Village chiefs and elders make their appeals to the sultan.
Celebrations	Harvest celebrations, initiations for men, appeasement to the gods of nature.
Recreations	dances, listening to the radio
Art Forms	straw weaving, woodworking (tool making)
Media	Radio Nationale de Tchad broadcasts from Sarh in Sara-Madjingay and French
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Very receptive
Attitude To Change	Very receptive
History Of People Group	unknown

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Youth help with the fishing and farming and the girls also help with housework and childcare.
Youth Problems (Teens)	pre-marital sex
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	A youth program with social events to keep them busy would be beneficial.

Education

Group Description

Primary Schools	2
Primary School Enrollment	380
Secondary Schools	0
Secondary School Enrollment	unknown
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	60%
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	1:180
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French
Language Of Instruction Later Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	French
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	0
Comment (Education)	There is one school among the Tounia villages, located in Kokaga. This school has over 180 students, 40% of which are Tounia children, and there is one teacher. Since the school only has four grades, children who wish to continue do so in the Sarh school.

Church Growth

Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Evaluated
Reached Classification	Unreached
Total Baptized	5
Lay Leaders	0
Bible Schools	0
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	0
Christian Literacy Centers	0
Comment (Church Growth)	The few non-Catholic believers live in Sarh and attend the evangelical churches there. They make up 0.2% of the population.

The Tunia of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Initiation ceremonies for males take place every seven to ten years. This involves sending them out into the wilderness to learn the ways of their ancestors.	
Attitude To Christianity	Very receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very receptive	
Resistance / Receptivity	The Tounia are open to change, partially because few of them are Muslim. They are receptive to Christianity but still resist giving up traditional practices.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	God controls all of the gods of nature.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Even the baptized believers lack a real commitment to Christ, as influence from traditional practices hinders their focus. They need to see the Gospel as it can apply to them personally, which could more easily be achieved with a Bible in their own language.	
Comment (Religion)	There are less than 10 believers in Sarh who have been baptized in the Catholic church, and many other Tounia attend there. However, they still practice their traditional religion. There are other Tounia who consider themselves Muslim.	
Recommended Approaches	Because of their eagerness to learn to read and write in Tounia, literacy projects would be an excellent means of sharing the Gospel. Other ways would be through development projects.	
Current Needs	Medical missions, educational assistance, and church planting are essential in addition to development and literacy work.	
Items For Prayer	Thank the Lord for the openness of the villages and their sultan toward literacy and development, as these are excellent opportunities to share the Gospel. Pray that God would raise up individuals who would be willing to live and work among the Tounia and share the love of Christ with them. Also pray for the few believers in Sarh, that they would make Christ truly the Lord of their lives and begin sharing the Gospel with their own people.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Comments (History of Christianity)	Unknown history	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	Definite	
Available Scripture	None	
Form Of Scripture Available	None	
Scripture Use	Unknown	
Reason For Urgent Need Of Translation	Conclusions based on survey work indicate that the Tounia language will continue to be used as the prominent language for the villages. Because of this, Bible translation would be beneficial making the Gospel real to them personally.	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	Yes	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No	
Missions and Churches		Status of Christianity
Organization Name	Roman Catholic Church	
Christian Literature And Media Status		Status of Christianity
Audio Recordings Available	Gospel Recordings has a cassette in Tunia.	