

## The Humburi Songhay of Mali



Humburi girl by [Travellerspoint.com](http://Travellerspoint.com)

Humburi Songhay are one of several Songhay people groups living in West Africa. They speak Humburi Senni, which is sometimes called Central Songhay.

The Songhay people emerged from a group who established small settlements around Gao on the banks of the Niger River in the 7th and 8th centuries. The early Songhay were skilled canoeists, fishermen, and hunters, who became skilled in horse and camel riding and took control of trade routes across the Sahara. A powerful Songhay Empire was established in 1464 and lasted until Moroccans conquered them in 1591.

Modern day Humburi Songhay primarily live in and around the town of Hombori (within Mali). Most have rectangular mud-brick homes with straw roofs (thatch). Within villages, many houses have corrugated tin roofs. Traditionally, homes were circular and had thatch roofs.

Most people make their living through farming and growing fruit, often in family gardens, and sometimes in larger cultivated fields.

The Songhay are almost entirely Muslim, but their traditional religion strongly influences their daily lives. Their traditional beliefs include appeasing spirits, magic, witchcraft, sorcery, and ancestor worship. Their only hope for deliverance from a life of fear is the truth found in Scripture, which they need in their own heart language. These people have very few Christian resources available in any Songhay language, and most have never heard a clear presentation of the Gospel of Christ.

**Primary Religion:**

Islam

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

None

**Churches:**

None

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

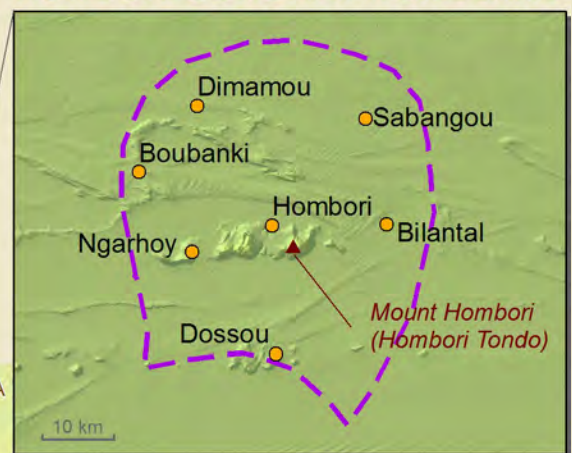
None

**Population (date):**

15,000 (1999)



### HUMBURI SONGHAY HOMELAND



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### Have They Heard The Gospel?

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Call Themselves Christian (%)             | Less than 0.01%  |
| Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%) | None   |
| Number Of Pastors                         | None   |
| Number of Churches                        | None   |
| Number Of Missionaries Working            | None   |
| Is The Word Of God Translated?            | None   |
| Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available    | There are two audio recordings in a related language called Maransé.               |
| What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?     | Agricultural workers, health care workers, linguists, church planters, translators |

# The Humburi Songhay of Mali

## Group Description

### Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name                      Mali

### Population

Population in Mali                      15,000

World Population For This People      15,000

World Population Source (Date)      J. Heath (1999)

### Geography & Environment

Location                                  Mopti region: Douentza circle, Hombori municipality, along and near the road about half way between Gao and Douentza.

Ecosystem Type                          Semi-arid transitional area between the Sahara Desert to the north and savanna to the south.

Geological Type                          Plains, with isolated plateaus

Elevation                                  Generally 250-350 m, with several abrupt cliffs near Hombori, notably Mount Hombori-Tondo, which is Mali's highest point, at 1153 meters.

Longitude                                  1.700 W

Latitude                                    15.283 N

Climate                                     Semi-arid

### Language & Linguistics

Alternate Language Names              Central Songai, Hombori Songhay, Songai, Songay, Central Songai,

Dialects                                    Maransé in Burkina Faso was thought to be a dialect, but in tests to see how well the Merense could understand a text in Humburi it was found that they could not understand it well. So it is thought that the Humburi and the Merense are separate languages. More testing is needed to be certain, however.

Attitude Towards Mother Tongue      Positive. Language use is vigorous, and by all ages.

Language Development                  Dictionary, Grammar

Other Mother Tongues of this Group    Dogon, Fulfulde ??

Neighboring Languages                  Dogon, Fulfulde, Kidal Tamesheq

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### Status of Christianity

#### Church Growth

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Reached Status | Unreached, Unengaged |
|----------------|----------------------|

#### Scripture

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Translation Status | None |
|--------------------|------|

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Available Scripture | None |
|---------------------|------|

#### Missions and Churches

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| Organization Name | None |
|-------------------|------|

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Country of Origin | ??? |
|-------------------|-----|

#### Christian Literature and Media Status

|                      |      |
|----------------------|------|
| Literature Available | None |
|----------------------|------|

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Audio Recordings Available | Audio recordings “Good News”, and “Words of Life” are available from Gospel Recordings, in the related and somewhat comprehensible language of Maransé . |
|----------------------------|--|

|                 |      |
|-----------------|------|
| Films Available | None |
|-----------------|------|

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Videos Available | None |
|------------------|------|

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Audio Visual Available | None |
|------------------------|------|