



## The Kono of Guinea

The Kono people live in a semi-mountainous region of Southeast Guinea. There are some Christian churches in the area, but most of the Kono hold animistic beliefs. The Christian population is less than 1%. The Kono have been known to burn down churches and chase Christians from their villages. However, in recent years they have changed and desire for a missionary to come translate the Bible into their language. They are very eager and have even prepared a translation committee. They have been waiting for several years for someone to come and translate the Bible. They have changed from being very hostile to Christianity to being very much more open, they're just waiting to hear the Gospel.

**Primary Religion:**

Animism

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

< 1%

**Churches:**

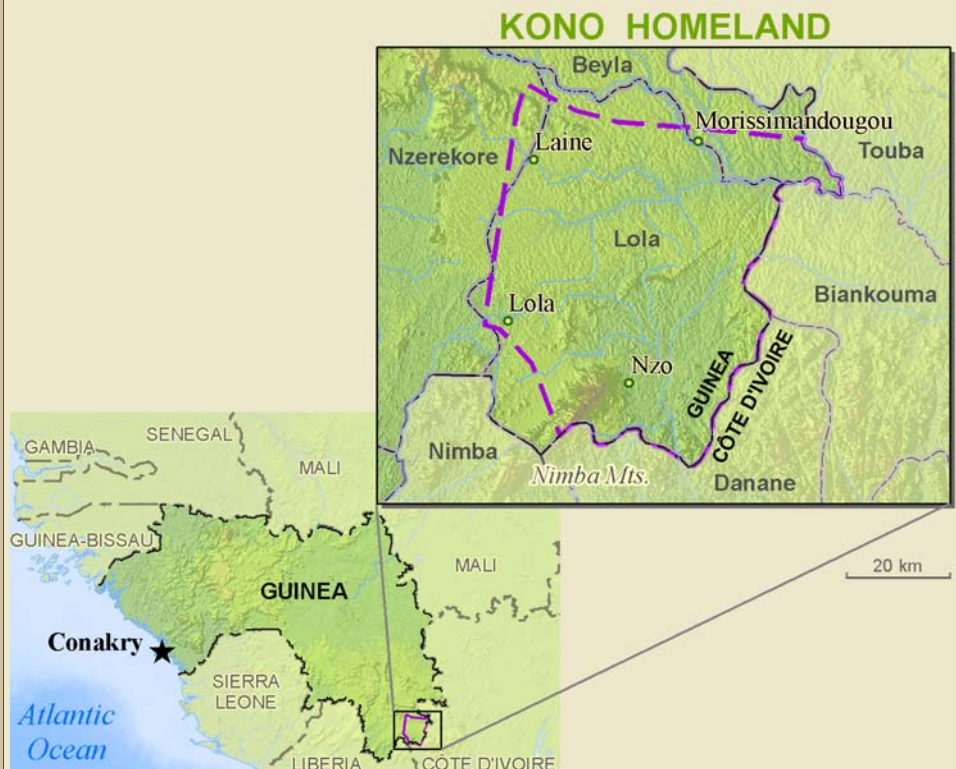
2

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None

**Population (date):**

90,000 (2000)



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Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	2.6%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	< 1%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	5%	
Believe In The Local Traditional Religion (%)	97%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	80%	
Number Of Pastors	2	
Comment (Pastors)	Ratio of pastors/evangelists to population: 0.000022%	
Number Of Missionaries Working	2	
Comment (Number Of Missionaries)	Ratio of missionaries to population: 0.000022%	
Response To The Gospel	Since the CMA translation project began in Kpelle there have been some churches started in Kono by a few pastors. The church is very new in Kono.	
Number Of Churches	2	
Comment (Churches)	There are a few churches, but we do not know how many members at this point. We know of a few churches because there are "a few" pastors working in the area, and a "Kono church".	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes. There is a probable translation need. There is also a need for church planting.	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Guinea	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Ecosystem Type	rain forest	
Geological Type	mountains	
Elevation	600-1000 meters	
Longitude	8.5 degrees west	
Latitude	8 degrees north	
Climate	rainy season/dry season 85F average	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Language	Kono (Guinea)	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Somewhat receptive	
Second Languages	Kpelle, Guinea	
Linguistically Related Languages	Kpelle, Guinea	
Comments (Related Languages)	related to Kpelle based on lexical similarities	
Comments (Neighbor Languages)	Kpelle, Dan, Mano, Kuranko, Susu, Loco	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Comment (Attitude to literacy)	Unknown	
Active Literacy Program	None known	
Publications In Vernacular	None	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Comment (Subsistence Type)	subsistence agriculture	
Average Annual Income	below poverty levels	
<b>Community Development</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	

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Comment (Health Care)	Clinics in Lola and Nzerekore at refugee camps.	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Diet)	Forest food, rice and fish sauce	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Water)	fair, but not conveniently located; rivers, streams, good water at aid organization refugee camps	
Electricity	unknown, assumed to be very limited except in larger towns	
Comment (Energy)	good fuel in Nzerekore and Lola	
Transportation	bush taxis, bicycles, 4x4	
Infant Mortality Rate	unknown	
Life Expectancy	unknown	
Leading Cause Of Death	unknown	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Neighbor Relations	good relations with Kpelle, unknown with others, assumed to be fragile because of refugee migrations	
Cultural Change Pace	Slow	
Identification With National Culture	Distinct	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat resistant	
Comment (Attitude To Outsiders)	very resistant in the past, becoming less resistant	
Attitude To Change	Somewhat resistant	
Comment (Attitude To Change)	very resistant in the past, becoming less resistant	
Youth		Group Description
Youth Problems (Teens)	AIDS a major problem, as well as poverty	
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	God, education, resources	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Verified	
Comment (Reached Status)	Verified, possibly evaluated.	
Lay Leaders	At least 2	
Bible Schools	none	
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	none	
Christian Literacy Centers	none	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat receptive	
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat receptive	
Resistance / Receptivity	The Kono are animists and have been hostile towards Christianity, even burning down churches and chasing Christians out of the town. In recent years have become much more open to Christian missionary work among their people, they have a desire for someone to come and work among their group. They said they will accept a church being there now.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	They are very anxious to have someone come and begin translation. They have even prepared a translation team and people to help with the project.	
Recommended Approaches	There are two Assemblies of God pastors in the area, one is Pastor Benjamin Koiba. Both have requested Bible translation work.	
Current Needs	Scripture, evangelism, church planting, literacy, school, hospital	
Items For Prayer	The Kono are asking for someone to come translate the Bible for them as well as start a school and hospital. They have been very hostile to Christian activity in the past but have become more open in recent years. They were disappointed to hear how long a translation would take once someone was assigned to them.	

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Item Name	Item Note	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Year Began	1900s	
By Whom	Assemblies of God	
Significant Events	Christians have had their churches burned and have been chased from the Kono villages in their past by the animists. This is no longer the case, however.	
<b>Scripture</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Translation Status	Possible	
Available Scripture	None	
Form Of Scripture Available	None	
Reason For Urgent Need Of Translation	The Kono have been asking for someone to come and do a translation for many years. They seem to be very open and have done much to prepare for a translation project. There are less than 1% Christian among the Kono and the fact that they seem so open right now is huge.	
Comment (Scripture)	Kpelle translation of NT is completed and work has begun on OT. Kono pastors and others say that they cannot understand the Kpelle translation. Lutheran Bible Translators did a translation for the Kono in Liberia, however, this Kono is not related to the Kono of Guinea.	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	None	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	None	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	None	
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	None	
<b>Missions and Churches</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Organization Name	Assemblies of God	
Number Of Congregations	2	
Number Of Local Workers	2	
Organization Name	Pilafricaine	
Number Of Expatriate Workers	1	
Organization Name	Christian and Missionary Alliance	
Number Of Congregations	2	
Comment (Expatriate Workers)	2	
Number Of Local Workers	2	