



## The Borana of Kenya

The word spelled Borana is pronounced with the final vowel silent. It refers to the people or their language and also means friend or kind person.

The economy and life style are built entirely around the cattle and camels. Young men do the daily herding while the women do all family nurturing. The homestead groups may be required to move three or four times each year, often as far as 100 km or more. Huts, constructed by the women, consist of interwoven branches thatched with grass all the way to the ground. This is in contrast with the Gabbra (who share the same language) who weave mats to cover the framework. When movement of the homestead is required, the transportable portions are loaded onto the back of a camel or woman and carried to the new location.

The parallel "modern" phenomena of rapid population growth and decreasing availability of productive grazing land threaten the Borana people. Contacts with other nomadic peoples lead to clashes, sometimes bloody, for land. Also, they have been increasingly dependent upon relief agencies for help, which is culturally repugnant to these proud people.

Their traditional religion is monotheistic with communication through intermediary priests or "Qallu".

**Primary Religion:**

Islam/Local tradition

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

10%

**Churches:**

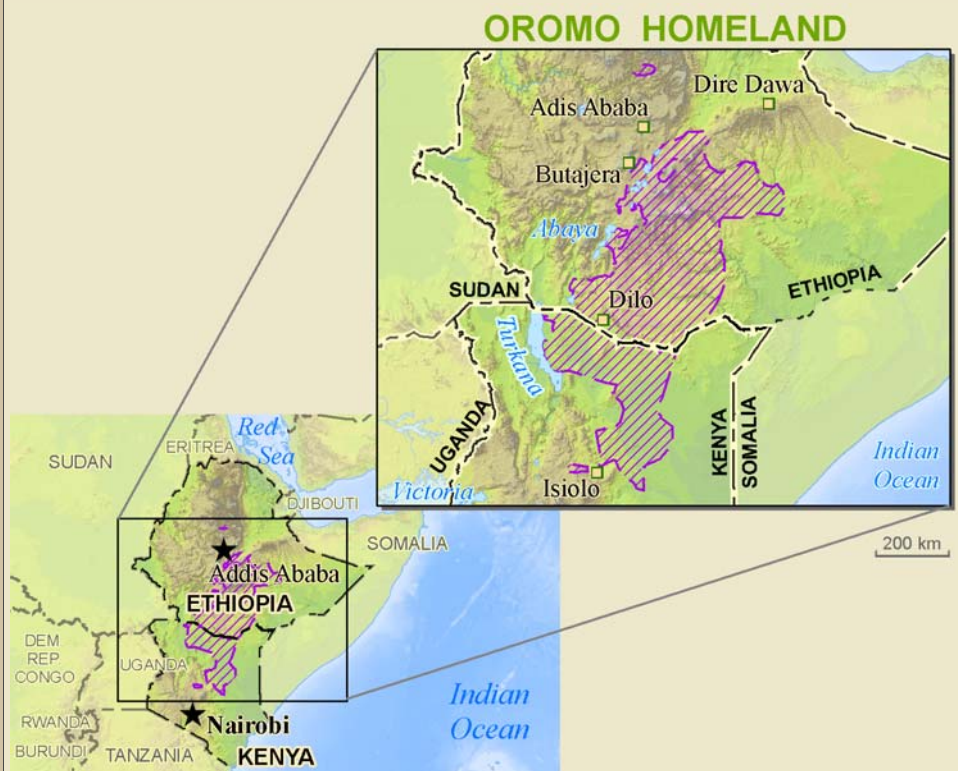
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**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

Bible complete (1995)

**Population (date):**

96,000 (1991)



# The Borana of Kenya

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	15%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	10%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	35%	
Number Of Pastors	20	
Number Of Missionaries Working	20	
Response To The Gospel	A young church among Borana people is started, and it is beginning to make headway.	
Number Of Churches	29	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Yes. Bible is available as of 1995	
Translation Medium	Complete Bible.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	The nomadic lifestyle makes teaching literacy difficult. Distribution of scripture and audio tapes is difficult for the same reason. Literacy classes were began in 1998.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Gospel recordings	
	Gospel recordings	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes, they do need outside assistance.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	5,000,000	
World Population (Date)	1991	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Kenya	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	Marsabit district north central Kenya and southern Ethiopia, probably the poorest, most arid land in Kenya.	
Country	Kenya	
Ecosystem Type	Desert	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	200 to 1,000	
Climate	Hot, dry with short wet season (sahelin)	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Alternate Language Names	Borana	
Alternate Language Names	BOORAN	
Alternate Language Names	SOUTHERN OROMO	
Alternate Language Names	OROMO	
Alternate Language Names	BORAN	
Dialects	BORAN	
Dialects	SAKUYE	
Dialects	GABRA	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	SWAHILI	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Languages with closest linguistic affiliation or other Oromo dialects are Garreh-Ajuran, Sanye, Yaaku and Orma.	
Linguistically Related Languages	OROMO, QOTU	
Comments (Related Languages)	Ethiopia Oromo uses Amheric script	
Neighboring Languages	GARREH-AJURAN	

## The Borana of Kenya

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	6	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Pastoralists	
Occupation	Cattle husbandry/camel husbandry	
Income Sources	Milk ( very little) and animal skins	
Products / Crafts	Beads, woven containers ( water, milk), wooden containers - leather products	
Trade Partners	Few Arab traders - adjoining people groups for some agricultural products.	
Modernization / Utilities	None except for those who live in towns	
<b>Community Development</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	some government and Catholic clinics	
Diet (Quality)	Very good	
Comment (Diet)	Migratory, nomadic people	
Water (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Water)	Water holes or rivers during rainy season - very much a problem. Governing fact of life	
Shelter Description	Pole and mud huts built by the women, sometimes grass thatch or woven mats	
Electricity	Fair	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Energy)	Grass, firewood	
Clothing	Cloth - modified western	
Transportation	Camels	
<b>Society &amp; Culture</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Family Structures	Homestead group consists of several families with separate huts. Nomadic life with entire compound move several times each year- frequency and distance governed by water supplies. Family nurtured by the wife. Bride price is 3 cows plus a special gift. Most marriages are between clan. Polygamy is acceptable. Bride moves into husband's homestead. Six children expected from each wife.	
Authority / Rule	Elected elder in each compound. Little or no outside interference. About 10% of the group abandoned the nomadic life and move into towns. This migration is increasing with young people.	
Social Habits/Groupings	At the naming ceremony, approximately 1 year old boy is presented with a cow by his father, possibly also by his grandfather. This cow is protected and allowed to multiply by his father. This by the time he is of age to marry he has his "bride Price" plus a herd to support his family.	
Cultural Change Pace	Slow	
Identification With National Culture	Integrated	
Self Image	Prestigious	
Judicial / Punishment System	Elders in each homestead act as judges - crimes are punished by fines	
Celebrations	Naming ceremonies, Dancing, feasting Gada (age set) ceremonies	
Art Forms	Beads, bangles, metal earrings and a cloth weaving	
Local Language Broadcasting	None	
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive	
<b>Education</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Schools	54	

## The Borana of Kenya

Item Name	Item Note
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	60%
Language Of Instruction Early Years	Swahili (specific)
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	Swahili (specific)

### Church Growth

Reached Status	Reached
Total Baptized	3,000
Lay Leaders	40
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	14

### Status of Christianity

### Religion & Response

Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Celebrate Easter, Christmas, Idd ul fitr- Muslim holiday - celebrating the end of Ramadan and traditional ceremonies
Attitude To Christianity	Indifferent
Resistance / Receptivity	The Muslims are very resistant; those practicing traditional religion are somewhat receptive.
Current Needs	Veterinary help; health services

### Status of Christianity

### History Of Christianity In Group

Year Began	1931
By Whom	Anglican

### Status of Christianity

### Scripture

Translation Status	Scripture
Available Scripture	Bible
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed
Scripture Use	2
Scripture Use	Hardly at all
Comment (Scripture)	(Imported: Summary: Word of God translated: Yes. Bible is available as of 1992 Word of God form: Complete Bible. Other forms of gospel: Gospel recordings  Gospel recordings)

### Status of Christianity

### Missions and Churches

Organization Name	Pentecostal
Country Of Origin	Kazakhstan
Main Ministry	Evangelism

### Status of Christianity