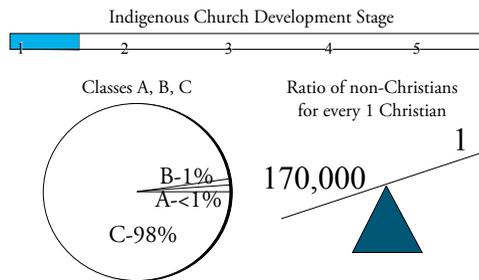


# Baluch



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 8,500,000  
 Pakistan: 6,600,000  
 Iran: 1,100,000  
 Afghanistan: 370,000  
 Oman: 360,000  
**Religion:** Islam  
**Believers:** 0.0005%  
**Scriptures:** Portions  
**Ministry Tools:** RJ  
**C Status:** 1  
**M Status:** 1  
**MS Subgroups:** 50+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church  
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined  
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

and the Middle East, but progress among the majority in Baluchistan has been slow, and the dream of a Balochi church is still a work in progress. However, in recent years church planting efforts have been increasing among them and a strong inter-agency partnership has been formed to oversee cooperative planning.

## How to Pray:

☞ Pray for spiritual breakthrough among the influential Hakim clan, which control much of the Baloch economy through oasis land holdings and alliances with nomadic tribes.

☞ Intercede for the translation, production and distribution of the Bible in the three major Balochi dialects (East, West, and South).

☞ Ask God to bless the weekly Christian short-wave radio broadcasts into Baluchistan. Pray for effective follow-up with interested seekers and believers.

☞ Pray for specialized outreach to each of the Balochi social sub-groups, especially the Zikri, who are seeking after the True Light.

☞ Pray for unity among the growing missionary force engaging the Baloch.

**Every year 75,000  
 Baluch die  
 without Christ.**

**Identity:** The Baloch are an Iranian people, who once served as mercenaries in the Babylonian and Persian empires. In the late 15th century they migrated from Persia into present day Baluchistan, absorbing dozens of peoples and establishing a complex social hierarchy of tribes, clans, and castes.

**Lifestyle:** In the Sulaiman mountains of Pakistan, and the Sarhad plateau of Iran, the Baluch engage primarily in semi-nomadic pastoralism, raising sheep and goats. Their diet is supplemented by growing dry-crop cereals through a clever use of rainfall catchments. In the desert areas of the central and south regions of Baluchistan, the economy centers around date palm oasis groves, which are irrigated by underground aqueducts. Thousands have immigrated illegally to the Gulf seeking employment as day-wage laborers.

**Customs:** Within the Baloch cluster, there is a high degree of suspicion of

social outsiders, whom they see as a threat to a woman's purity and a challenge to male honor. For this reason, the Baloch have one of the highest rates of clan and tribal endogamy (marrying within one's own social group) in the Muslim world. One group the Zikri, which make up 15% of the Baloch, have a 65% rate of first cousin marriage.

**Religion:** Most Baluch are Sunni Muslims of the Hanafi school. The main exception are the Zikri, who worship Nur Pak (True Light), whom they claim is the Mahdi (the "end-times" messiah). They are regarded as heretics by the Sunni majority, and many *jibads* have been declared against them. Sufi orders are active among the Baluch, and hold stronger sway over the beliefs of Muslims than the traditional *imams*. Sufi mystics are believed to have the power to cure diseases and foresee the future.

**Christian Outreach:** A few Baluch have come to faith in Christ in Afghanistan