

Fulani



Quick Facts

Population: 24,000,000

Nigeria: 12,400,000

Senegal: 2,600,000

Niger: 1,400,000

Mali: 1,300,000

Religion: Sunni Muslims

Believers: 0.02%

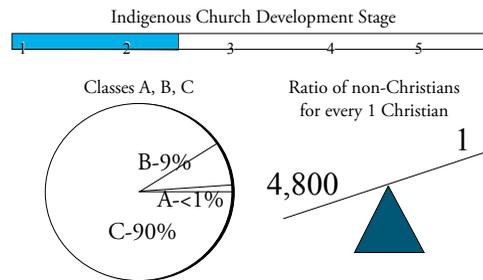
Scriptures: 5 NT, 3 OT

Ministry Tools: JRGT

Church Status: 2

Mission Status: 2

MS Subgroups: 25+



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

Identity: The Fulani are the largest nomadic society in the world whose populations extend across the entire Sahel. They are believed to have originated from inter-marriage between Arabized Berbers and Sene-gambian tribes, and speak dozens of dialects. Distinguishing themselves from their darker ancestors, whom they call *kaado* (black people) is of great importance.

Lifestyle: The entire way of life for the nomadic Fulani centers on caring for their herds of cattle. However, the increased desertification of the Sahel is making this life difficult, and almost impossible for many. The result is that many Fulani have been forced to sacrifice their herds for mere survival, even killing pregnant cattle. Nomadism in the Sahel will likely soon disappear.

Customs: At seven years of age a Fulani boy has acquired all the skills to take care of his family's herd. His labor earns him the right to receive enough

cattle when he marries to support his family. Ideally, the nuclear family should be strong enough to stand on its own. They have a saying, "If your brother's beard is on fire, go put water on yours." Like the Arabs and Berbers they practice Henna tattooing, seen mostly in the frequent discoloration of their lips.

Religion: After their conversion to Islam in the 11th century, the Fulani began to dominate the Sahel region militarily through a series of Jihads that resulted in hundreds of tribal groups converting to Islam. Sufi brotherhoods are strong among them, and give expression to a strong Muslim/Animist syncretism. However, wealthier Fulani tend to be more Orthodox

Christian Outreach: Only recently, as missionaries have been willing to live among them and learn their nomadic culture, have significant breakthroughs begun. Significant effort has been made to identify every cultural and linguistic

sub-group, and establish discipleship groups among them. Their nomadic lifestyle, harsh environment, and dependence on oral tradition has forced missionaries to re-think concepts like the local church, baptism and disciple-making.

How to Pray:

☞ The drought in the Sahel has opened the door to reach hundreds of Fulani nomadic bands. Pray that this opportunity for loving the Fulani will be fully appreciated by the Church.

☞ Praise God for the extensive translation work in all the major Fulani dialects. Pray that these discipleship resources will open the eyes of the Fulani to the riches of God's revelation.

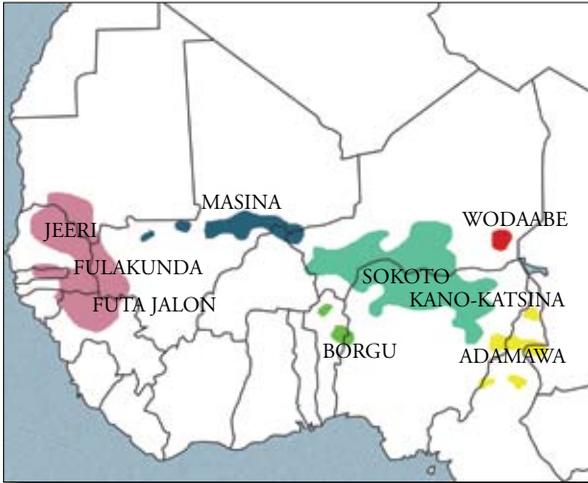
☞ Intercede for those Fulani who have trusted Christ despite opposition. Pray for their effective witness throughout the entire Sahel.

☞ Pray for creativity in training indigenous leaders and future Fulani evangelists and missionaries who will take the gospel to every Fulani tribe, clan and band.

☞ Praise God for the effectiveness of radio broadcasts as a creative means to reach remote Fulani nomads.

Every year 220,000 Fulani die without Christ.

MAJOR FULANI SUB-GROUPS IN WEST AFRICA



Nigerian Fulani (Kano-Katsina-Bororro)

Nigeria- 7,600,000; Niger 200,000

Futa Jalon- 3,200,000

Guinea 3,000,000; Sierra Leone 150,000

Adamawa- 2,200,000

Cameroon 1,200,000; Nigeria 400,000

Fulakunda 1,700,000

Senegal 1,400,000; Gambia 180,000

Masina- 1,450,000

Mali- 1,100,000; Burkina Faso 350,000

Sokoto- 1,200,000

Niger 700,000; Nigeria 450,000

Fulbe Jeeri- 400,000

Senegal 350,000; Mali 40,000

Wodaabe- 120,000

Niger 60,000; Chad 50,000

NIGERIAN FULANI

The largest population of Fulani live in Northern Nigeria. The word Fulani is the Hausa word for Fulbe (the Fulani's name for themselves). The Nigerian Fulani have an estimated 15 million head of cattle and are the major suppliers of beef in the country. They are divided between the Fulbe Wuro, who have settled in cities and are largely influenced by Hausa culture, and the Fulbe Na'i, who continue to live as pastoral nomads. High demand for beef has brought the Fulani Na'i further and further south, and into contact with Christian communities, some of whom have begun to reach out to them.

FUTA JALON

Migrations of the Fulani during the 1700s into the Futa Jalon highlands of Guinea resulted in the absorption and enslavement of many smaller indigenous tribes. Fulani jihads in the area forcibly converted tens of thousands to Islam and established a feudal system which was only dismantled in the latter half of the 20th century. Government sponsored retaliation against them was harsh after the departure of the French, and the Fulani herds have been greatly diminished. Missionary work among them has been slow, but three discipleship groups have been established after many decades of witness. Their dialect of Fulfulde, designated as Pulaar by the French (almost all Fulani call their language Fulfulde), has a regular Christian radio broadcast. Unfortunately, the Bible has not yet been completed in the Pulaar dialect, a remarkable oversight for a language group of over three million people.

ADAMAWA

In the 18th century the Fulani declared a Jihad against the Hausa in Nigeria, and largely subjugated them. Non-muslim peoples were enslaved, resulting in the feudal state of Adamawa in the East. Only recently were these enslaved peoples emancipated due to Christian missionary effort. Their dialect of Fulfude is different enough to require a separate Bible translation, which has been completed and is now in use. A short-wave evangelistic radio broadcast in Adamawa Fulani is ongoing.

FULAKUNDA

The Fulakunda are the former "peasants" in Western Fulani society, ranked below the Fula Forro (Free Fulani) and above the "black slaves." They are looked down upon as being more recent converts to Islam, and even today they are the most animistic of the Fulani, with the exception of the Wodaabe. They are largely sedentary, and their social structure has been influenced by the neighboring Mandinkas whom they have settled among. The New Testament has been translated into the Fulakunda dialect and is now being used by about 100 new believers.