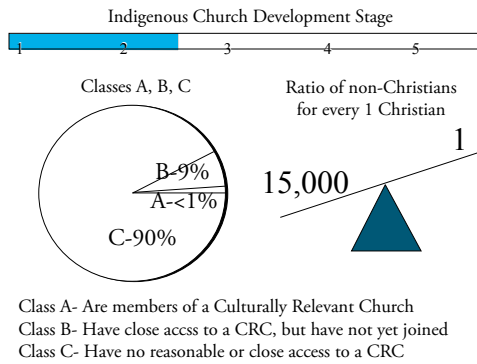


# Jula Muslims



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 1,500,000  
 Ivory Coast: 1,100,000  
 Burkina Faso: 240,000  
 Mali: 70,000  
 Ghana: 20,000  
**Religion:** Islam  
**Believers:** 0.006% (MBB)  
**Scriptures:** NT  
**Ministry Tools:** JRGT  
**Church Status:** 2  
**Mission Status:** 2  
**MS Subgroups:** 15+



**Identity:** The Jula are an eastern Manding people related to the Maninka and the Bambara. They comprise 15 subgroups, whose self-identity as a people distinct from other Manding ethnicities has only recently been forged, beginning in the mid 1800s.

**Lifestyle:** The Jula are primarily wet-rice farmers, and much of their fertile farmland has been obtained from reclaimed mangrove forests. They construct dikes around their fields to keep back the sea-water and to hold fresh water during the rainy season. Women and men work together to develop nurseries and transplant the rice seedlings in June and July. While the rice is maturing, men work to maintain the fields, and when the crop has matured, women will do the harvesting.

**Customs:** The Jula hold a village-wide initiation ceremony and retreat every 15 to 20 years for their sons. During this time, young men are grounded

in traditional and sacred knowledge essential for being a Jula tribesmen. Due to Islamic influence, some villages have begun to remove various traditional elements from the ceremony including sacrifices and libations.

**Religion:** The Jula began converting to Islam toward the end of the 19th century through commercial contacts with the Manding tribe. Almost all Jula Muslims belong to a Sufi *tariqa* (brotherhood), which accomplished much of the missionary work among the Jula. Religious leaders called *marabouts* (Berber for saint) attract followers through their charisma, Quranic knowledge, and spiritual powers. Sacrifices are made at the gravesites of particularly well-known *marabouts* from the past. Muslim villages continue to maintain their spirit-shrines called *sinaati* where offerings of palm wine are regularly made.

**Christian Outreach:** Missionary work among the Jula has been increasing

over the last decade, though church-planting progress continues to move at a slow pace. Eight MBB fellowships have been established thus far, the strongest of which are in Burkina Faso and Ghana. The breakthrough among the majority population in Ivory Coast continues to allude the seven church-planting agencies laboring among them.

## How to Pray:

✞ Pray for the influential Sufi brotherhoods, Tijaniyya and Qadiriyya, that the Holy Spirit would begin to move in their midst and draw them to the Savior. Pray for the leaders of these groups that they might find salvation and freedom in Christ, and have the wisdom and courage to lead their people into the Kingdom.

✞ The Jula have both “family compound” mosques and central village mosques. Pray that many hundreds of these mosques would become places of Christ-centered worship as whole households begin to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus.

✞ Pray for conditions in West Africa to be favorable for missionary work. Pray also for continual unity among all those committed to reaching the Jula.

**Every year 13,000  
 Jula die  
 without Christ.**