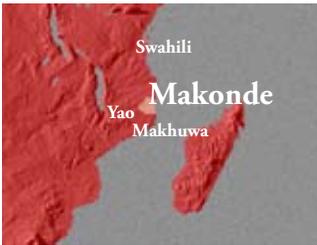
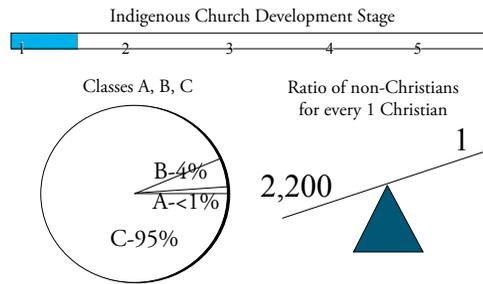


Makonde Muslims



Quick Facts

Population: 1,100,000
 Tanzania: 950,000
 Mozambique: 150,000
Location: Mtwara Region
Lang. Family: Narrow Bantu
Religion: Islam
Believers: 0.04% (MBB)
Scriptures: Portions
Ministry Tools: JGRT
Church Status: 1
Mission Status: 1
MS Subgroups: 3



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 Makonde are a Bantu speaking people closely related to the Yao, and exhibiting strong influences from Swahili culture. Between Tanzania and Mozambique they are separated by the Rovuma river, and the two groups have become culturally distinct.

Lifestyle: The Makonde are primarily slash and burn farmers, cultivating sorghum, maize and cassava. They practice “stump farming,” which involves leaving stumps of trees in their fields that function as water storage and provide support for vine crops. In some areas they are able to hunt for small game or fish to supplement the protein in their diet. They are famous for their wood carvings, regarded by many as the best in Africa, and this has brought significant tourist revenue into their economy.

Customs: Notably absent from the Makonde is any sub-tribal political structure, such as chiefdoms. Each

settlement is independent of one another with their own hereditary headman and elder council. Women are highly regarded, and this is reflected in their wood carvings and mythologies which feature women prominently and favorably. Traditionally, descent has been matrilineal, though through Islamic influence this is beginning to change.

Religion: The Makonde are approximately 75% nominally Muslim. For centuries they resisted the influence of Muslim traders, though they profited from the slave-trade with them. It has only been recently that the process of Islamization has begun to gain momentum among them. There is a growing tension between traditionalists and Muslim purists. Recently a mob lynched a group of accused sorcerers, who were believed to be responsible for lion attacks that killed dozens of people.

Christian Outreach: Large numbers of non-Muslim Makonde have come

to faith in Christ in the last few years resulting in at least 40 new churches being planted. However, this growing response among the non-Muslim Makonde has resulted in the neglect of the more Islamicised communities, which are regarded as resistant to the gospel.

How to Pray:

☞ There are a few Makonde Muslim-background believers (MBB) who have become followers of Jesus. Pray for the establishment of an MBB network that might result in a discipleship movement among every Makonde Islamic community.

☞ Praise God for the completion of the Jesus Film in Makonde which is already bearing fruit. Pray for the ongoing efforts to finish the Scriptures in Makonde, and for the production of a Muslim-friendly edition.

☞ Pray that entire communities, especially headman and elder councils, might make group decisions to follow Jesus, and that they might experience the power of God over the power of darkness, which rule their lives through fear and deception. Pray also that every practicing sorcerer might experience the transforming deliverance of Jesus Christ.

Every year 10,000 Makonde Muslims die without Christ.