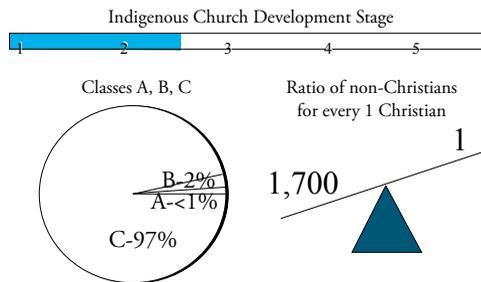


# Mina



## Quick Facts

**Pop. in India:** 3,800,000  
**State Populations:**  
 Rajasthan: 3,400,000  
 Madhya Pradesh: 300,000  
 Uttar Pradesh: 31,000  
**Religion:** Ethnic/Hinduism  
**Believers:** 0.005%  
**Scriptures:** None  
**Ministry Tools:** None  
**Church Status:** 2  
**Mission Status:** 1  
**MS Subgroups:** 8+



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 Mina are the third largest tribe in India. Their origin is obscure, and some anthropologists believe they originated from Central Asia, migrating with the Rajputs in the 7th century A.D. Many communities have adopted regional languages such as Dhundari and Braj Bhasa.

**Lifestyle:** In Rajasthan, the climate can be harsh, and in summer, water is scarce. Villages survive from limited well-water, and many will use sand to clean their kitchen vessels. During this season where there is no agricultural activity, men often use their time to make fire-baked clay tiles, and women will make woven mats and brooms from palm branches. Homes typically consist of a single windowless room, a necessity in this extreme climate. A favorite summer beverage is an alcoholic drink distilled from the mova flower.

**Customs:** The Mina have a reputation for promiscuity due to their custom of

allowing a younger brother to have relations with his older brother's wife, and a husband to have relations with his wife's younger sister. Their festive dances are also noted for their obscenity.

**Religion:** The Mina practice a mixture of their traditional religion with Hinduism. They employ Brahmins (Hindu priests) to conduct marriages and they cremate the dead according to Hindu custom. As such, they are allowed to share Hindu crematorias and temples with other communities. The Mina have a unique version of reincarnation, believing that those who live a good life will be reborn as stars. In their origin mythology they trace their descent from an incarnation of the Hindu God Vishnu in the form of a fish (the word Mina means fish). Many spirits are worshipped, and stone altars for sacrificing can be found in every community.

**Christian Outreach:** The Mina are the largest, most unreached tribe in India.

Partly due to the extreme conditions in which they live, and their reputation as a tribe of criminals, they were largely neglected by missionary efforts, and the Bible has yet to be translated in their language. However, there are now six mission organizations working among them, four of which are Indian, and several strong, though small local fellowships have been established.

## How to Pray:

✚ The Mina are largely uneducated, illiterate, and impoverished. Tuberculosis and water-borne diseases are rampant among them, and they experience a high rate of infant mortality. Pray for those seeking to meet these incredible needs with the love of Christ, and that the emerging Church might truly be a model of Kingdom community in action.

✚ Ministry among kids through a "Vacation Bible School" program has been well attended, despite initial opposition. Pray that entire families might be impacted through the transformed lives of VBS graduates.

✚ Pray for the development of Christian resources in the Mina language, including the Bible, radio programs, and the Jesus film.

**Every year 34,000  
 Mina die  
 without Christ.**