

Moroccan Arab



Quick Facts

Population: 18,000,000

Morocco: 17,000,000

France: 500,000

Spain: 200,000

Algeria: 130,000

Religion: Islam

Believers: 0.001%

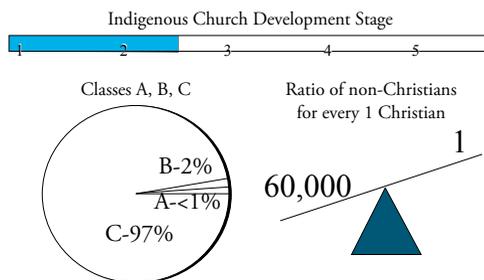
Scriptures: NT, OT

Ministry Tools: JRGT

Church Status: 2

Mission Status: 2

MS Subgroups: 14+



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 Moroccan Arabs descend from the 7th century Arab invasion of North Africa. The subsequent conversion and assimilation of various indigenous Berber populations forged a new distinct people and Arabic dialect. Later, after the 15th century Reconquista, Muslim refugees from Spain fled the country and were assimilated into the general Arab population.

Lifestyle: Around 25% of the Moroccan Arab population is unemployed. 70% of the population is illiterate, and for females it is 90%. Though the country has rich agricultural lands and can achieve self-sufficiency in food, development has been hampered by two decades of drought. This has forced millions to immigrate to cities, though steady employment among the uneducated is becoming scarce.

Customs: Sidewalk cafés are popular venues for men to gather and watch televised soccer matches. In coastal cit-

ies, extended families will often gather together on the weekends to play sports, swim and picnic at one of the many hundreds of beautiful beaches on Morocco's 1,140 mile coast. One of their nationally favorite delicacies is *b'stillah*, which is pigeon baked in pasta.

Religion: Moroccan Arabs practice Sunni Islam, which is also the state religion. They celebrate the prophet's birthday, as well as the two 'ids—*Id al-Fitr* and *Id al-Adha*. *Id al-Fitr* is celebrated at the end of *Ramadan*, which is the annual month of fasting. Presents are exchanged with friends and relatives, and graves are visited. *Id al-Adha* celebrates the end of the *Haj*, which is the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. A goat or sheep is sacrificed and the meat is shared among friends and neighbors, or distributed among the poor.

Christian Outreach: All missionary work was banned in 1960, however a small number of Christian "tentmak-

ers" have been able to gain entrance into Morocco to disciple believers. Though Christians have been greatly persecuted, in the last few decades several dozen underground fellowships have been formed. Though small in number, the faith of these believers is strong and their vision to reach their entire people group is growing.

How to Pray:

✚ It is illegal for former Muslims to gather as a church, and meetings are routinely broken up and infiltrated by government spies. Pray that this will not lead to mistrust and fear among believers.

✚ The Bible is being translated into Moroccan Arabic and will soon be available. Pray for cultural sensitivity in the translation and for its widespread distribution.

✚ SAT-7 is a Christian satellite program available throughout the Arab world. One-fourth of their responses come from Morocco. Pray for an effective system of follow up with these seekers.

✚ Tens of thousands of Moroccan Arabs have enrolled in radio Bible correspondence courses. Pray for their discipleship!

Every year 160,000 Moroccan Arabs die without Christ.