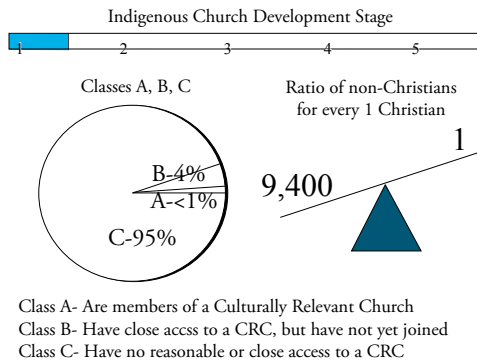


# Mossi Muslims



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 4,700,000  
 Burkina Faso: 3,800,000  
 Ivory Coast: 680,000  
 Ghana: 100,000  
 Niger: 50,000  
**Religion:** Sunni Islam  
**Believers:** 0.01% (MBB)  
**Scriptures:** NT, OT  
**Ministry Tools:** JRGT  
**Church Status:** 1  
**Mission Status:** 2  
**MS Subgroups:** 7



**Identity:** The Mossi are a Voltaic Gur people related to the Dagari and Farefare of West Africa. They have been an influential tribe in the Volta river basin since the establishment of the Mossi kingdom of Tenkodogo in this region during the 15th century.

**Lifestyle:** The Mossi economy is primarily based on agriculture, though they have also profited as traders between Akan forest tribes and Niger river cities. During the rainy season (April-September), cooperative work groups are formed to help clan members cultivate their fields. In the dry season, Mossi villages spend their time threshing millet, repairing their homes (adobe-style dwellings), spinning thread from locally grown cotton, and pottery making. Mossi traders assist in the movement of salt, cattle, kola nuts, and woven cotton materials.

**Customs:** Mossi villages are organized according to patrilineal descent. They

are made up of extended family compounds which are about 300 feet apart. Each of these compounds is led by the eldest male of the family, and consists of his wives and their children, and the families of all his brothers.

**Religion:** Islam has grown rapidly among the Mossi, from just 10% of the population in 1950 to over 65% today. For centuries Mossi leaders resisted Islam, seeing it as the religion of their enemy, the Songhai. They also feared for their own power, which in Mossi culture was rooted in the spiritual authority derived from the ancestors, and the cult of worship which reinforced this. However, the coming of the French in 1896 brought about a change of attitude toward Islam, which became associated with anti-colonialism, causing the Mossi to have greater receptivity to Sufi missionaries from surrounding peoples.

**Christian Outreach:** There has been a good measure of response among the

non-Muslim Mossi with tens of thousands coming to Christ. However, among villages and clans that have converted to Islam the Church is virtually non-existent and outreach is limited. Church growth among Muslim clans is complicated by the tendency of new converts to become isolated from their extended families, and integrated into Christian clans, villages and families, thus effectively sealing off their witness.

## How to Pray:

☞ Pray for the 12 mission organizations working among the Mossi that God would open up doors for them to reach the neglected and undisciplined Muslim communities. Pray for the commitment and determination to deploy personnel to these more difficult regions that require patience in sowing and reaping.

☞ Many Mossi Muslim leaders are opposed to Christianity due to its prohibitions of polygamy. Ask God to show missionaries how to deal with this issue in a culturally sensitive and biblically appropriate way.

☞ Pray for effective local Christian outreach to Mossi trading communities throughout West Africa.

**Every year 42,000 Mossi Muslims die without Christ.**