

# ASAHAN OF INDONESIA

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## QUICK FACTS

People Name: Asahan

People Cluster:  
Melayu of Sumatra

Language: Malay

Trade language: Indonesian

Population: 541,000

## PRAYER POINTS

Pray for the Asahan people, that their hearts might be softened to hear the message of Jesus.

Pray that God would raise up workers from all over the world to go and minister among the Asahan.

Ask God to begin to move powerfully through the Scriptures He has allowed to be put into the Malay language.

Pray for effectiveness of the Gospel as it is proclaimed through the radio channels of Indonesia and in Gospel recordings among the Asahan.

Ask the Lord to bless these people abundantly and that they would recognize the goodness of God in Jesus.

## HISTORY

The Asahan of Indonesia live on the island of Sumatra in an area known as Batubara. This area sits on the eastern coast of North Sumatra.

The Asahan are believed to be ancestors of the Minangkabau and various Batak peoples.



## DAILY LIFE

Asahan villages are mostly located along the coast or rivers, and each village has its own mosque or prayer house.

Each village also has a village leader, or elder, called a *pawing*, who has authority to settle disputes between members of the village.

The Asahan build their homes about two meters off the ground, either on stilts or high platforms. This is done in order to protect them from floods and wild animals.



The people are mainly fishermen, as the area is renowned for its oysters and abundant fishing waters. The city of Tanjung Balai is even known as "Oyster City." However, many Asahan also make their living as farmers, producing rice, rubber, and coconut oil; and still others make their living as weavers of cloth. The Asahan make a specific type of cloth that is known as *songket*. It is handmade and interwoven with silver or gold thread. It is generally dark blue or green and is usually reserved for special occasions.

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Because of the influence of the Minangkabau, the Asahan trace their family lines through the mother's side. However, the family name comes through the father's side.

## BELIEFS

The Asahan are Muslims, and Islam is reflected through many of their cultural values, such as harmony, community, and mutual respect. However, like many other people groups in Indonesia, they practice a mixture of Islam and animism.



## WAYS TO HELP

The Asahan community still needs help physically developing their area. They still lack opportunities to expand to diverse new types of work and to develop new skills. Those who could train craftsman in mechanical and woodworking trades could bring great help to the people.

Electrical service and clean water supplies would greatly facilitate development in the Asahan area of Indonesia.

Would you be willing to be among the FIRST to engage these people with the hope of the Gospel? Would you be willing to lead a team? Contact us today to find out more - we need people to visit the Asahan of Indonesia and find other great ways to bring new teams to live among them for the sake of the Kingdom.

## CONTACT

### FRONTIERS

(800) 462-8436  
[www.frontiers.org](http://www.frontiers.org)