

KUKA OF CHAD

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QUICK FACTS

People Name: Kuka
People Cluster: Guera-Naba
Language: Katu (Western)
Trade Language: Arabic
Population: 148,000

PRAYER POINTS

Ask the Lord for workers who will go into northern Chad to work among the Kuka.

Pray that the Bible and other resources will soon be made available to these people.

Pray that God will give the small number of Kuka believers boldness to share Christ with their own people.

Pray with authority against the spiritual darkness that has been blinding the Kuka people.

Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will faithfully intercede for this people group.



HISTORY

The Kuka, Bilala, and Medogo are three ethnic people groups who live in the same general region and are known as the *Lisi*. They speak similar languages, intermarry with one another, and share similar traditions. The groups all speak mutually intelligible languages amongst themselves in addition to Arabic, which is the trade language.

During the 1600's, the Bilala people conquered the Kuka and took over their land. Even today, they are the largest and most politically powerful group. However, the Kuka still number around 140,000 in population.

ECONOMY

The Karanga people mainly make their living by farming, their crops including millet, sorghum, cotton, and manioc. In Kuka society, it is common for women to have their own plots of land near their homes, which they themselves use to grow vegetables for their own family or to sell for profit.

Though farming is the primary source of livelihood for the Lisi, many are also herdsman (generally of sheep, horses, camels, and sometimes cattle), hunters, and fishers. The men do the hunting, herding, and most of the fishing, while the women do some fishing and farming work while also handling all domestic responsibilities, such as preparing meals, collecting firewood, and raising children.

In Kuka culture, both men and women are involved in trading. The men usually spend time at regional markets, and the women at local markets closer to their villages.

DAILY LIFE

Each village among the Lisi is overseen and run by a chief who, along with the village elders, settles disputes. In more rural areas, the people live in round huts which are usually made of mud brick and thatched



roofs. However, in the larger towns, homes are still made of mud bricks, but usually have flat roofs made of compacted dirt.

In villages, the homes are arranged in compounds that are fenced-in and rectangular in shape. Each compound includes several huts that all belong to different members of one family.

Among the Kuka, polygamy is a common practice. However, according to Islamic law, no man may have more than four wives. The first wife is especially privileged and has higher standing than the others. In the case of plural marriages, each additional wife has a separate hut, where she lives with her children until they are old enough to live on their own. In the case of females, young girls live with their mothers until marriage. However, boys move out as soon as they are able to build a hut of their own, which is generally around adolescence.

The Kuka are virtually 100% Muslim, which is likely due to the influence of Arab merchants with whom the Kuka trade on a regular basis. The Kuka still retain some of their pre-Islamic practices and beliefs, but Islamic laws and traditions are also carefully practiced.



WAYS TO HELP

The life expectancy in Chad is only 40-42 years. The Kuka people are in need of quality health care facilities. Medical workers could be a great help to these people.

The country's literacy rate is only about 30%. The Lisi need more educational opportunities. Any teachers and educational professionals can provide great hope and opportunity for the Kuka.

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 Kuka and find other great ways to bring new teams to live among them for the sake of the Kingdom.

CONTACT

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