

# SAHO OF ERITREA

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## QUICK FACTS

People Name: Saho

People Cluster: Afar

Language: Saho

Trade Language: Arabic

Population: 211,000

## PRAYER POINTS

Ask the Lord to send believers from Eritrea to their brothers and sisters in the Saho tribes.

Pray for those who will distribute the Scriptures among the people. Pray that the Word of God would fall on ears ready to hear.

Pray for the salvation of key leaders and elders in this group.

Pray that more might be known about the Saho people so that the worldwide Church can pray more effectively.

## CONTACT

### FRONTIERS

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

## ABOUT THE PEOPLE

Some Saho inhabit regions of Ethiopia, but the majority reside in the Red Sea region of Eritrea.

There has not been a census in Eritrea since it was founded, so the exact Saho population is difficult to determine. However, the most recent and accurate estimations are around 200,000.

Saho society is divided up by a hierarchy. There is a clan system, which currently includes around 11 clans, which are also divided into even smaller kinship groups. Clans are led by a leader called a *Redanto*, who is head over a group of leaders under him. The main job of the clan leader is not to make decisions on his own, but to work in conjunction with clan elders and be a representative to other groups. This social structure is extremely important, and clan loyalty is an integral part of society, both in politics and day-to-day matters. Organization within the society is based on family lineage, and this system determines many aspects of Saho life.

Despite this lineage-based structure, Saho tribes do not all have the same ancestral origin.

The Saho people have a known history of over 3,000 years and are one of the country's oldest ethnic groups. The existing Saho tribes were actually conquerors of the original Saho people. They took on Saho culture and language and became part of the Saho tribes. Another group came and settled amongst them later, bringing Islam with them.

