

# WESTERN BALUCH

## OF PAKISTAN

1

### QUICK FACTS

People Name: Western Baluch

People Cluster: Baloch

Language: Balochi (Western)

Trade Language: Urdu

Primary Religion: 100% Islam

Population: 1,236,000

### PRAYER POINTS

Ask the Lord to call people who are willing to go to Pakistan and share the Gospel of Christ with the Western Baluchi.

Pray that the Christian broadcasts will soon be made available in their language.

Pray that God will raise up qualified linguists to complete translation of the Bible into Balochi.

Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the Western Baluchi toward followers of Jesus so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.

Pray that God will open the hearts of Pakistan's governmental leaders to the Gospel.

Ask that God would galvanize a concerted prayer effort worldwide for the Baluchi of Pakistan.

### ABOUT THE PEOPLE

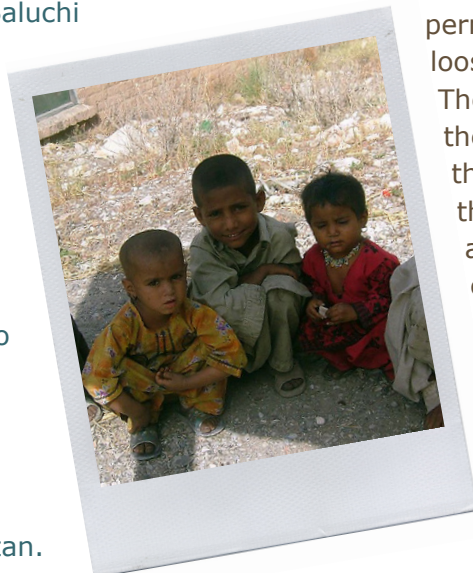
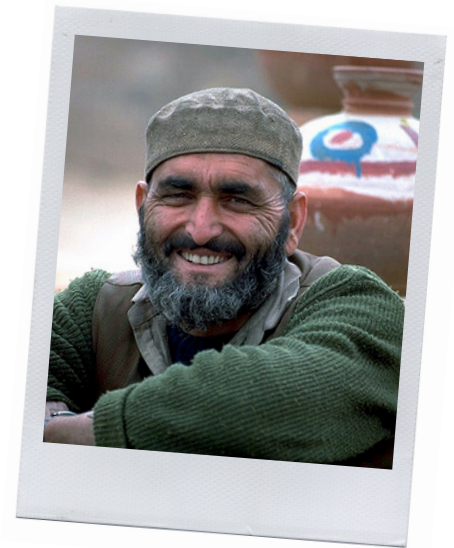
The 1.1 million Western Baluch of Pakistan are part of a larger Baluch community of about 8 million people. Their homeland straddles the borders of Pakistan, Iran, and Afghanistan. The Baluch groups are distinguishable by their languages, which belong to the same family but are quite different. Many of the Baluch cannot read or write.

Baluch societies are organized into clans and tribes. The tribes are grouped together into large units that are ruled by chiefs. At every level of this hierarchy, a male elder is the head.

The first successful attempt to unite several Baluch tribes was accomplished in the twelfth century. Unfortunately, this unity was short-lived. In the fifteenth century, wars over economic issues often broke out between the tribes and their allies. By the sixteenth century, the Baluch were divided into three separate political groups: the Makran State, the Dodai Confederacy, and the Khanate of Baluchistan.

The Baluch have overcome the obstacles of living in an extremely harsh, arid climate. Today, most of them live in one of two types of settlements conducive to their semi-nomadic lifestyle. Their permanent villages consist of clusters of mud houses, loosely organized around the home of the local chief. They live in these mountain and valley settlements in the summertime. However, in winter, they migrate to the plains and coastal areas, seeking green grass for their livestock. During this time, they live in tents, and move freely across the landscape as weather conditions dictate. These temporary settlements are smaller, consisting of closely related kin.

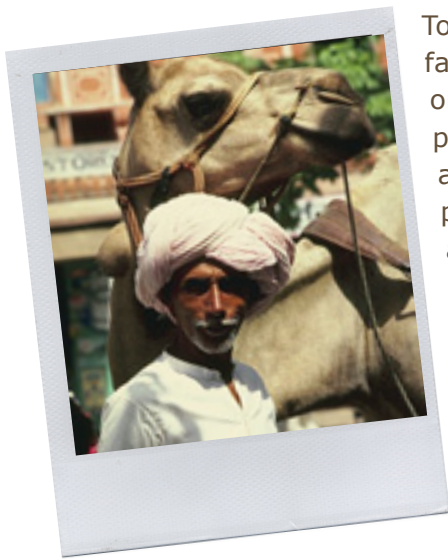
The Baluch are basically self sufficient, relying on their own skills to build homes and develop the tools necessary for daily life. Their economy is based on a combination of farming and semi-nomadic shepherding.



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2

They usually raise sheep, cattle, or goats. Agriculture is limited because of the harsh climate; nevertheless, it plays a large role in the economy. The chief crop is wheat.



To aid in the household economy, some farmers raise chickens. They also depend on wild fruits and vegetables. One wild plant, called the "dwarf palm," is used as a dietary supplement. The meat of the palm is useful for food, and the leaves are used to make items such as ropes, shoes, mats, tents, spoons, and pipes.

Techniques of survival differ from valley to valley and from high mountain areas to lowland plains. However, each community tries to keep as many different animals as possible and to grow a wide variety of crops.

Within the family, the entire household is responsible for tending the family's herd. Rugs are also woven for household use and for trade. Women work in groups, threshing and separating the harvest, while plowing and planting are done by the men. Traditionally, land is not privately owned but belongs to the whole tribe.

Prior to the coming of Islam, the Baluch were probably followers of Zoroaster. Today, they are Sunni Muslims. Their religious practices remain private, and there is no concept of a "state religion." All forms of secular authority are separated from the spiritual authority held by religious leaders.

Changing economic and political conditions have made the individual Baluch increasingly more independent, thus weakening the position of the chiefs. In many areas, people no longer know where they stand socially or politically.



## WAYS TO HELP

Very few Baluchi know how to read or write. Literacy specialists and teachers could be very helpful here.

Engineers could help calculate and reconstruct community buildings, making them more secure and durable.

Anyone skilled in animal husbandry could provide a helpful ministry to many of the cattle herders and livestock owners of the Baluchi people.

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 Western Baluch 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)