

The Batak Alas-kluet of Indonesia

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The Alas people are one of the people groups located in the regency of Southeast Aceh, in the province of Aceh. The area where they live is called "Land of the Alas". The word alas means "a mat used for sitting or sleeping". The Alas area has many rivers passing through it, including Lawe Alas (Alas River).

The majority of the Alas people live in villages and make their living from farming and raising livestock. The Alas area is considered the lumbung padi (rice storehouse) of the Aceh area. Other agricultural products include rubber, coffee, and kemiri (a local spice) as well as other forest products such as wood, rattan, resin, and incense.

Their culture emphasizes two types of law. The first type consists of religious laws that are given by God and cannot be changed. The second type consists of traditional laws, which includes rules that have been made by the leaders of the community and can be changed according to the times.

Generally, the Alas people are followers of Islam, but they still seek the assistance of a dukun (shaman/healer/occultist). They perform ceremonies so that their crops will prosper and be protected from plague. The dukun reads his mantra and uses magical potions of leaves and flowers that are considered powerful to ward off plagues.

Educational and economic development are greatly needed by the Alas. Southeast Aceh has great potential for tourism, agriculture and mining, but it has not yet been tapped. Because of this, financial capital and investment (foreign or national) would greatly facilitate the progress and well being of the indigenous people.

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Primary Religion:

Islam

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0.00005%

Churches:

0

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

Population (date):



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Item Name	Item Note
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Have They Heard The Gospel?

Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0.00005%
Number Of Churches	0

Profile Summary

Countries Where People Group Lives

Country Name	Indonesia
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Group Description

Society & Culture

Family Structures

Neighborhoods or villages of the Alas are called Kute. One Kute usually consists of one or more clans that are called a merge. Extended families will live in one house and submit to the authority of the parents. They are a patrilineal society, which means they measure descent through the father's family.

According to marriage customs, an engagement lasts from one to three years, due to the necessity of the man acquiring the bride price, and the woman the groom price.

When an Alas man and woman marry, they live near the husband's family. After they have children, the young family will usually move and live separately (jawe) from the parents, but stay in the same area and community of the merge. Polygamous marriages are permitted when the marriage has produced only boys, only girls or if there are no children at all (adak meu keu dueu).

History Of People Group

The origin of these people is still a mystery. They have similarities in common with the Batak people in relation to their language and their clan names. The long-held traditions and culture of this ethnic group have sometimes been identified with the Gayo, as if they have become one ethnic group: the "Gayo-Alas". During the time of the Dutch, the government structure treated these 2 areas as one section (Land of the Gayo and Alas). However, the Alas people are a unique people group with their own culture and language that is different from the Gayo culture and language. Since 1974, the Alas and Gayo areas have been included in the Southeast Aceh Regency.

Group Description