

## The Bidiyo of Chad

**Image  
Unavailable**

Spread throughout the Guera region of southern Chad are 45 villages in which the Bidiyo people live. Life in the village requires them to depend on one another for health, education, and daily needs. But for the Bidiyo, this is not the easiest thing to accomplish. Having multiple dialects between villages, they must find a common means of communication.

After working in the fields or weaving straw products, several people will begin a trek to the market in hopes of making good trades. As they return and the sun goes down, many will gather to talk and dance before the work begins again.

Woven into the daily lives of work and raising families, the practices of the Islamic faith are carried out by nearly all of the Bidiyo. Hidden within this mass and searching for hope are those few individuals who have chosen Christianity. They strive for growth without someone to lead them and they plead to the Father for boldness in a community that has locked ears to the Gospel. Please pray that they will have courage to show the love of Christ to those around who are content as Muslims, and pray that hearts would be made receptive toward outsiders who want to help.

**Primary Religion:**

Islam

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

0.002%

**Churches:**

2

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

None

**Population (date):**

14,000 (1993)



Map Unavailable

## The Bidiyo of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	<0.1%	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0.002%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	99.99%	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	?	
Number Of Pastors	0	
Number Of Missionaries Working	0	
Response To The Gospel	Antagonism; The response of the community to the few believers that have come out of Islam is unknown.	
Number Of Communities	45	
Number Of Churches	2	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No Scripture available in Bidiyo	
Translation Medium	None	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Most Bidiyo cannot read or write in any language.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Gospel Recordings has a cassette made in Bidiyo	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Medical missions, Bible translation, literacy work, church planting, discipleship, pastoral training	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	14000	
World Population (Date)	1993	
World Population (Urban Percent)	?	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Chad	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	In the Guera prefecture within the Abou-Telfan mountains.	
Country	Chad	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Mountain Valley	
Elevation	500 meters	
Longitude	18.5 degrees E	
Latitude	12 degrees N	
Climate	Hot and dry	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Primary Language	BIDIYO	
Alternate Language Names	BIDIO	
Dialects	JEKKINO	
Dialects	NALGUNO	
Dialects	BIGAWGUNO	
Dialects	'OBOYGUNO	
Dialects	GARAWGINO	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	<10%	
Second Languages	Arabic, Chadian Spoken	
Comment (Second Language)	Also speak Chadian Arabic	

## The Bidiyo of Chad

Item Name	Item Note	
Linguistically Related Languages	MAWA	
Linguistically Related Languages	DANGALEAT	
Linguistically Related Languages	MIGAAMA	
Linguistically Related Languages	MOGUM	
Linguistically Related Languages	JONKOR BOURMATAGUIL	
Linguistically Related Languages	UBI	
Comments (Related Languages)	There are SIL people working in Dangaleat, Migaama, and Mawa.	
Neighboring Languages	UBI	
Neighboring Languages	MIGAAMA	
Neighboring Languages	ARABIC, SHUWA	
Neighboring Languages	KENGA	
Neighboring Languages	DANGALEAT	
Neighboring Languages	DAJU, DAR DAJU	
Neighboring Languages	MOGUM	
Active Language Programs	No	
Language Stability	Stable	
<b>Literacy</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Adult Literacy Percentage	11%	
Literacy Attitude	Very receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Publications In Vernacular	None as far as we know	
Comment (Literacy)	Literacy comment based on national average. Actual rate is likely lower in villages.	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	<\$450	
Occupation	Farming, some fishing, herding livestock	
Income Sources	selling or trading goods	
Products / Crafts	straw weaving, produce from farming such as millet.	
Trade Partners	Arabs sell milk and meat to the Bidiyo	
Modernization / Utilities	Wells set up by the Mennonite Central Committee which operates by self-help loans	
Comment (Economy)	Average annual income based on national average in 1994.	
<b>Community Development</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Health Care (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Health Care)	There are some dispensaries in the area, and a hospital nearby in Mongo.	
Diet (Quality)	Very good	
Comment (Diet)	Because of the location, the Bidiyo have a sufficient source of millet, vegetables, and meat.	
Water (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Water)	Though they have wells with clean and potable water, there is a need for more. At times, the Bidiyo must use river water.	
Shelter Description	Huts are made of mud bricks and have straw roofs	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Energy)	No electricity and forests are getting smaller and smaller because of desertification.	
Clothing	Men wear long robes with long sleeves called jalabiyas. Women wear wrap-around skirts (pagne) and a flowing garment that covers their head and entire body (lafay).	

## The Bidiyo of Chad

Item Name	Item Note
Transportation	Foot, donkey, donkey cart, riding on a large truck filled with produce and merchandise.
Infant Mortality Rate	12.3%
Life Expectancy	47 years
Leading Cause Of Death	intestinal infections
Comment (Community Development)	Infant mortality, life expectancy, and leading cause of death information is from national average (1994). Intestinal and other infections are largely due to lack of sanitation and clean water.

### Society & Culture

### Group Description

Family Structures	Extended Family
Neighbor Relations	Good neighbor relations, but lack of economic cohesiveness.
Authority / Rule	village chiefs are subservient to the canton chief (sultan) who resides in Niergui village.
Social Habits/Groupings	no clan or caste system
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Identification With National Culture	Similar
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	Village chiefs and their elders make appeals to the sultan.
Celebrations	No traditional celebrations. Only Islamic celebrations.
Recreations	socializing, listening to the radio, evening dances.
Art Forms	weaving baskets, mats, etc.
Media	Chadian National Radio broadcasts in Chadian Arabic and French
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat resistant
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive
Comment (Culture)	Those interviewed were open to literacy and development. However there were those who refused to even be interviewed. Therefore, conclusions based on the responses of persons interviewed may not reflect the group as a whole.

### Youth

### Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	helping with farming and fishing; girls also help with housework and childcare.
Youth Problems (Teens)	premarital sexual relationships
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	They need more group social events to enable healthier relationships with the opposite sex.

### Education

### Group Description

Primary Schools	22
Primary School Enrollment	80%
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	40%
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	1:133
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French
Language Of Instruction Later Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	French
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	22
Comment (Education)	The majority of students are male and nearly all of them are Bidiyo. The inspector of primary education in Mongo stated that only 35% of those who complete the first year of primary education will continue on through 6th grade

### Church Growth

### Status of Christianity

Reached Status	Evaluated
----------------	-----------

## The Bidiyo of Chad

Item Name	Item Note
Reached Classification	Unreached
Total Baptized	20
Lay Leaders	1
Bible Schools	0
Christian Clinics/Hospitals	0
Christian Literacy Centers	0
Comment (Church Growth)	There are approximately 15 - 20 Bidiyo who have converted to Catholicism and been baptized. There are also 5-10 Protestant converts who have not been baptized. Mongo has one Catholic and one Protestant church at which the believers may attend, but there are no churches directly within the Bidiyo villages.

### Religion & Response

### Status of Christianity

Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Ramadan, Eid Al-Ahda, and other Muslim practices
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat resistant
Attitude To Religious Change	Somewhat resistant
Resistance / Receptivity	The commitment to and identification with Islam makes them resistant toward change of religious preference.
Religious Analogies & Bridges	Jesus as direct mediator between God and man; God is referred to as Father. Jesus as prophet who never sinned.
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Nearly all Bidiyo practice Islam, some to a greater degree than others.
Recommended Approaches	Work with the few believers that are already there, discipling them to be indigenous leaders. Christians who could live and work with the Bidiyo, demonstrate the love of Christ, and teach them how to read and write would be an appropriate means.
Current Needs	Community development in the villages is needed, primarily through the provision of medical assistance, schools, wells, and agricultural development.
Items For Prayer	Pray that the Lord would put a desire for a church in the hearts of the Bidiyo. Lift up the few believers there, that they would be leading others to Christ. Also pray that the Bidiyo would be more receptive to outsiders who will come to teach and provide for community needs.

### History Of Christianity In Group

### Status of Christianity

Year Began	1975
By Whom	Brethren Mission
Significant Events	Establishment of the Mongo mission with a boarding school and later a school for the blind. The Catholic mission also started a boarding house and provides teachers for the government secondary school.

### Scripture

### Status of Christianity

Translation Status	Definite
Available Scripture	None
Form Of Scripture Available	None
Reason For Urgent Need Of Translation	Small group of believers with no local church, no Scripture.
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Literature	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Recordings	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Film/Videos	No
Other Forms Of Gospel Available: Radio	No

### Missions and Churches

### Status of Christianity

Organization Name	Brethren Mission
-------------------	------------------

### Christian Literature And Media Status

### Status of Christianity

Literature Available	None in the language.
Audio Recordings Available	none
Films Available	none

## The Bidiyo of Chad

<b>Item Name</b>	<b>Item Note</b>
Radio Programs Available	none
Videos Available	none
Audio Visual Available	none