

## The Borgu Fulani of Benin, Togo & Nigeria



representative photo

The Fulani nation extends across seventeen countries of Africa. It is also the largest in population of any people group in Africa. The Fulani’s language, Fulfulde, varies across the many miles and countries that separate them such that the way people speak in one place is so different that Fulani in other places can’t understand them. Because of this there are several Fulfulde “languages” in addition to many more “dialects”. One such Fulfulde language is Borgu, named for one of the provinces in Benin where Fulani people are concentrated. However there are also some who live to the west in Togo and to the east in Nigeria.

The Fulani people traditionally follow their herds in search of grazing land throughout sub-Saharan West Africa. Borgu-speaking Fulani have settled in two provinces of northern Benin. As a result of overpopulation, drought, conversion of grazing land to farming and government restrictions, many Borgu people have migrated into towns and some have become farmers instead of nomadic herdsman.

Although the Borgu speakers have few economic resources, they highly value honesty and appreciate hard work. They’re proud of their own cultural distinctives, but many find it difficult to trust people of other ethnicities.

Translation of the Old Testament is beginning. Because non-Christian Fulani lifestyles relate closely to that of the Old Testament, it will be key in evangelism and discipleship. When the translation is available, the greatest impact will happen through graduates of a local Bible school for Fulani people from throughout Benin, Cameroon, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and neighboring nations. This school trains pastors and Christian leaders, so providing Scripture in their mother tongue will give them effective tools for future ministry.

**Primary Religion:**

Islam 97%

**Disciples (Matt 28:19):**

6,000

**Churches:**

56

**Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):**

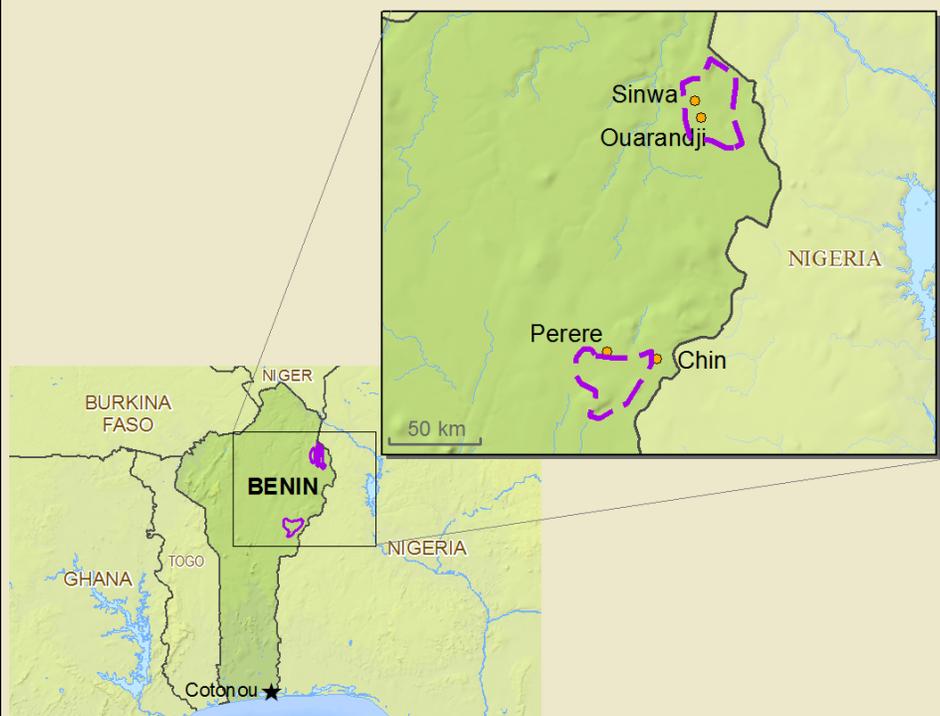
OT selections in progress

**Population (date):**

370,000



### BORGU FULFULDE HOMELAND



## **The Borgu Fulani of Benin**

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### **Have They Heard The Gospel?**

Hindrances to Scripture Use

Translation is beginning. The team will translate part of the Old Testament — Genesis through Esther — into Borgu. Subsequent projects may complete the entire Bible in this language. As they complete portions of the Old Testament, the team plans to make them available for sale at a subsidized cost. This will provide Old Testament material to the Beninese Fulani believers much sooner than waiting for the entire work to be completed.

How Have They Responded to the Gospel?

Missionaries and Fulani evangelists introduced Christianity among the Borgu in 1959. Today, the Union of Evangelical Churches of Benin (U.E.E.B.) currently has 20 self-supporting and 36 developing Fulani churches, ranging in size from 40 to 200 members, for a total of about 6,000 Fulani Christians in the country.

Cross-Cultural Missionaries Needed

Yes, especially men with knowledge of cattle.

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### Status of Christianity

#### Church Growth

Number of Congregations Serving the Language Group	56
Number of Congregations Using primarily the local language in their services.	56