



The Idaksahak of North Africa

The Idaksahak are a North African (light-skinned) nomadic people. Associated with them are descendants of their former slaves (dark-skinned) as well as craftsmen, descendants of various ethnic groups. All these speak the Tadaksahak language.

They live in mobile tents, consisting of a frame covered with leather (nowadays some use canvas). The tent poles are artistically carved. Mats of local grass or millet stalks can be put up as a wall for protection against the wind in the cooler season. A few live in mud brick houses in places where a reliable water source makes it possible to live year-round.

Starting in rainy season, from July to September, they move across their territory to find pasture for their animals and water from waterholes and wells. Goats, sheep and camels (dromedaries) are their most common flocks, while some have a hardy breed of cattle. All household goods are transported on donkeys.

During years of drought in the eighties, even without outside help the Idaksahak got along better than most and kept more of their animals alive. So today they are often well off economically, though they don't show this in their lifestyle. Irregular rainfalls continue to threaten their existence as nomads in the area. They sell their livestock in exchange for needs other than what they get from their flocks like millet, tea, sugar, salt, tobacco and clothes. The area's central cattle market is in Menaka. Typically craftsmen make other household items, who themselves live a nomadic life.

The population is Muslim, with some animistic practices (folk Islam). Most children get a basic Koranic training, often before any other education, learning to read and write Arabic.

As a people ignored or patronized by others, the Idaksahak are skeptical towards outside influence, but their language in writing has potential to reach them. Two development organizations, active in the area since 1995 and 1997, are ready to try this.

Primary Religion:

Islam, Muslim-Animism

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

0%

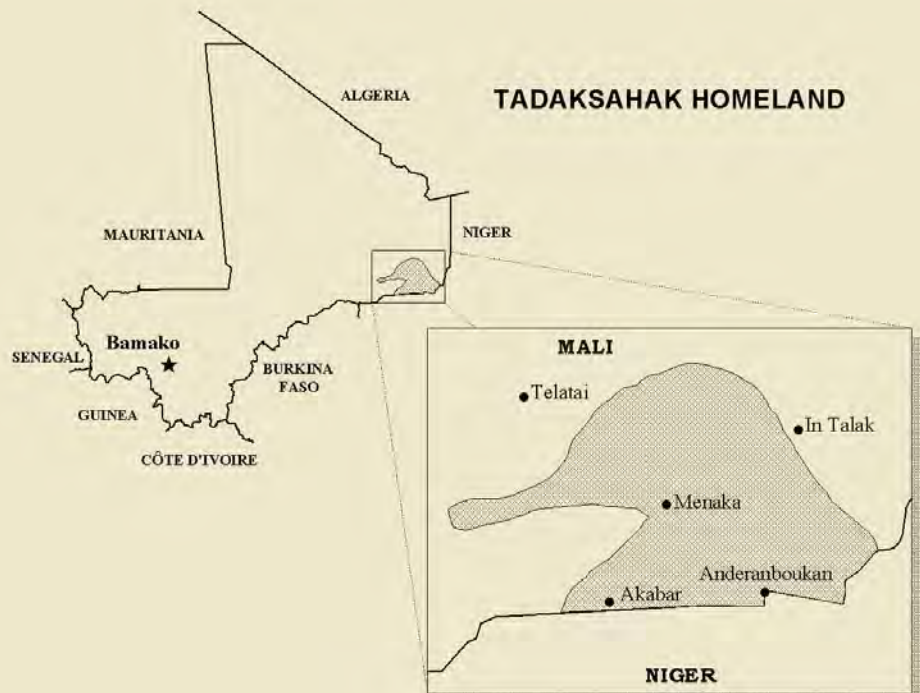
Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None in their language

Population (date):

35,000 (1998)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	100	
Number Of Missionaries Working	2	
Comment (Number Communities)	pastoral group; don't live in villages	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No. Some scripture portions in Tamasheq	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	35000	
World Population (Date)	1998	
Comment (World Population)	30,000 - 40,000	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Mali	
Country Name	Mali	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Eastern Mali, east of the Niger river.	
Country	Mali	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	300 m	
Longitude	3E	
Latitude	16N	
Climate	Hot and dry, with a short rainy season (July - September)	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Alternate Language Names	Dausahaq	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	30	
Second Languages	5	
Second Languages	70	
Second Languages	10	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	FRENCH	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, ALGERIAN SPOKEN	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	TAMAJEQ, TAHOUA	
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Linguistically Related Languages	TAKWANE	
Linguistically Related Languages	SONGAI	
Linguistically Related Languages	TIHISHIT	
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Item Name	Item Note	
Linguistically Related Languages	TIHISHIT	
Linguistically Related Languages	TAMAJEQ, TAHOUA	
Neighboring Languages	SONGAI	
Neighboring Languages	FULFULDE, SOKOTO	
Neighboring Languages	TAMAJEQ, TAHOUA	
Neighboring Languages	ARABIC, ALGERIAN SPOKEN	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	10	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Comment (Literacy)	Some are literate in Tamasheq and Arabic, and some have used these scripts to write Tadaksahak.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Pastoralists	
Occupation	herders (goats, sheep, camels, cattle), craftsmen	
Income Sources	sale of animals	
Products / Crafts	woven mats, crafted items	
Trade Partners	Tamasheq, Arab, Songhay	
Modernization / Utilities	no electricity or telephone	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Health Care)	rural clinics with locals trained for general health care and birth assistance	
Diet (Quality)	Good	
Comment (Diet)	millet, milk, meat, local grains	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Water)	wells throughout the region, waterholes in rainy season (some permanent)	
Shelter Description	tents of leather built on a wood frame; some mud-brick houses around reliable water sources	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Energy)	wood for cooking	
Clothing	men wear long robes (called bubus) and turbans, women wear dresses of imported cotton sewn locally	
Transportation	public transport along the one road and some market vehicles, otherwise by foot or animal	
Society & Culture		Group Description
Judicial / Punishment System	civil judicial system, but not enforced	
Celebrations	Muslim holidays with a local touch -- riding and dancing on camelback	
Recreations	tea ceremony	
Media	None	
Attitude To Outsiders	Indifferent	
Attitude To Change	Somewhat resistant	
Youth		Group Description
Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	young men often travel abroad for a time to gain money	
Education		Group Description
Primary Schools	4	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	50	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French	
Comment (Education)	<p>The language of school education is French and many teachers from the south of Mali don't understand the local languages. Some experimental classes have been going on using Tamasheq, so far the only local language with an alphabet and standard of writing.</p> <p>Troubles in the region have closed the schools for the last several years and they are just beginning to be reopened.</p>	
Church Growth		Status of Christianity
Reached Status	Engaged	
Total Baptized	3	
Bible Schools	1	
Comment (Church Growth)	<p>Two missionary families worked in the area till 1990. Now ('98) the local church has a black Tamasheq lay pastor, with family ties among black Idaksahak, but very few of the church members are from any of the local ethnic groups. The three known Idaksahak Christians are all away from the area for studies or other occupations, but will potentially be involved in reaching their people with the gospel.</p>	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Muslim holidays	
Attitude To Christianity	Somewhat resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant	
Recommended Approaches	friendship evangelism, music cassettes	
Items For Prayer	Pray that the Idaksahak would not be influenced by fundamental Islam from the north	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Year Began	1980	
By Whom	Evangelical Baptist Mission	
Comments (History of Christianity)	<p>The EBM missionaries were working in the area (Menaka) and not specifically with Idaksahak.</p>	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Translation Status	In Progress	
Available Scripture	None	
Scripture Use	1	
Scripture Use	Unknown	
Comment (Scripture)	<p>(Imported: Literature/Media: Literature: none Recordings: none Film: none Radio: none Video: none Audio-visual: none) (Imported: Summary: Word of God translated: No. Some scripture portions in Tamasheq Other forms of gospel: none)</p>	
Christian Literature And Media Status		Status of Christianity
Literature Available	none	
Audio Recordings Available	none	
Films Available	none	
Radio Programs Available	none	
Videos Available	none	
Audio Visual Available	none	