

The Runga of Central Africa

The Runga are a little known people group who mostly live around Haraze Mangueigne in South-eastern Chad, bordering on the Central African Republic.

This is a remote area. The vegetation is dense, with many large trees known in Arabic as 'Haraz'. The area has been the habitat of wild animals such as elephants, lions and panthers, to name a few. During the years civil war in Chad 1960-1990, there was a lot of rebel activity in this area, and the wild animals in the area reduced in number.

Far from Chad's capital city of N'djamena, roads are poor and during the rainy season the region is cut off from the outside world. If the rains are significant the area can be flooded, in parts, for up to six months. The flood waters come mostly from eastern Sudan and overflow banks of wadis called "bahrs".

The Runga are a Muslim people group at the 'ends of the earth'. Until now they have been outside of the reach of Christian witness close by, and only a few might be hearing programs from Christian stations on the radio in Arabic, a language in which few are fluent. Pray that the Holy Spirit will move amongst the Runga and that they will soon find life in Jesus Christ.

Primary Religion:

Muslim

Disciples (Matt 28.19):

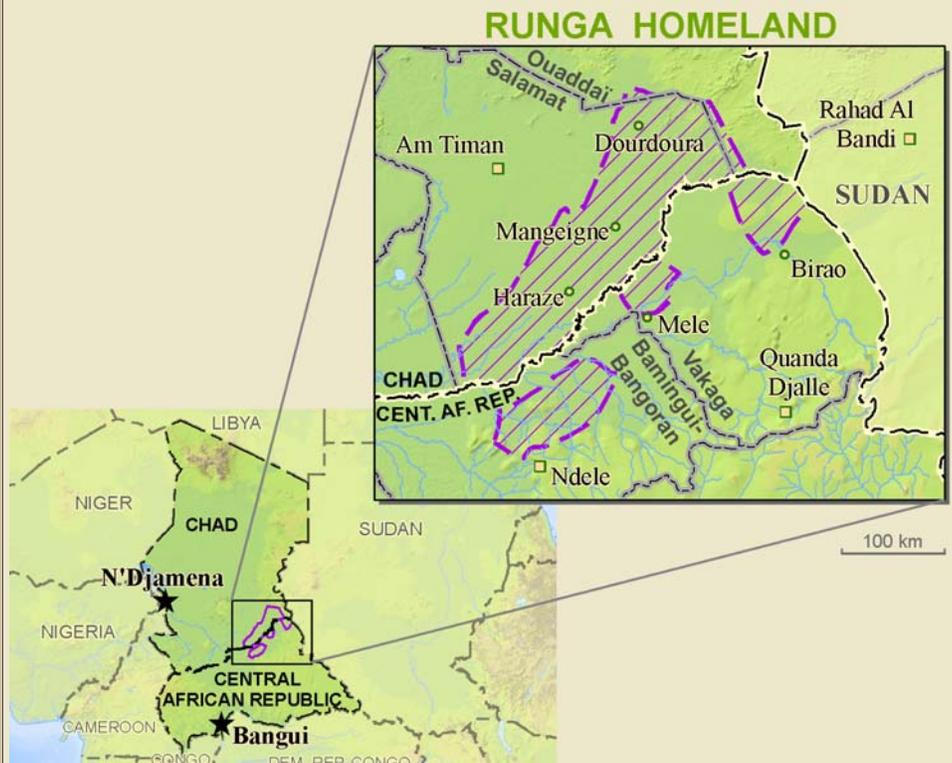
Churches:

Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):

None in their language

Population (date):

37,000 (1993)



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Item Name	Item Note	
Have They Heard The Gospel?		Profile Summary
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	100	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	?	
Believe Jesus Is A Myth (%)	?	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	No	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	Lack of personnel. For translation to be effective, literacy projects would be important.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	None	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	There is an opportunity for medical workers, community development, and literacy/translation projects. As well as a need for Evangelism , discipleship, church planting	
Population All Countries		Group Description
World Population For This People	37000	
World Population (Date)	1993	
World Population (Urban Percent)	5235	
Comment (World Population)	They are also in Central African Republic 15,000. Statistics 1993 census.	
Countries Where People Group Lives		Group Description
Country Name	Central African Republic	
Country Name	Chad	
Geography & Environment		Group Description
Location	Southeastern Chad, Salamat region, Haraze-Mangueigne and Goz-Beida sub-regions, borders with Sudan and Central African Republic. Most of the Rounga live in the Salamat region, and a few are in the Ouaddai region. Others live in the Central African Republic.	
Country	Chad	
Ecosystem Type	Savannahs	
Longitude	21.3	
Latitude	10.3	
Climate	Dry seasons - Oct. - March - Dry, April - May very hot and dry , Wet season - June-September. Salamat Area is said to be flooded for 6 months of the year, and the tse-tse fly is a problem in this.	
Language & Linguistics		Group Description
Comment (Language)	Linguistic survey needed for further information. Dagal, Mourro, Kibet and Fongoro are different languages, but there is some resemblance - these groups claim the same ancestral origins.	
Alternate Language Names	Runga, Roungo, Rounga	
Dialects	Aiki, Ayki, Aykindang (to be surveyed - may or may not be dialects)	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, SHUWA	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	ARABIC, SHUWA	
Linguistically Related Languages	KIBET	
Linguistically Related Languages	FONGORO	
Linguistically Related Languages	FONGORO	
Linguistically Related Languages	MURLE	
Linguistically Related Languages	KIBET	
Linguistically Related Languages	MURLE	
Neighboring Languages	MASALIT	
Neighboring Languages	ARABIC, SHUWA	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Neighboring Languages	SINYAR	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	7.5	
Active Literacy Program	No	
Comment (Literacy)	7.5% of the Males and 2.6 % of the Females are literate. The literacy percentage is based on the regional average (1996) and may be lower in the villages.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	less than \$450 us per year	
Occupation	Agriculture, animal husbandry. In urban situations: merchants, public administration, students.	
Income Sources	Millet, Berbère, onion, tomato, mango, bananas, sesame, lettuce, peanuts.	
Products / Crafts	Berber is produced in surplus.	
Trade Partners	Arabs and other neighboring peoples.	
Modernization / Utilities	No electricity.	
Comment (Economy)	Transport costs of surplus berbère are high, with difficult and more costly access it is difficult to find a market for their surplus.	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	Infant Mortality Rate: 11.6% (Ouaddai) 12.3% (Salamat) Child Mortality Rate: 19.4% (Ouaddai) 20.7% (Salamat) Life Expectancy Rate: 62.2-63.4 years 92,202 (S), 108,373 (O)patients/per doctor Very few dispensaries, and hospital treatment is a considerable distance away. Mortality and Life Expectancy information is based on the regional averages (1993).	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Diet)	Main staple is 'boule', a millet porridge, and leaf sauces. Milk. Eat "gallet" a sort of crepe also. Milk, beef. [One elderly man interviewed believed the secret to his longevity, being nearly 80 years old, was a nourishing diet that is possible in this region].	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Water)	Have wells with water pumps - water is from the wadi's - no problem with water shortages.	
Shelter Description	Mud brick with straw roofs in villages, and in the towns, have rectangular mud houses.	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Energy)	Wood/Charcoal - is the main source for domestic fuel. There is no electricity.	
Clothing	The men wear long robes called 'jalabiyas', and occasionally a white cap 'bonet' Women in villages wear 'pagnès' (long piece of material worn like a wrap around skirt or dress) or dresses, and short veils.	
Transportation	Access to this area is cut off during the rainy season, and local people would like to improve this. Local transportation is mostly by donkey and ox-carts. There is an airport at Am Timan in the north of the Salamat prefecture, and major road access is on a road via Mongo. There are some cars in the Haraz-Manguéigne area.	
Infant Mortality Rate	I 11.6% C 19.4%	
Life Expectancy	62.2	
Leading Cause Of Death	92,202 patients per Dr.	
Comment (Community Development)	Wells and water pumps needed for more water, dispensaries and human medical care facilities needed. Agricultural projects - would like chemicals and other materials to increase production. Animal health care is also a need.	
Society & Culture		Group Description

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Item Name	Item Note
Family Structures	<p>Patriarchal, Extended family, children remain under parents authority after marrying. Marriage usually takes place young (after circumcision), and parents arrange marriage for their children, and children have no say in the choice of a spouse. (First marriage) When can afford it husbands live in a concession with the wife and children, otherwise they live in the extended family household of the man.</p> <p>Formerly they were endogamous, but this is changing, and they marry people from other groups (except from Haddad clans 'blacksmiths', who are considered as a separate caste from the rest of society).</p> <p>Up to seven years of age the wife takes care of the children, and after that the sons work and socialise more with their fathers.</p>
Neighbor Relations	In the civil war there was upheaval in this region, but since 1990 the situation is peaceful.
Authority / Rule	<p>There are different Sultans for 3 Rounga regions. (hereditary) The sultans select village heads "chef de village" - selected for being known as wise, courageous, respected, elderly men.</p> <p>The 'Chef de Village' - who may be called the 'imam' - is selected by the sultan, and is a hereditary role.</p>
Social Habits/Groupings	Dancing at the end of the weekly major market day. Men do not eat in the presence of women, and visa versa.
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Identification With National Culture	Integrated
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	<p>If someone is killed, the person committing the murder is safe if he gets to the sultan first, before vengeance is carried out by brothers of the victim.</p> <p>Cases are taken to the sultan for his jurisdiction - and families take responsibility for compensation involved.</p>
Celebrations	Muslim celebrations, marriage, circumcision, excision. After the harvest the youth organize dancing to go along with threshing the millet.
Recreations	?
Media	None in Rounga, but do listen to Arabic radio from London, and Chadian radio and radio from Monte Carlo.
Local Language Broadcasting	None
Attitude To Change	Somewhat receptive
Comment (Culture)	<p>Changes in customs in recent years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Circumcision is becoming more of a medical operation than the practices of former generations. - Dance - in former times a lot of dancing to drum music, but now youth in particular are influenced greatly by Sudanese music

Youth

Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Children help with herding of animals, agricultural and domestic work.
Youth Problems (Teens)	Shortage of schools - more schools are needed.
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	?

Education

Group Description

Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	12
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French
Language Of Instruction Later Years	Arabic, Chadian Spoken
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	Arabic, Chadian Spoken
Comment (Education)	<p>Most children go to Koran schools in the villages, run by the local imam, instruction is in Literary Arabic, with explanation in Chadian Arabic or the local language.</p> <p>Language of Instructions and textbooks in school system : French, Arabic</p> <p>Education is regarded as desirable, and there is interest in Mother Tongue education.</p>

Church Growth

Status of Christianity

Reached Classification	World A
Comment (Church Growth)	All answers on this sheet are 0. This group is 100% Muslim.

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Item Name	Item Note	
Religion & Response		Status of Christianity
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Ramadan, Eid Al-Adha, Mohammed's birthday. A sacrifice is made before the rainy season. Islamic observance is not strict e.g. fermented drink and eating of some game is not forbidden. Amulets are believed to protect from harm, evil spirits, fetishes, sickness. When someone dies a sacrifice is made, and people in the village contribute towards that. There are various reasons that could be attributed to this sacrifice, ranging from appeasing the spirit of the departed person to appeasing God for a better place for this person in 'paradise'.	
Attitude To Christianity	Very resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant	
Resistance / Receptivity	Christianity considered as foreign. Fear of what family will think-possible ostracism.	
Religious Analogies & Bridges	Usual as for Muslims. Islam along with traditional religious world view.	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	Needs further survey. Among the related languages, the Mourro are a small group in the Ouaddai area who are the only group who haven't accepted Islam in the Ouaddai region.	
Recommended Approaches	Community development. Reliable 4WD vehicles will be essential for projects and teams wanting access to the Rounga region.	
Current Needs	There is probably opportunity for medical work, community development, and literacy/translation projects. Evangelism, Discipleship, Church planting	
Items For Prayer	For workers to be called out and able to work amongst the Rounga. (Romans 10: 14-15) For hearts of the Rounga to be prepared to receive the Lord. That they will truly have an opportunity to hear of Jesus and receive life in Him soon.	
History Of Christianity In Group		Status of Christianity
Comments (History of Christianity)	None known as of the writing of this profile.	
Scripture		Status of Christianity
Available Scripture	None	
Comment (Scripture)	French and Modern Standard Arabic Bibles are available.	
Christian Literature And Media Status		Status of Christianity
Literature Available	None	
Audio Recordings Available	none	
Films Available	none	
Radio Programs Available	Some listening to radio from Monte Carlo.	
Videos Available	none	
Audio Visual Available	none	