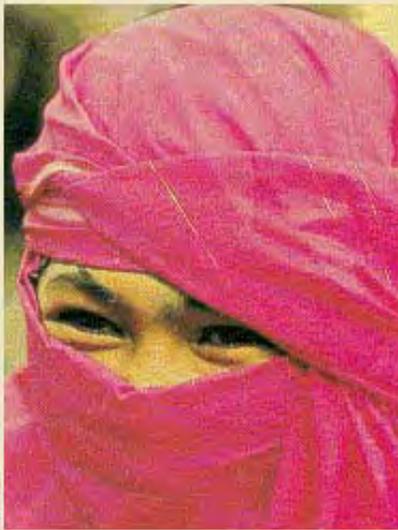


## The Bima of Indonesia



Kat Maher

The Bima (also called the Mbojo) people live in West Nusa Tenggara Province in the flat lowland regencies of Bima and Donggo on the eastern portion Sumbawa Island, as well as on Sangeang Island. Despite a long coastline, indented by bays, the population is not sea-oriented and most villages lie more than 5 kilometers from the coast. The northern part of their area is fertile, while the southern portion is barren and infertile. The primary livelihood of the Bima people is dry land farming, however they also do irrigated rice farming using a system of irrigation called panggawa.

The Bima people are also called the Oma (moving) people, because they continue a lifestyle of often moving. The Bima language (sometimes called Nggahi Mbojo) includes the Bima, Bima Donggo, and Sangeang dialects.

Even though the large majority of Bima people embrace Islam, they still believe in spirits. They fear the spirits of Batara Gangga (the head god with the greatest power), Batara Guru, Idadari Sakti, and Jeneng, as well as the spirits Bake and Jin who live in trees, very high mountains and are believed to have power to cause disease and calamities. They also believe in a large supernatural tree located in Kalate, and in Murmas, which is the special dwelling place of the gods of Mountain Rinjani, as well as a special place where Batara and the other gods and goddesses live. The original beliefs of the Bima people are called pare no bongi, which refers to belief in the spirits of their ancestors.

Health assistance is greatly needed, particularly among those Bima people who still exclusively use dukun (shaman/healer/occultist). They also need appropriate farming equipment and training. The farming community is being pressured by industrialization and needs more investment capital and assistance from the government. The entrepreneurial enthusiasm of their forefathers needs to be kindled in the younger generation. used by permission © 2001 PJRN Indonesia

**Primary Religion:**

Islam

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

20%

**Churches:**

0

**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

**Population (date):**



## BIMA



## The Bima of Indonesia

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	20%	
Number Of Churches	0	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Indonesia	
<b>Economics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Occupation	The primary livelihood of the Bima people is dry land farming, however they also do irrigated rice farming using a system of irrigation called panggawa. They also breed horses and hunt. The horses they breed are famous throughout the region for being small, yet very strong. These horses have been exported to the island of Jawa (Java) since the 14th century. Today the region has many horse-drawn carts, called "ben hurs" after the American movie. The Bima women are skilled at braiding mats from bamboo and palmyra palm leaves and weaving a fabric for which they are well known called tembe nggoli.	
<b>Society &amp; Culture</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Neighbor Relations	The Bima people are similar to the Sasak people who live on the nearby island of Lombok.	
Authority / Rule	A Bima settlement is called a kampo or kampe and is led by a village leader, who is called a neuhi. He is helped by a group of highly respected family elders. The leadership position is inherited from generation to generation among the descendents of the village's founder.	
Comment (Attitude To Change)	The Bima people are definitely not shut off from outside influences. Formerly school education was considered to be in opposition to their traditions. Now, however, they endorse education from primary school through university. They tend to consider outside influences as good, especially cultural and technological ones. Their way of living and thinking has become modern, thrifty and economical.	