

# Brahui



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 2,500,000

Pakistan: 2,200,000

Afghanistan: 270,000

Iran: 15,000

Turkmenistan: 1,500

**Religion:** Sunni Islam

**Believers:** 0.006%

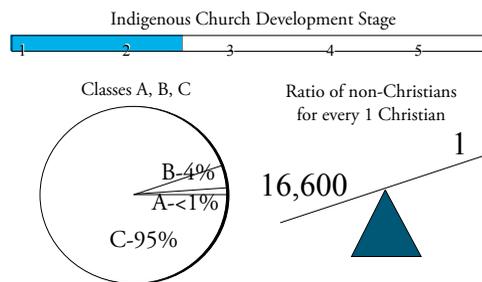
**Scriptures:** NT, OT Portions

**Ministry Tools:** JRT

**Church Status:** 2

**Mission Status:** 1

**MS Subgroups:** 20+



Classes A, B, C  
Ratio of non-Christians for every 1 Christian

Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church  
Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined  
Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

**Identity:** The Brahui are the northernmost Dravidian speaking people, whose homeland is in Kalat, Pakistan. Their separation by 1,000 miles from the Dravidians of South India remains a mystery. They are divided into 29 tribal groups, eight of which are regarded as the “original” Brahui tribes.

**Lifestyle:** The Brahui were traditionally a nomadic people, though this practice is gradually declining with modern outside influences. Many have become sedentary farmers or are semi-nomadic, raising crops from March to October, and then leaving Kalat for the plains with flocks of sheep, goats, and camels. Cooperative camps called Khalks are formed based on the size of the sheep herd, which is usually a minimum of 250 and maximum of 500. Professional herdsmen are often hired to manage these flocks.

**Customs:** Ideally, the Brahui form patrilineal extended households, in

which all the brothers and their families live together under the authority of the father or the eldest son. Among purely nomadic bands this ideal has been difficult to achieve, though among transhumants and settled groups it has become the norm.

**Religion:** Although the Brahui are Sunni Muslims, many of their customs are more influenced by Indian culture than orthodox Islam. Every home has its own patron saint. Women collect artifacts or dirt from the saint’s shrine to be used as a source of spiritual power during a life-crises event. If a person or place is believed to be possessed by a spirit, the local mullah (Muslim religious leader) will be called upon to read aloud or chant verses from the Quran. If the exorcism is unsuccessful, a sheikh, who has proven himself in this area, is called upon to dance until the spirit departs.

**Christian Outreach:** Little effort has been made to establish a disciple-mak-

ing movement among the Brahui in Pakistan. However, the New Testament was completed and published in 1998, and there is now one small fellowship of Brahui believers benefiting from its release. This translation has also served as a catalyst for the production of the Jesus Film and a regular radio broadcast program. A reported breakthrough among the Brahui in Afghanistan awaits field confirmation.

## How to Pray:

☞ The Brahui live among the Baloch and many are assimilating to Balochi culture. Pray that the recent breakthrough among the Baloch might have an impact on nearby Brahui families.

☞ Intercede for the hastened deployment of missionary teams for each of the 29 Brahui tribal divisions. Pray for favor with ruling chieftans called *sardars*, and with hereditary sectional leaders called *takkri*.

☞ The Pakistani government has moved slowly with development among the Brahui. Pray for creativity among missionaries in approaching the vast needs facing this complex tribe, as their society and economy transitions from ancient patterns to modern realities.

**Every year 22,000  
Brahui die  
without Christ.**