

# Hausa Muslims



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 27,000,000

Nigeria: 21,500,000

Niger: 4,500,000

Sudan: 400,000

Chad: 100,000

**Religion:** Sunni Islam

**Believers:** 0.07%

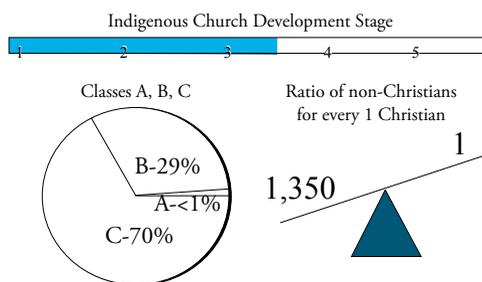
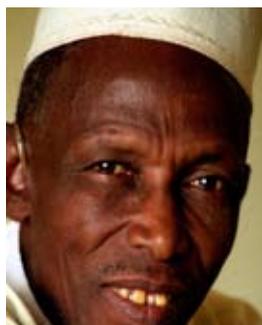
**Scriptures:** NT, OT

**Ministry Tools:** JRGT

**Church Status:** 3

**Mission Status:** 2

**MS Subgroups:** 100+



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 Hausa Muslims are a cluster of many dozens of North African tribes which have made Hausa their mother language as part of the process of Islamic conversion. They are an ethnic group in the making, though tribal divisions among them are still significant. The Hausa language is a lingua-franca spoken by over 40 million people.

**Lifestyle:** After conversion to Islam in the 14th century, the Hausa developed a feudal system of government, which to a large extent still predominates today. An ancient aristocracy rules over a vast peasantry, and keeps the region largely impoverished. Subsistence farming is the basic industry. During the long dry-season, the Hausa turn to small craft-making such as rope-making, leather-working, and weaving.

**Customs:** Due to Islamic influence, the Hausa practice wife-seclusion, a tradition which keeps women inside

the home during most of the day. Many women say they like this practice because it keeps them from having to engage in hard field-labor. The men consider it prestigious and a form of honoring the dignity of women.

**Religion:** The Hausa were conquered by the Fulani in 1802. The Fulani leader Uthman dan Fodio declared a *jihad* against them for what he claimed was a lack of Islamic purity among the Hausa. Uthman replaced the Hausa aristocracy with Fulani rulers and many of the Fulani settled among the Hausa and were absorbed by them. When the British came to the region they decided to leave the Hausa-Fulani aristocracy in place and co-rule with them. The result was the rapid spread of Islam throughout Nigeria and Niger.

**Christian Outreach:** There is a violent struggle going on in Nigeria between the Muslim Hausa in the North and the Christian tribes in the South. Church

burning is common, and Sharia law has been adopted, making conversion a capital offense. Even so, despite these obstacles many Hausa speaking Christians, of which there are over 10 million, have begun to reach out with the love of Christ. In some areas, whole Hausa Muslim villages have become followers of Jesus.

## How to Pray:

☞ Pray for grace and tact to be given to Nigerian Christians seeking to reach out in love to their Muslim neighbors.

☞ The Isawa Hausa are a subgroup that give high honor to Jesus. Among them a significant turning to Christ as Lord and Savior has begun. Pray that the entire group would become a sending base to reach every Hausa tribe and clan.

☞ Sharia law prohibits the building of churches and the distribution or publishing of Christian literature in Northern Nigeria. Pray for creative ways to evangelize and make disciples under these restrictive conditions.

☞ Praise God for the freedom to proclaim Christ among the Hausa in Niger. Pray against the adoption of Sharia law in this country.

**Every year 240,000 Hausa Muslims die without Christ.**