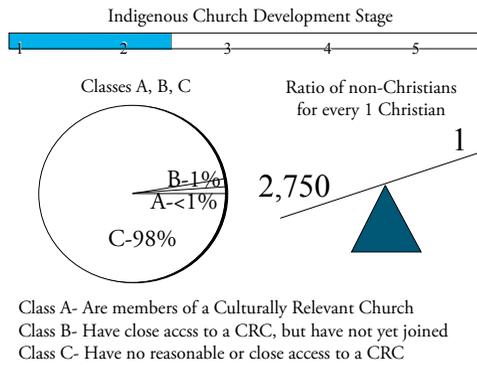


Maguindanao



Quick Facts

Pop. in Philippines: 1,100,000
Location: Maguindanao Prov.
Lang. Family: Western Malay
Religion: Sunni Islam
Believers: 0.04% (MBB)
Scriptures: Portions
Ministry Tools: JGRT
Church Status: 2
Mission Status: 2
Churches: 10+ D-Groups
Organizations: 6
MS Subgroups: 4



Identity: The Maguindanao are a Malay people, closely related to the Iranun and Maranao. Their name means, “people of the flood plain,” a reference to the swamp-land they inhabit in Southwestern Mindanao.

Lifestyle: Rural Maguindanao traditionally lived along the banks of rivers and streams that flow throughout the marshes in which they live. With the construction of highways through their territory, many have relocated, and a plethora of elongated towns have sprung up that are strung out along the roadside. They are primarily wet-rice cultivators, though they also grow corn and sago. Their lands are filled with an abundance of coconot and other tropical fruit trees. Fishing and fish-farming in the marshes provides much of their protein and supplements their income.

Customs: The Maguindanao have a social ranking system based on one’s relationship to a Malay prince named

Sarip Kanungsuwan, who brought Islam to the Maguindanao. Those who can trace descent to Kanungsuwan have the highest rank, and are referred to as *datu*, or *sultans* (datu of datus). Beneath this are the *dumatu* (lower nobles), *sakop* (freemen), *ulipan* (indentured servants) and *banyaga* (chattel slaves).

Religion: According to legends attested to by the Maguinanao datus, Kabungsuwan arrived in Mindanao around the 15th century with an army of 500 Sama tribal warriors. Through his wisdom and miraculous powers he won over the Maguindanao, transforming them into a formidable political, economic and military force that began to dominate Southern Mindanao. Numerous smaller peoples were absorbed by the Maguindanao during this period through conversion to Islam, which protected them from being taken as slaves.

Christian Outreach: Ongoing armed conflict with the Philippine govern-

ment, as well as persistent internal tribal blood-feuds, has hindered progress in the heartland of the Maguindano population. Ministry in safer majority Christian areas where the Maguindanao have migrated has shown fruit, and a network of fellowships has been birthed from the response. Converts tend to be young, single and unemployed.

How to Pray:

☞ God has raised up a key indigenous leader among the Maguindanao, who is discipling a core-leadership team of 12 discipleship group (D-group) coordinators. Pray for unity among these leaders, and the multiplication of hundreds of D-groups throughout the Maguindanao heartland.

☞ The Maguindanao believers have developed a burden for the neighboring Muslim Iranun tribe (400,000 people). Already, 18 Iranun believers have been baptized as a result. Pray for continued success in these evangelistic efforts.

☞ The Maguindanao have been “adopted” by 400 churches in the Philippines. Pray for effective partnership between these churches and faithfulness in intercessory prayer for the Maguindanao.

Every year 10,000 Maguindano die without Christ.