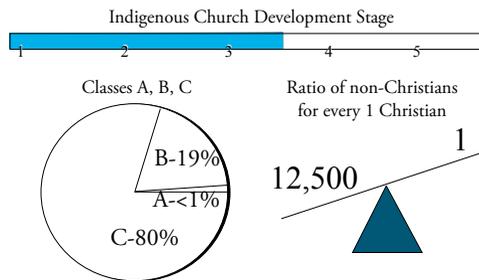


# Mandinka Muslims



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 5,000,000  
 Guinea: 2,000,000  
 Ivory Coast: 600,000  
 Mali: 600,000  
 Senegal: 550,000  
**Religion:** Islam–Sunni  
**Believers:** 0.008% (MBB)  
**Scriptures:** NT, OT  
**Ministry Tools:** JRGT  
**C Status:** 3  
**M Status:** 3  
**MS Subgroups:** 50+



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 Mandinka are an ethnic cluster of several Western Mande tribes which have a common ancestral origin, as well as shared cultural and linguistic traits. The principal tribes comprising the group are the Maninka, Mandingo and Malinke. They are related to the Bambara and the Dyula.

**Lifestyle:** Traditionally, Mandinka society has been stratified by endogamous occupational lineages. Such groups may be blacksmiths, leatherworkers, entertainers, etc., and are highly regarded for their trade secrets which involve various spiritual rites. Other families are merchants and farmers. Another endogamous class are those who descend from slaves. They are generally poor and landless. On the opposite end are the wealthy and politically powerful elite, which descend from an ancient nobility class.

**Customs:** The Mandinka value of exceeding the success of one's family drives

many into entrepreneurial activity and fortune-seeking in the cities. The most successful can become the leaders of their kinship descent group. They will oversee social rites, mediate conflicts, and ensure the general welfare of the clan through wealth re-distribution.

**Religion:** The Mandinka were first introduced to Islam through Muslim scribes employed by the Mali kingdom. A few nobles were converted by their influence, but the vast majority did not convert until the Fulani-led jihads in the 19th century. Sufi orders are strong among them (Tijaniyya and Qadiriyya). Almost all remain animistic, from the slave class to the nobility. Their sorcerors, called *marabout*, are known for their “offensive magic” which is employed to destroy another. They are also sought out to know the future, for healing and for protection from curses.

**Christian Outreach:** The Mandinka are about 75% Muslim. Among the non-

Muslims there has been a significant turning to Christ with at least several thousand believers and many dozens of churches being planted. Among those from a Muslim background, the response has been slower, especially in Guinea and Senegal.

## How to Pray:

☞ Praise God that all the major Mandinka tribes have been engaged by church planting teams. Pray for continued partnership and goodwill among all the various mission societies.

☞ The stratification of Mandinka society complicates church growth. Pray for wisdom among mission strategists to chart the best course in reaching every caste and descent group.

☞ Pray for specialized outreach to “high-identity” Mandinka Muslims. Pray for their effective discipleship, and that they might be able to remain in their families and communities to be salt and light for Christ.

☞ Pray for special spiritual protection for missionaries and believers from the powers of darkness working through Mandinka sorcerors. Pray that the power of God in Christ Jesus might triumph for all to see!

**Every year 45,000 Mandinka Muslims die without Christ.**