



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 1,800,000

Chad: 1,300,000

Nigeria: 200,000

Cameroon: 120,000

CAR: 90,000

**Religion:** Sunni Islam

**Believers:** 0.008%

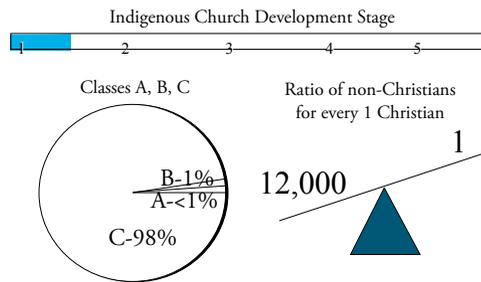
**Scriptures:** Yes-NT

**Ministry Tools:** JGRT

**Church Status:** 1

**Mission Status:** 1

**MS Subgroups:** 15+



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 Shuwa Arabs are a cluster of nomadic tribes related to the Baggara of Sudan, which they separated from in the 14th century A.D. Though concentrated around Lake Chad, they migrate throughout the Eastern Sahel. Their unique dialect is often referred to as Chadian Arabic.

**Lifestyle:** Many Shuwa are semi-nomadic and have two homes (and often two families with separate wives), one in a settled village, and one in a nomadic camp. Their wealth is determined by the size of their herds, which may include horses, cattle and sheep. Women are responsible for constructing village homes which are adobe style or woven straw tents. They also manufacture and sell dairy products, such as milk, butter, and cheese. In the dry-season men live in the villages, and then depart when the rains resume.

**Customs:** Among the Shuwa, tribes are usually made up of patrilines that

can trace themselves to a common ancestor within five or six generations. These clans typically migrate in the same region, or *dar*, which means “home.” Clans related to even more distant ancestors would constitute a tribal confederation, which in the past had military significance.

**Religion:** The Shuwa are Sunni Muslims, and most participate in the Tijaniyya Sufi brotherhood. Due to their nomadic lifestyle, the Shuwa were recruited by Sufi missionaries to evangelize the peoples of North Africa. Children are sent to madrasas to learn the Quran, though female attendance will usually end after six years. Since Chadian Arabic differs greatly from Quranic Arabic, few understand the verses they memorize. Most of the Shuwa attempt to make the Hajj, and today many do so as part of a job-search.

**Christian Outreach:** The Shuwa Arabs have been largely neglected by mission-

ary effort in Chad, though this has begun to change and there are now four mission agencies working among them to see the Church established. The New Testament was completed in 1991, but upon field testing has been discovered to be in need of serious revision.

## How to Pray:

✚ Political tension and power struggles between Muslim peoples in the north and Christians in the south of Chad have further isolated the Shuwa from the gospel. Pray that God’s love for Muslims and a spirit of reconciliation would fill the hearts of Chadian believers.

✚ Dancing is an important part of life among the Shuwa and each village has its own dance group. Pray for the creative use of this artform for teaching, evangelism, worship, and building Kingdom community.

✚ Pray for the soon release of the revised New Testament and for the completion of the entire Bible in Shuwa Arabic.

✚ Believers among the Shuwa are isolated and undisciplined. Pray for the right strategy to train leaders and form discipleship groups among this nomadic people.

**Every year 16,000 Shuwa Arabs die without Christ.**