

# Sindhi Muslims



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 19,000,000

Pakistan: 18,800,000

India: 100,000

UAE: 40,000

Malaysia: 1,000

**Religion:** Sunni Islam

**Believers:** 0.0002%

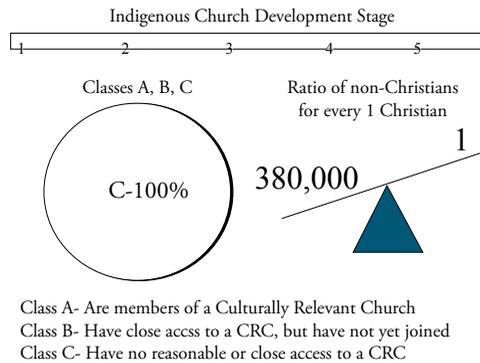
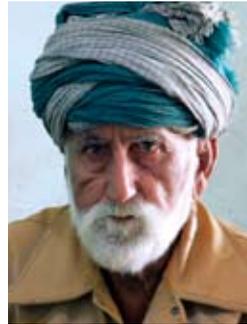
**Scriptures:** NT, OT

**Ministry Tools:** JRGT

**Church Status:** 0

**Mission Status:** 1

**MS Subgroups:** 50+



**Identity:** The Sindhi Muslims are the descendants of many dozens of tribes and peoples from Central Asia and NE India, which have adopted the Sindhi language as their mother tongue and the religion of Islam. In rural areas, most of these peoples still form distinct communities called *zat*, which function as endogamous castes.

**Lifestyle:** The Indus river, which flows through the Sind province has provided the Sindhi with fertile soil and irrigation capacity for thousands of years. About 25% of the Sindhi are engaged in share-cropping, and another 15% cultivate their own land. Sindh province provides much of the grain demands for Balochistan and the NW Frontier Province. About 60% of the Sindh are now urbanized. Their capital Karachi is the leading commercial and industrial center of Pakistan.

**Customs:** Two rituals are associated with birth: the naming ceremony

and the shaving ceremony. During the naming ceremony, the father whispers “Allah is Great” into the child’s ear, and then the name is given. In the shaving ceremony, a goat is sacrificed and the bones are buried along with the child’s hair at a designated place. It is thought that the shaving ceremony has its origin in an atonement sacrifice.

**Religion:** From 900 to 1200 A.D. the Sindhi’s were Shia muslims. Then in the 13th century several Sufi missionary orders began converting them to Sunni Islam, which is now the majority. There has been much syncretism between Islam and Hinduism, especially in the veneration of common saints. This practice is known as *piri-muridi*, and is highly frowned upon by orthodox Muslims. Even so, major festivals in the Sindh honoring holy men of the past continue to keep this practice alive.

**Christian Outreach:** With only a few dozen believers, and no indigenous

church, the Sindhi are the largest least-reached Muslim people in the world. The complexity of this group as a large people-cluster makes their situation even more urgent. A coalition of agencies and adopting churches have come together in the last decade to deploy missionary teams among them.

## How to Pray:

☞ Pray for God’s blessing on a Christian radio program in Sindhi. Pray for effective follow-up with listeners who respond by mail.

☞ Intercede for the production of a culturally sensitive Bible for Sindhi muslims.

☞ Pray for specialized and focused outreach to each of the unique sub-groups among the Sindhi and for a disciple-making movement among each one.

☞ Pray for the scattered Sindhi believers that God would give them a vision for a Sindhi church. Ask God for the effective training and deployment of thousands of Sindhi evangelists, church-planters and missionaries throughout the entire Sindh province.

☞ Pray for God’s protection for the expatriate teams now working in Karachi.

**Every year 170,000 Sindhi Muslims die without Christ.**