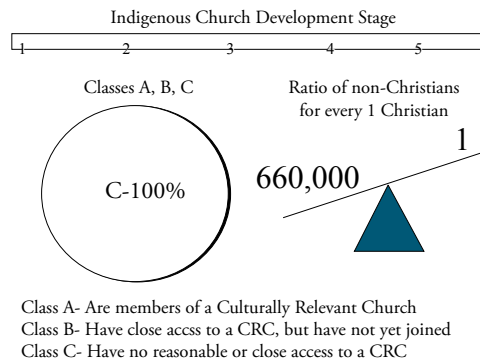




## Quick Facts

**Population:** 2,000,000  
**Location:** Khuzestan  
**Language:** S. Central Arabic  
**Religion:** Shia Islam  
**Believers:** 0.0001% (MBB)  
**Scriptures:** Portions  
**Ministry Tools:** RS  
**Church Status:** 0  
**Mission Status:** 1  
**MBB Churches:** 0  
**Organizations:** 1  
**MS Subgroups:** 2



one mission agency has made a commitment to engaging them. There are unconfirmed reports of several isolated believers. No Scriptures have been translated in their language, though research is ongoing to determine if the Farsi Scriptures can suffice for initial evangelistic efforts.

## How to Pray:

☞ Deploying foreign missionaries among the Iranian Arabs is becoming increasingly difficult due to the tensions in the region. Pray for the effective mobilization of the few indigenous Armenian and Persian believers for reaching this neglected people group.

☞ There are dozens of tribes among the Iranian Arabs that may require a unique approach to the gospel. Pray especially for the nomadic tribes along the Persian Gulf, which are separated geographically from the majority of Iranian Arabs, that they would not be overlooked in evangelistic and church-planting efforts.

☞ Pray that every Iranian Arab might have the opportunity to hear Arabic and Farsi Christian programming via satellite TV and short-wave radio broadcasting which is now available.

**Identity:** The Iranian Arabs, also known as Ahwazis, are primarily Mesopotamian and Gulf speaking Arab tribes which live in the plains south of the Zagros mountains and along the Persian Gulf. Their Arabic dialects and culture have been significantly influenced by the Persian language and Iranian national culture.

**Lifestyle:** Despite the fact that Khuzestan contains one of the largest oil fields in the world, the Awazhis have benefited little economically from its extraction, other than employment as low-wage laborers. For the most part this oil has been their curse, subjecting them to numerous power struggles since its discovery in the early 20th century. In rural areas, most are farmers and fishermen, and along the Persian Gulf plains, nomadic pastoralists, raising sheep, camels and cattle.

**Customs:** Iranian Arabs maintain strong tribal loyalties and cultural links

with their tribal counterparts in Iraq. However, during the Iran-Iraq war, national loyalties and interests trumped tribal loyalties and tribes on both sides of the border fought against one another in support of their governments. This situation resulted in many Iranian Arabs calling for their own state. A resistance movement was birthed which continues today and is gaining momentum.

**Religion:** Iranian Arabs are a majority Shiite, with a small minority of Sunni followers. Among the Shiites, there are a significant minority who adhere to heterodox (some would say heretical) sects such as Ahl-i Haqq and Alawism. These sects are noted for their syncretistic blends with other religions. The Alawis believe in divine incarnation similar to the Christian concept, and the Ahl-i Haqq believe in reincarnation, which they borrowed from the Gnostics.

**Christian Outreach:** Little has been done to reach the Iranian Arabs, though

**Every year 18,000 Iranian Arabs die without Christ.**