

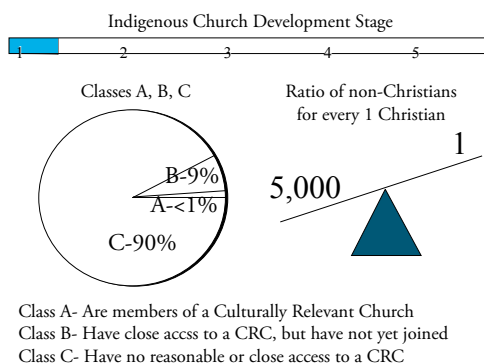
Makhuwa Muslims



Quick Facts

Population: 2,500,000
 Mozambique: 2,100,000
 Tanzania: 250,000
 Malawi: 50,000
 Madagascar: 30,000

Religion: Islam
Believers: 0.02% (MBB)
Scriptures: NT, OT
Ministry Tools: JRT
Church Status: 1
Mission Status: 1
MS Subgroups: 5



Identity: The Makhuwa are a Central Bantu people related to the Lomwe and Chuwabu. They are the largest ethnic group in Mozambique (35%), and have had a significant linguistic and cultural influence on the peoples in the north of the country.

Lifestyle: Most Makhuwa are farmers, though a few who live on the coast make their living from fishing. Even those who live in the city usually have plots of land in the countryside which they farm to supplement their income. The most important crops are cassava and corn, which are their staple foods. Cash crops include coconuts, cotton, tea and cashews. Alcoholic drinks are made from sugar cane and bananas. Men are responsible for making straw mats for sitting and sleeping, while women make clay pots for cooking.

Customs: The Makhuwa are a matrilineal society and trace their family line through their mother. When a child is

born it belongs to the mother's uncle, rather than to the father. Inheritance and chieftancies pass to the son of one's sister. Partly due to these restrictions, there has been increase in marriages that are without legal or cultural sanction, most of which are short-lived.

Religion: The Makhuwa were first introduced to Islam through Arab traders around 1000 A.D. Many converts were made in coastal areas, and gradually the new religion began to make its way into the interior, until its interruption by the Portuguese in the 16th century. Gradually, many Makhuwa were nominally converted to Roman Catholicism over the next 400 years. Since independence in 1975, Islam has rebounded and gained in strength. However, traditional beliefs continue to remain dominant, and Islamic adherence can only be described as syncretistic at best.

Christian Outreach: The Church is growing rapidly among the non-Islamic

Makhuwa, with hundreds of churches established in the last ten years and thousands of new believers. This growth, while a positive sign and an important development to stem the growth of Islam, nonetheless has the potential to divert missionary attention away from the more resistant Muslim areas, especially on the northern Mozambique coast.

How to Pray:

☞ There is a need to see the Muslim Makhuwa as a unique people group and to give special attention to Muslim background believers in Christ in order to maximize their potential in reaching their extended families. Pray for the right strategies to approach this neglected sub-group, and for missionary teams willing to patiently labor among them.

☞ The Bible is in need of revision, and a unique Muslim-friendly translation would be ideal. Pray for those working on this task that God's eternal message would be clearly transmitted in the Makhuwa language, culture and worldview.

☞ Dozens of churches have been established by teams using the Jesus film. Pray for its use and success among Muslim areas as well.

Every year 23,000 Makhuwa Muslims die without Christ.