

# Vigue

## Burkina Faso

Physical Exertion: **DIFFICULT**  
Resources: **LIMITED**  
Threat Level: **LOW**  
Freedom: **SOMEWHAT RESTRICTED**



### SUMMARY

8,000 population, hospitable, no known Christians, open to gospel teaching, primitive living conditions

### DETAILS

**Who are they?** The Vigue, whose language is called Viemo, have a population of 8,000. When marrying, men take their mother's brother's daughter as a wife.

**What is their primary religion?** Islam with influence of African Traditional Religion. The Vigue chief has said, "To be Vigue is to be Muslim."

**Where are they?** The Vigue live in 12 villages in southern Burkina Faso. The largest village, Karankasso-Vigué, has a

population of about 1,000.

**Do they have a Christian witness?** There are no known Christians among the Vigue. Although there are three churches in the villages, no Vigue attend services, which are conducted in languages other than Viemo. No mission organizations are currently targeting this people group.

**What strategies are being implemented for reaching this people group?**

- In the summer of 2006, volunteer teams working with IMB missionaries spent several weeks among the Vigue, using sports ministry and other tactics to build relationships and learn the Viemo language.

**Suggestions and rationale for engaging this people group:** This group is good potential for an Engaging Church, but would require significant long-term interaction. Since the chief lives in Karankasso-Vigué, that would be an ideal place to start work.

**What specific challenges or opportunities could directly affect the engagement of this people?**

- The road leading into the Vigue area is very poor. In rainy season it will be almost impassable. Transportation by moped/motorcycle would be ideal.
- Although they are open to outsiders, Islam is a dominant factor in the lives of the Vigue. Overcoming their religious mindset will take time.
- The Vigue live in a very condensed area within 20 km of their center, Karankasso-Vigue.

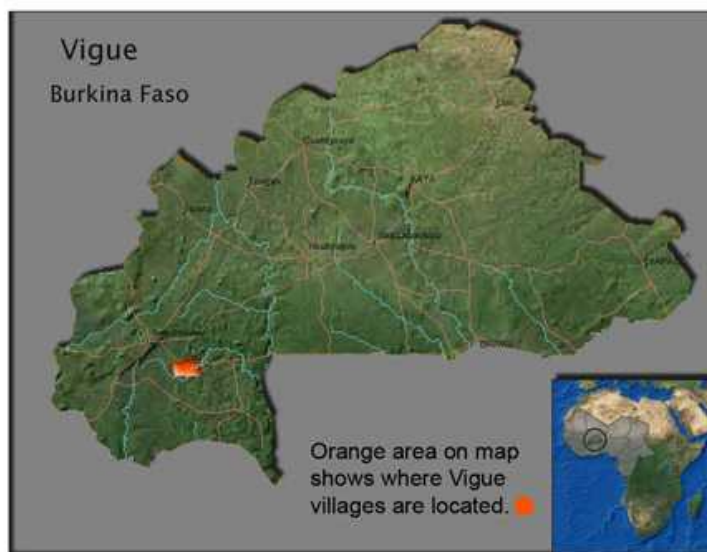
- Although no resources are available in the Viemo language, many Vigue also speak Jula, a predominant trade language in the area. Jula-speaking Christians in Burkina Faso could easily communicate with many Vigue people.

**Specific Opportunities/Benefits:**

- IMB missionaries have developed a good relationship with the chief, who welcomes outsiders and has a “stranger house” set aside for visitors in Karankasso-Vigué. He told IMB missionaries on one trip, “If you put a church in my village, I will give you my children to teach them.”
- A rudimentary word list of Viemo words and phrases has been developed.
- A Christian woman who lives in a city close to the Vigue area is interested in ministering among the Vigue and is a good contact for long-term partnership.

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