

# Bolon

## Burkina Faso

Physical Exertion: **DIFFICULT**  
Resources: **LIMITED**  
Threat Level: **LOW**  
Freedom: **UNRESTRICTED**



### SUMMARY

17,000 population, African Traditional Religion, few known believers, sleeping in huts or on ground required, targeted for Bible translation

### DETAILS

**Who are they?** The Bolon have an estimated population of 17,000.

**What is their primary religion?** African Traditional Religion, with some influence of Islam.

**Where are they?** There are six villages in Burkina Faso that have significant Bolon populations. The central location for many Bolon is called N'Dorola.

**Do they have a Christian witness?** There are less than 10 born-again Christians among the Bolon. No evangelical groups are currently targeting the Bolon, and although there are some churches in the N'Dorola area, they do not make specific efforts to reach out to this people group.

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

- One cassette, titled "Words of Life," is available for the Bolon.
- The group is targeted for a Bible translation project, but the work has not been started.

**Suggestions and rationale for engaging this people group:** This would be an outstanding group for an Engaging Church. Also, mobilization and encouragement of the existing Christian population in the Bolon area could have a significant impact on reaching the Bolon for Christ.

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

- N'Dorola is about seven hours from the capital city of Burkina Faso. Half of the trip would be on decent pavement and half would be on poor roadways. Travel outside of N'Dorola to other Bolon villages will be difficult during rainy season.
- There appear to be two Bolon groups. Dialectical differences exist between these two groups and it will take some linguistic study to effectively communicate with both groups.
- In spite of living in close proximity to other ethnic groups, the Bolon have retained their culture and heritage. They continue to hold to their traditions, including some

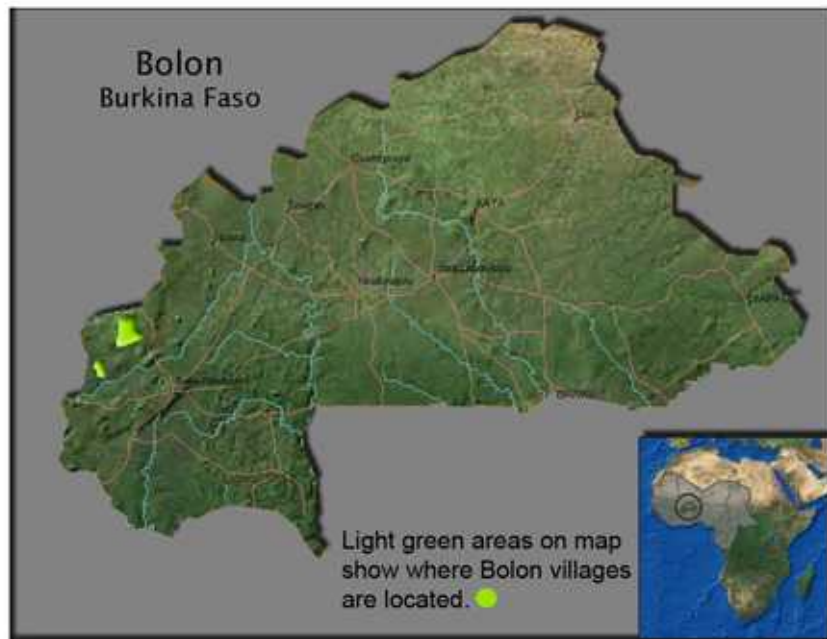
sacrifices. However, a significant percentage of the Bolon speak Jula (a regional trade language) as their primary language and therefore could easily converse with believers who speak Jula.

**Specific Opportunities/Benefits:**

- A graduate student developed a phonology and grammar book in 1987.
- Linguistic studies show that the Bolon have a high comprehension of the Jula language. Many believers in Burkina Faso speak Jula and could be used in outreach projects or as translators.

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