

Wara

Burkina Faso

Physical Exertion: **DIFFICULT**
Resources: **NONE**
Threat Level: **LOW**
Freedom: **SOMEWHAT RESTRICTED**



SUMMARY

4,500 population, remote conditions, no known Christians, no gospel resources

DETAILS

Who are they? The Wara have a population of about 4,500. Their language, also called Wara, has two major subdivisions, Palaba and Sama.

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

Where are they? The Wara can be found primarily in six villages in southwestern Burkina Faso.

Do they have a Christian witness? There are no known Christians among the Wara, and no evangelical congregations comprised primarily of Wara. There is a Catholic church in one of the villages, but mass is conducted in French and Jula. A few songs are sung in Wara. No known mission organizations are targeting this people group.

What strategies are being implemented for reaching this people group?

- A Bible translation work is planned but has not yet started.

Suggestions and rationale for engaging this people group: Because of the remote location of the Wara and their relatively small population, it is unlikely that an organization is going to send full-time personnel to target them with the Gospel. This is a good opportunity for an Engaging Church, but will require significant long-term interaction.

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

- The Wara live in a very remote and isolated area of Burkina Faso, near the border of Mali. From the capital city, it would take at least 10 hours to drive to a Wara village. The roads leading into the area are poor, and during rainy season they will be almost impassible.
- Since the nearest hotel is two hours a way, sleeping on the ground or in huts is likely.
- The Wara hold on to many beliefs of African Traditional Religion. Overcoming their religious mindset will take time.
- There are no known gospel resources in the Wara language.

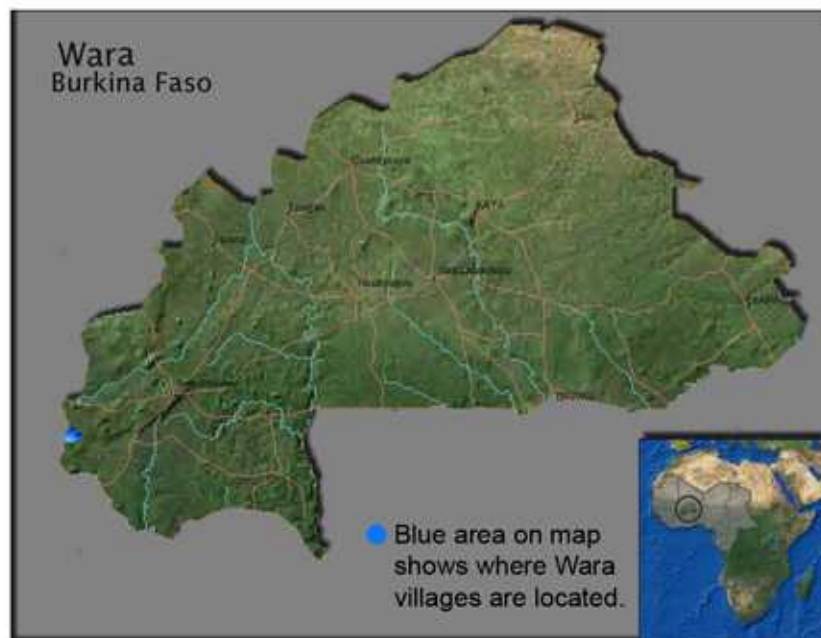
Specific Opportunities/Benefits:

- All Wara live in a very condensed area.

- The Wara live in close proximity to various Senoufo people. Because of the interaction of Wara with Senoufo (in markets, etc.), it might be possible to mobilize Senoufo Christians to have an impact on the Wara people.
- Along with Senara (the language of the Senoufo), many adult Wara men also speak Jula, a regional trade language. Jula-speaking believers could easily converse with these Wara men.

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