

Kano-Katsina Fulbe



The Kano-Katsina Fulbe (also called the Kano-Katsina Fulani) of Nigeria number around 4.6 million. They live in north central Nigeria and are a people of change. Many still follow a herding lifestyle, but a vast number have settled in villages, towns and cities. Farming has become the predominant means of supporting the family in some areas. A number of the Kano-Katsina Fulani work as laborers, sellers in the market, teachers, businessmen and even politicians. Despite this change in lifestyle, Islam remains strong in their heritage and is a driving force in their lives.

Culture and Religion

Most Kano-Katsina Fulani are very proud of their culture. Fulani life is full of traditions, social expectations and religious practices. Their lives are strongly influenced by these factors. Islam is central to their identity. They consistently practice most of the tenants of Islam, but also have some traditional African beliefs. The Fulani hope that Allah will hear their prayers and grant them entrance into paradise when they die, based on their good works. They do not know that God loves them and has sent Jesus to give them eternal life.



Facts about the Kano-Katsina Fulbe:

- Population: 4.6 million
- Religion:
Muslim: 99.9%
Christian: 0.04%
(less than 2,000 believers)
- Literacy Rate:
10% literate

Challenges of Reaching the Kano-Katsina Fulbe:

- *There are so many of them.* There are over 4.6 million Kano-Katsina with fewer than 10 missionary units working among them. (IMB missionaries and other agencies combined).
- *Illiteracy.* Some Fulani are functionally literate in Arabic, but the majority (90%+) can not read their own language. Few have had any formal learning, thus making Bible teaching, discipleship, and leadership training more challenging.
- *The Fulani culture - Islam connection.* Most Fulani are proud of their culture, and Islam is considered integral to their culture. To most Fulani, becoming a Christian is a denial of their culture and society. Sometimes converts are seen as traitors.
- *Persecution.* Those who become Christians suffer rejection by their families as well as loss of property, spouses, and children. Many have suffered beatings and even death. This makes a Fulani think hard before becoming a Christian. Many say, "I know what you are saying is true, but the cost is too great." The positive aspect is that those who suffer and endure say they have something Islam cannot give them - peace and eternal life.
- *Suspicion.* The Fulani tend to be very suspicious of other people, even of other Fulani who are not from their own clan. Trust must be developed slowly to break down this barrier.

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Challenges of Reaching the Fulani:

- *There are so many of them.* There are over 4.6 million Kano-Katsina Fulani the North central belt of Nigeria with fewer than 10 missionary units working among them. . (IMB missionaries and other Great Commission Christians combined).
- *Illiteracy.* Some Fulani are functionally literate in Arabic, but the majority (90%+) can not read their own language. Few have had any formal learning, thus making Bible teaching, discipleship, and leadership training more challenging.
- *The Fulani culture - Islam connection.* Most Fulani are proud of their culture. Unfortunately, Islam is considered integral to their culture. To most Fulani, becoming a Christian is a denial of their culture and society. Sometimes converts are seen as traitors to their people. This hinders evangelism efforts.
- *Persecution.* Those who become believers in Christ suffer rejection by their families as well as loss of property, wives/husbands, and children. Many have suffered beatings and some even death. This makes a Fulani think very hard before becoming a Christian. Many have said, "I know what you are saying is true, but the cost is too great." The positive side of this is that those who suffer and endure say they have something that Islam cannot give them - peace and eternal life.
- *Suspicion.* The Fulani tend to be very suspicious of other people, even of other Fulani who are not from their own clan. Trust must be developed slowly to break down this barrier.