

Western Karaboro

Burkina Faso

Physical Exertion: **MEDIUM**

Resources: **LIMITED**

Threat Level: **LOW**

Freedom: **UNRESTRICTED**



SUMMARY

16,000 population, no known Christians, good potential to mobilize believers in surrounding areas, rudimentary word list available

DETAILS

Who are they? The Western Karaboro have an estimated population of 16,000. Their language has two dialects, Syer and Tenyer.

What is their primary religion? Islam and African Traditional Religion.

Where are they? The Western Karaboro can be found in 16 villages throughout southwestern Burkina Faso. Five of these villages have populations exceeding 1,000.

Do they have a Christian witness? There are no known Western Karaboro Christians, and no churches have been found within their villages.

What strategies are being implemented for reaching this people group?

- SIL lists Karaboro-West as a language that needs further investigation to determine translation needs.

Suggestions and rationale for engaging this people group: This is great potential for an Engaging Church, but reaching this group will require significant long-term interaction.

All Western Karaboro villages are located within a few kilometers of Banfora, a developed town with a significant population of Christians. These Christians could be mobilized to help reach the Western Karaboro.

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

- The roads in the area are not paved. Travel in rainy season is difficult and will require either a bicycle or a moto.
- It will require a substantial investment of time to establish trust and communication with the Western Karaboro. There have been some limited efforts at evangelization with no results.
- The two dialects of their language will pose some difficulty. It will take some time to master the language and dialectal differences.
- There are no known gospel resources in Syer or Tenyer.

- Animism controls the lives of the Western Karaboro. Spiritual oppression will be encountered.

Specific Opportunities/Benefits:

- There are many Christians among the nearby Eastern Karaboro group. However, their language is different enough to make communication difficult between them and the Western Karaboro. If the Christians could be mobilized, there is a great potential to make a significant evangelistic impact.
- Many Western Karaboro speak Jula as a second language. Jula is a trade language spoken throughout Burkina Faso, and Jula-speaking Christians could easily communicate with the Western Karaboro.
- There are several radio broadcasts via Radio "MOUNGOU" or "MURALE" in Banfora. The announcer is from Tengréla, one of the Western Karaboro villages.
- SIL has done a rudimentary word list in Syer/Tenyer.

For further information about this people, contact:

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