

# PEOPLE PROFILE

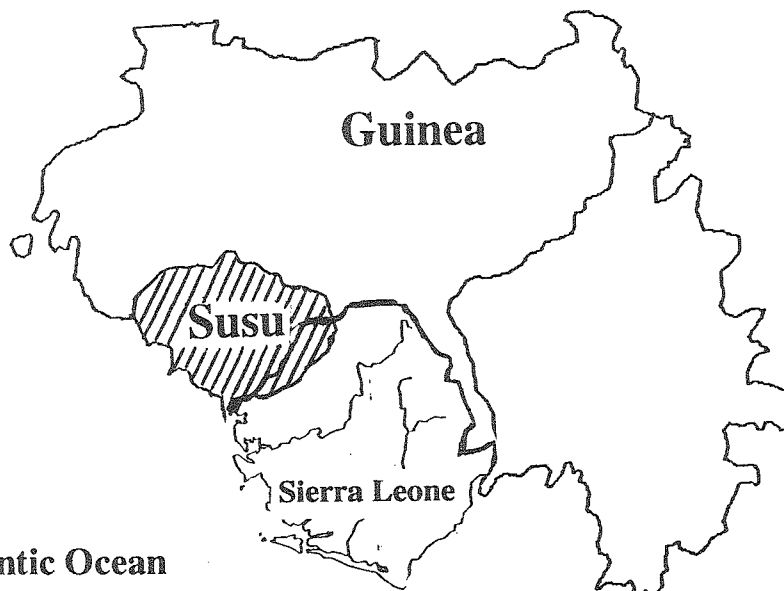
## Susu of Guinea and Sierra Leone

The Susu people are Muslims with a mixture of African rites and beliefs called animism. By believing that Mohammed is the final prophet sent from God, the Koran is God's final revelation to man and performing blood sacrifices to evil spirits for protection and luck, the Susu are deep in bondage to fear, sin, and the kingdom of Satan.

Descendents of the 13th century Mali empire, they moved to their present location after 1725 where the Fulas attempted to dominate them and converted them to Islam. Very few know how to read or write although Susu is taught in the Guinea schools. While responsive to outside influences, the Susu have maintained a close community with two types of social organization. These are: 1) the totem clans, through the father's line of descent giving a common name and responsibilities for hospitality and maintaining taboos; 2) the craft groups of nobles, bards, smiths, leather and wood workers. The farmers are separate who grow bananas, pineapples, oil and coconut palms, mango and avocado trees. Many do river and sea fishing.

Among the young there seems to be a disillusionment with both Islam and socialism after the regime of Sekou Toure from 1958 to 1984. Many have moved to the capital city of Conakry in Guinea where poverty and idleness has become a curse. They need the freedom that can only come from Jesus Christ.

The Susu number 794,390 or 11.5% of the population of Guinea living in the area between the towns of Kamsar, Boke, Telimele, Kinda and the Sierra Leone border. There are some 135,793 in Sierra Leone and 3,894 in Guinea Bissau. Most speak their Susu language as the trade language of southern Guinea and northern Sierra Leone.



**Religion :**  
*Islam / Animism*

**Population :**  
*944,077*

**Status :** *Less than  
.002% Christian*



## PEOPLE PROFILE SUMMARY

### 1. HAVE THEY HEARD THE GOSPEL?

Pastors / Evangelists to Population 1990 : 0 pastor / evangelist for every 944,077 persons. (total pastors / evangelists - 0 )

Missionaries to Population 1990 : 1 missionary for every 134,868 persons. (total missionaries - 7 )

Number of mission agencies targeting this people group 3.

Who is Jesus Christ to them? .002 % Believe Jesus is the Son of God.  
90 % Believe Jesus is a Prophet, Teacher, a Good Man, but not God's Son.  
% Believe Jesus is myth.  
9 % Have never heard His name.  
% Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. HAVE THEY RESPONDED TO THE GOSPEL?

Believers to Population 1980 : 0 believer to every 800,000 persons. (total believers - 0 ) ( 0 %)

1990 : 1 believer to every 47,204 persons. (total believers - 20 ) ( .002 %)

Is there adequate prayer for this people?

Number of churches / fellowships adopting this people group - 1 **Granada Hills Community Church.**

### 3. DO THEY HAVE A CHURCH?

Churches to Population 1980: 0 churches for every 800,000 persons. (Total churches - 0 )

1990: 0 churches for every 944,077 persons. (Total churches - 0 )

Total Number of Communities (cities, towns, villages) - N/A.

Churches to Communities 1980: 0 churches for All communities.

1990: 0 churches for All communities.

### 4. DOES THIS PEOPLE HAVE THE WORD OF GOD TRANSLATED INTO THEIR MOTHER TONGUE? (N.T., O.T., PORTIONS) IN WHAT FORMS? (Printed, audio, visual)

Bible portions were available as early as 1869, but the New Testament was completed in Arabic script in 1963. This needs revision which the Christian and Missionary Alliance is doing.

### 5. ANY HINDRANCES TO SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION? Literacy Rate: less than 10 %

The literacy rate is reported to be very low, making distribution of the scriptures ineffective.

While the national average for literacy may be 11% many of the towns and villages have up to 98% of their people unable to read or write.

### 6. WHAT OTHER FORMS OF GOSPEL PRESENTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

Recordings : Gospel Recordings

Radio : none

Literature : none

Video : none

Films : none

### 7. ARE THEY RECEPTIVE TO CHANGE AND TO CHRISTIANITY?

(Why or why not?)

The youth appear receptive to change now that the communist regime in Guinea is ended.

However, the Islamic influence is very strong and the people themselves are very ethnocentric.

### 8. DO THEY REQUIRE OUTSIDE (CROSS-CULTURAL) ASSISTANCE?

(Why or why not? Conclusions based on answers to questions 1-7)

YES! With less than .002% of the Susu tribe believers, they do not have a large enough evangelistic force to evangelize their own people. There are no trained pastors and illiteracy poses a large barrier for giving the future Susu church a strong foundation for growth and stability. Currently ALL missionaries are working in Guinea, leaving the 135,793 Susu in Sierra Leone with absolutely NO witness. The Missionary Church is targeting this group in Sierra Leone.