

Allaaba of Ethiopia

Population: 175,000 - 232,620

People Cluster: Sidama

Language: Alaba-K'abeena or Allabigna, a Cushitic language

Location: Only in Ethiopia, on the central highlands, in the Rift Valley southwest of Lake Shala, 250 - 300 km southwest of Addis Ababa

Religion: Islam (97.4%)

% Christian: 2.6% (75% Orthodox, 15% Protestant; 10% Independent

% Evangelical: 1.5%

Christian resources available:

Jesus Film, Gospel Recordings, but no Bible or radio

Location: The Allaaba territory lies between the left bank of the Billate River and Lake Awasa. It is bordered on the east by the Tambaro country. The land is flat and dry with savannah type vegetation.

Maize, teff and red pepper are the main crops. The principal center, Kolito, is seat of an important market.

Language: Their language has 81% similarity with the Kembatta language; both are closely related to Highland East Cushitic languages.

Identity: There are many differences between the town, Kulito, and the vast rural areas. Kulito has 25,000 inhabitants, with about 13% who speak Alaba. In the rural area only the Alaba language is used.

In the countryside the literacy rate is about 7%, whereas it is higher in Kulito. The Allaabas are self confident and very resistant to outside influence. This has kept them from modern developments and education. This is changing and there are more schools and students than before. The Alaba had been administrated under the Kambaata for years, although currently Alaba is a special administrative area by itself.

Customs: The lifestyle of the Allaabas is very humble. Most of the houses in the rural area are round-shaped, thatch roofed houses, made of wood and mud. They have mud floors and no ceilings. Livestock spend the night in them together with people. More than half of the urban houses are without electricity. Firewood and tree leaves are used for cooking. 85% of the people get their drinking water from rivers and ponds by carrying it long distances. The Alaba administrators say their biggest needs are schools and clinics for more villages and wells for villages that are without drinking water.

Religion: The primary religion of the Allaaba is Islam. Islam may have been introduced to them around 1830 by Sheikh Kana, a descendant of the famous Nur Husain. Kulitio has a few Protestant churches and quite a noticeable number of the population is Coptic Orthodox. The rural area is totally Muslim.

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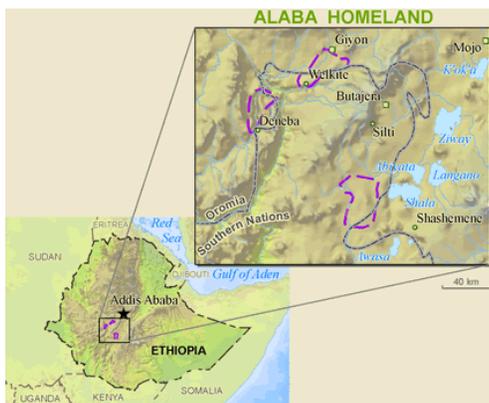
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Prayer Points

- Pray for the Ethiopian churches in the diaspora & in Ethiopia to mobilize their people & resources to reach the Allaaba for Christ.
- Pray for the Allaaba's hearts to soften towards outsiders and welcome believers among them.
- Ask God to provide for their needs for water, schools and clinics through Christ followers.
- Pray for radio and the Bible to be available in their language.
- There to be a disciple making movement among the Allaaba.

The Jesus Story in the Alaba language: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfivpYcZawk>



Information from The Joshua Project at www.joshuaproject.net ; www.peoplegroups.org ; <http://en.etnopedia.org/wiki/index.php/Allaaba>

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone preaching?
And how are they to preach unless they are sent?
As it is written ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’”
Romans 10: 14 - 15



For information on adopting the Allaaba

www.hornofafrica.org

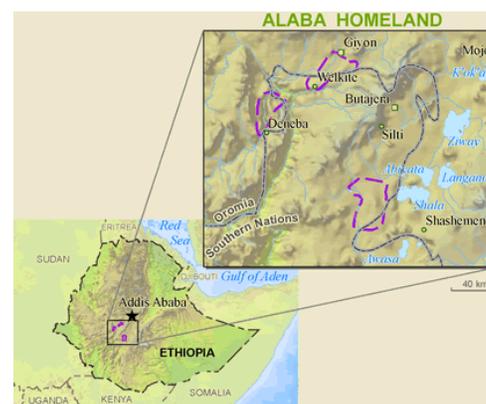
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