

Borana Oromo

The name Borana means friend or kind person. The Borana are closely related to the Arsi and Guji Oromo and are the southern-most of the three.



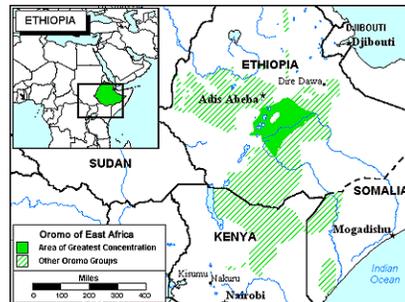
The Borana are nomadic and raise cattle, sheep and goats. Young men do the herding. They have sturdy modular houses which consist of interwoven branches thatched with grass all the way to the ground and are constructed by the women. They are in groups of 10 to 30 houses. They move three or four times a year.

Their literacy rate is 10%. Some parts of Borana society are beginning to be educated and employed in other fields.

The Borana do not mix with other people groups as much as some Oromo groups. There is sometimes conflict with other nomadic groups. They are increasingly dependent upon help from relief agencies, which is repugnant to these proud people.

The Gada system structures the social, political and economic life of the Borana. A democratically elected leader, the Abba Gada, presides over the system for an eight-year term. Every aspect of their culture is captured in song and handed down from one generation to the next. Education and enculturation occur through music.

The Borana traditional religion is monotheistic; they worship Waaq (or Waaq, Waaqa or Wak). Communication is through intermediary priests or "Qualla." Islam has become influential in Borana society in the last 80 years, but only about 50% of Borana have had superficial contact with Islam. There has been some receptivity to the gospel.



Some of the threats to the Borana include: increased population, decreasing availability of grazing land due to low rainfall and poor land, which leads to conflict with other groups; disease including malaria and HIV/AIDS due to promiscuity which is encouraged; and lack of medical care and education.

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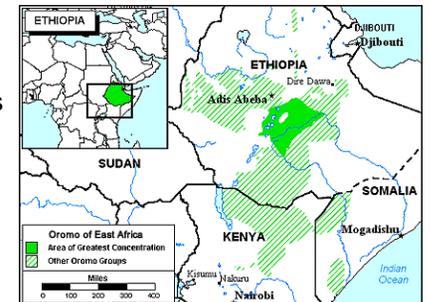
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Prayer Points

- Pray for the Ethiopian churches in the diaspora and in Ethiopia to mobilize their people and resources to reach the Borana Oromo for Christ.
- **Ask God to raise up prayer teams for the Borana.**
- Ask God to give wisdom and favor to the church planters that are focusing on the Borana.
- Pray that Oromo believers will be bold in sharing the gospel.
- **Ask God to save key leaders among the Borana and to bring forth a triumphant Borana church.**
- Pray for discipleship of new believers and leadership training.

Alternate Name: Boran
Population: About 1,177,00
Language: Oromo, Borana-Arsi-Guji
Location: South Oromo region, Oromio, in Southern Ethiopia but some are also in Kenya and Somalia
Religion: Ethnic religion
% Christian: 2%
Evangelical: 1.2%
Christian resources available: Bible, Audio/Oral Bible, Global Recordings, God's Story video, Jesus Film

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Information from www.joshuaproject.net; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borana_Oromo_people; <http://strategyleader.org/profiles/borana.html>; <http://www.irinnews.org/report/32688/ethiopia-special-report-on-the-borana>; and http://ardajila.com/?page_id=7

"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

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For information on adopting the Borana Oromo

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