

# Dorze

Alternate names:

Population: 52,000

Language: Dorze

Location: Only in southern Ethiopia, in 9 villages near Chench and Arba Minch, in Gamo Gofa Zone, high up in the misty Guge Mountains; some are in Addis Ababa

Religion: 86% (70% Orthodox, 20% Protestant, 10% Independent)

Syncretic form of Christianity with animistic elements; Christo-pagan religion; 14% ethnic religions

% Evangelical: 1%

Christian resources available: No Bible or Bible portions

The Dorze are famous for their beehive shaped huts which are constructed with vertical hardwood poles and woven bamboo. These towering, relocatable structures can be high as 12 meters and last from 60 to 80 years. It is tradition that the bamboos used as frames for the huts are cut during moonlight. The roof is insulated with thatch made up of false banana (Enset), grass and cover of the bamboo stem. Eventually termites destroy the huts' basements, but the huts can be lifted and relocated, leaving the rotten part behind. This is why they are built so high and why the older houses are shorter. There are different types of houses, some big ones with different rooms and smaller one-purpose huts such as kitchens. The Dorze also have livestock which have a place in the huts.



The Dorze wear colorful toga robes called shammas. Music and dance are part of their culture. The Dorze used to be warriors.

The Dorze are weavers and are known for their highly sophisticated designs in the production of traditional Ethiopian garments. They are skillful in bamboo carpentry and other crafts. They are also famous for their production and consumption of Kocho (or Kotcho), a highly nutritious bread-like food prepared from the roots of the false banana plant (known locally as Ensete). The Dorze used to be warriors.

The Dorze cultivate their food on the terraced mountainside, growing highland cereals, spices, vegetables, fruit and tobacco. Women have most of the responsibility in the family. The men do the farming and hut building.

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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 Dorze for Christ.
- Ask God to send intercessors and laborers for the Dorze.
- Pray for God to help the believers among them to be bold in sharing their relationship with Jesus in culturally relevant ways.
- Ask God to open the hearts of the Dorze to hear and receive the gospel and turn from their animistic beliefs.
- Pray for God to provide evangelistic resources in their language.
- Ask God for a disciple making movement among the Dorze.

You can see videos of the Dorze people at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vK8aDJ8ynd0>; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_GezU5cQaIA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GezU5cQaIA); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TypiliE4Oxg>



"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

Information from The Joshua Project at [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net); [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorze\\_people](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorze_people); <http://www.omovalley.com/The-Dorze-Tribe-in-the-Great-Rift-Valley-of-Ethiopia.php>; <http://www.cazloyd.com/en-gb/africa-and-indian-ocean/ethiopia-holiday/tribal-life-ethiopia>; <http://kwekudee-tripdownmemorylane.blogspot.com>



For information on adopting the Dorze

[www.hornofafrica.org](http://www.hornofafrica.org)

[www.engagers.org](http://www.engagers.org)



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