

# Harari

Other Names: Hare'ge (people of the city); Adere  
Population: 39,000  
Language: Harari, (Adere)  
Location: Primarily in the walled city of Harar, which is located on a highland ridge between the Red Sea and the Ethiopian highlands.  
Religion: Islam, 99%  
% Christian: 0.30 %  
% Evangelical: 0.01 %  
Bible available: No, but there are gospel recordings  
People Cluster: Ethio-Semitic

The people: The Harari are the only Ethiopians whose trade is based in a single, large urban center. They have contacts with four other ethnic groups at the markets. The majority of the Harari are multilingual, speaking the languages of their Somali, Oromo, Argobba, and Amhara neighbors. However, they have maintained their unique culture. They limit the use of their native language to their own people. They also strongly discourage marriage to non-Harari. Harari society is characterized by a complex set of obligations and ties, which provides a strong sense of social solidarity and excludes outsiders. The core of Harari society is built around kinship, friendship and community organizations. They are 25% to 50% literate.

The Harari people in the city make their living through trade or government jobs. Although recent political and economic changes have dispersed the Harari, they have continued trading in the region. They also cultivate the land outside the city wall. Their main crop is sorghum. They also grow millet, barley, chickpeas, beans and lentils and various fruits. Their staple dish is a spicy stew made with meat, potatoes, and vegetables, and eaten with sourdough bread.

Harari women lead vigorous and visible - although separate - social lives. They are not required to wear the traditional Muslim veil. They contribute to their families' incomes by selling produce from their husbands' farms or raising and selling tobacco. One very important industry among the Harari women is basket weaving for which they are famous.



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Religious Beliefs: The Harari are Sunni Muslims. Despite pressures to change, the Islamic religion is still strong among the Harari. The city of Harar is well known as a center of Islamic learning. The twin-towered Jami mosque is the focus of the community, although nearly every neighborhood has its own small mosque. The people attend the mosques regularly. Harar is referred to as the "city of saints" because it has over 150 shrines of Muslim saints. Almost all of the adults in Harar fast during Ramadan. Very few people drink alcoholic beverages. There has been no apparent response to the Gospel.

#### Prayer Points

- Pray for the Ethiopian churches in the diaspora & in Ethiopia to mobilize their people & resources to reach the Hararii for Christ.
- Ask God to raise up prayer teams who will begin breaking up the soil through intercession.
- Pray that God will grant His wisdom and favor to the missions agencies that are currently working among the Harari.
- Pray that the Lord will raise up additional missionaries who can effectively reach out to Muslims.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts towards Christians so that they will be receptive to the Gospel.
- Pray that strong local churches will be raised up among the Harari.
- Pray for translation of the Bible to begin in this people group's primary language.
- Pray for the availability of the Jesus Film in the primary language of this people.

"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 Harari of Ethiopia

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

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