

# Harerge Oromo

Population: 4,892,000  
Language: Eastern Oromo  
Location: All are in Ethiopia, in the North Bale zone, east and west Hararghe zone  
Religion: 97.5% Islam; 2% Ethnic religions  
% Christian: 0.50%  
% Evangelical: 0.01%  
Christian resources available: Online New Testament; Global recordings

The people:

The Harerge Oromo are the descendants of the Barentu confederacy that moved toward the east of the Ganale River during the Oromo migration of the 16th century. They consist of the Ittu, Ania, Ala, Nole, Jarso and Babile tribes. They were able to occupy the land of the Harar uplands where they came in contact with the Somali and the Harar city-state. They became sedentary agriculturalists. Some of their tribes like the Nole and the Babile live mixed together with the Somali.

The Harerge Oromo are friendly and hospitable people. The majority are farmers and they also have livestock. Many of the young people are advancing into business and trade.

"The very clothing we ladies wear shows other people about our position in society. I'm proud of my identity and my people." A Harerge woman



Religious Beliefs:

The Harerge Oromo, although not all, converted to Islam through the influence of the Harar city-state which also became instrumental in spreading Islam to all other southern parts of Ethiopia. The Ittu have remained largely followers of ethnic religion.

Not much has been done to evangelize the Harerge Oromo. Initial (localized) church planting has been done within past 2 years. This group has been adopted, but not yet engaged. The few believers that are from among the people have left their community to join the Christian communities from other people groups.

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### Prayer Points

- Pray for the Ethiopian churches in the diaspora & in Ethiopia to mobilize their people & resources to reach the Harerge Oromo for Christ.
- Pray for the availability of the Jesus Film in the primary language of this people.
- Pray for translation of the Bible to begin in this people group's primary language.
- Pray that the Lord would open the hearts of the Harerge Oromo.
- Pray that the Lord raise a Harerge Oromo church.

"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) and [Global Prayer Digest Jan. 17, 2014](#)



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For information on adopting the Harerge of Ethiopia

<http://www.hornofafrica.org>  
[www.engagers.org](http://www.engagers.org)



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