

PEOPLE GROUPS:

Maba

The Maba people inhabit the Ouaddaï region of eastern Chad. At present, there is little to no Christian witness in Ouaddaï, where 95 per cent of Maba and other Chadian peoples are Sunni Muslims. This area was once the sultanate of Wadai and served as a crucial intersection of Muslim trade routes.

Twentieth-century colonialism has left its marks on Ouaddaï. The distinct indigenous, French and Islamic cultural groups compete for authority, creating deep-seated political conflict. This tension is compounded by severe food insecurity, limited rainfall, lack of clean water, and overpopulation due to refugees fleeing neighbouring Darfur.

For the Maba people, and especially their women, the impact of socioeconomic instability is far-reaching. They must work alongside men in the fields while simultaneously

maintaining their households. Women must also find sources of potable and non-potable water, meaning education is not a priority.

There's an urgent need to liberate women and young girls from sexual and gender-based violence, which is exacerbated by the collective trauma the Maba and refugee populations have experienced. Violence against women peaks during periods of heightened militant activity, although they're often subject to abuse by their own husbands as well.

Many Ouaddaïen women elect not to fight for justice in case their husbands abandon them and their children, subjecting them to even greater poverty. The Maba have profound physical and emotional needs – needs that the body of Christ is uniquely designed to meet.

At a Glance

- Daily life is dominated by political instability, the Darfur refugee crisis, and a chronic lack of food and water.
- The majority of Maba are Sunni Muslim. The Ouaddaï region has little to no Christian witness, and the Bible has not been translated into the Maba language.
- The Maba and the refugee population have much in common. Addressing violence against women and facilitating physical and emotional healing will be critical to the health of the region.

Pray

- Bring peace to the Ouaddaï region and appoint leaders who will govern with wisdom and justice.
- Help humanitarian workers think creatively and strategically as they devise solutions to the Ouaddaï's food and water insecurity problem.
- Send Christians to share God's love and compassion with the Maba people.
- Provide the resources necessary to translate and disseminate the Bible in the Maba language.

Learn more about a new team forming to reach the Maba at www.facebook.com/global.faithfulwitness



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