



## The Sîcîte Senoufo of Burkina Faso

The Sîcîte, one of the major subgroups of the Senoufo family, live in Southwestern Burkina Faso, along the Malian borders. In Burkina Faso, the group numbers about 45,000, and there is also a fairly large migrant population in Cote d'Ivoire who have gone to find cash-paying jobs there.

The Sîcîte primarily subsistence farmers, raising such crops as maize, millet and yams. Cotton serves as a cash crop. Besides farming, they are known for their hunting ability; and some are also skilled as craftsmen.

Regarding their social structure, the Sîcîte have closely-knit families. Each village is ruled by a group of elders representing the clans of that village.

Although the Sîcîte are hospitable to outsiders, they are very resistant to change. This trait is especially noticeable in the religious domain, where the traditional religion dominates. In this worldview, spirits abound; man must appease these spirits. Sorcery is also a major component and most live in fear of its power. Adding a religion is permissible as long as one still follows the rites of the traditional way.

It is at this point that the Christian Gospel and culture clash, as the Gospel allows only one master, only one object of worship. As a result of this conflict of worldviews, there are only 120 Sîcîte Christians scattered among 4 Protestant churches and three Catholic chapels. Please pray that the Lord will raise up Sîcîte who can evangelize among their own group. Pray for the new converts, who are threatened by sorcery, social pressure, and even persecution. Pray finally for the work of Bible translation and literacy. Portions of the New Testament have been published: the work has now been passed on to ANTBA, the national Bible translation organization of Burkina Faso. Learning to read and write in Sîcîte is difficult, in part due to the complexity of the language. Motivating the Sîcîte to make the effort will be a major hurdle to overcome.

**Primary Religion:**

Animism

**Disciples (Matt 28.19):**

0.2%

**Churches:**

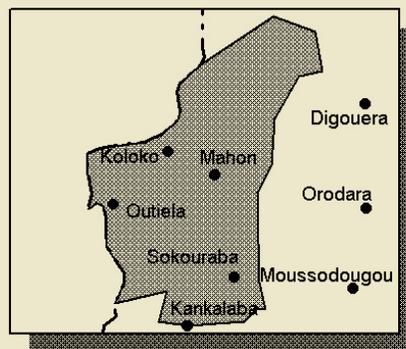
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**Scripture Status (Matt 28.20):**

Portions are available

**Population (date):**

45,000 (1992)



**SENOUFO SICÎTÉ HOMELAND**



## The Sicite Senoufo of Burkina Faso

Item Name	Item Note	
<b>Have They Heard The Gospel?</b>		<b>Profile Summary</b>
Call Themselves Christian (%)	.3	
Believe In Jesus As God & Only Savior (%)	0.2%	
Prophet/Good Man, But Not God's Son (%)	50	
Have Not Heard Who Jesus is (%)	49	
Number Of Pastors	2	
Comment (Pastors)	3 Catholic, 2 others	
Number Of Missionaries Working	1	
Number Of Communities	30+	
Number Of Churches	7	
Comment (Churches)	There are 7, including 3 Roman Catholic chapels	
Is The Word Of God Translated?	work is in progress, some portions are printed	
Translation Medium	trial form printed.	
Any Hinderance To Scripture Distribution?	There is a great need for literacy development. Christians that are literate are using the Scripture portions that are available and printed. But less than 1% of the population is literate in Sicite.	
Forms Of Gospel Presentation Available (Summary)	Films in Jula, radio in Bambara, literature in Jula.	
What Kind Of Missionaries Are Needed?	Yes, for Scripture translation, literacy, evangelism, discipleship training, and church planting.	
<b>Population All Countries</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
World Population For This People	45,000	
World Population (Date)	1992	
World Population (Urban Percent)	450	
Comment (World Population)	A large part of the population is working in Cote d'Ivoire, up to a third of them, depending on the time of the year.	
<b>Countries Where People Group Lives</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Country Name	Burkina Faso	
<b>Geography &amp; Environment</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Location	Southwest Burkina Faso; western Kenedougou Province, right on the Malian border.	
Country	Burkina Faso	
Ecosystem Type	Scrub Forest	
Geological Type	Plains	
Elevation	400 to 600 meters	
Longitude	5W	
Latitude	11N	
Climate	Average hot year round. Cooler and dry in December and January, warm and dry in February, hot and humid March to May, warm and rainy in June through September, hot and humid in October, getting cooler and dryer in November.	
<b>Language &amp; Linguistics</b>		<b>Group Description</b>
Comment (Language)	The percent monolingual is a guess.	
Comment (Alternate Names)	Tagba Senoufo, so called by outsiders; they themselves may also use the names: Sicijuubii (plural) or Sicijuunge (singular)	
Attitude Towards Mother Tongue	Very receptive	
Percent Monolingual (%)	5	
Second Languages	95	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA	

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Item Name	Item Note	
Other Mother Tongues Of This Group	JULA	
Comment (On Other Mother Tongues)	Most are able to buy and sell in Jula, but many are not fluent in any other language than Sicite. Jula is the trade language of the southwest. The attitude of the Sicite towards Jula is one of indifference. It is used to speak to outsiders. French is the official language of Burkina Faso, and is the medium of all formal education and of government administration. Approximately 20% are literate in French or in Jula.	
Linguistically Related Languages	SENOUFO, SENARA	
Linguistically Related Languages	SENOUFO, SENARA	
Comments (Related Languages)	Sicite is related to all the Senoufo languages, but it is intercomprehensible with Senoufo Supyire and Senoufo Senari.	
Neighboring Languages	DZUUNGOO	
Literacy		Group Description
Adult Literacy Percentage	0.5	
Literacy Attitude	Somewhat receptive	
Active Literacy Program	Yes	
Comment (Literacy)	Very few are literate in Sicite, as the literacy program has just started. Approximately 20% are literate in French or Jula. There are only 5 publications in their mother tongue.	
Economics		Group Description
Subsistence Type	Agriculturalists	
Average Annual Income	300\$	
Occupation	Almost all Sicite are subsistence farmers. In more rural areas, some may be hunters. In urban areas, some have small businesses, or are carpenters, tailors, mechanics, or traders.	
Income Sources	Sale of surplus crops of cotton, yams, sweet potatoes etc.	
Products / Crafts	There are woodworker and ironworker castes in Sicite society. They fashion wood and make iron products.	
Trade Partners	Wholesale merchants come from Bobo-Dioulasso (130 km away) and Sikasso, Mali, 70 km away. Neighboring ethnic groups trade with them in the local markets.	
Modernization / Utilities	Few	
Comment (Economy)	The average income figure is the one from UNICEF for Burkina Faso as a whole and does not include the gain from the bartering which is the most common form of trading in the rural areas, neither does it reflect assets like the value of livestock.	
Community Development		Group Description
Health Care (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Health Care)	There are some government clinics with professional nurses, but no doctor or hospital is in the area. The nearest doctor is 50 km away and the care and transport make it prohibitive for most Sicite.	
Diet (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Diet)	Maize and millet mush is dunked in a sauce with a bean paste base, with leaves in it and occasionally some meat, sometimes with vegetables, and yams (sweet potatoes). Fruits are eaten according to season.	
Water (Quality)	Fair	
Comment (Water)	There are communal wells in all the villages, one for every 10 families or so.	
Shelter Description	Traditional sun baked mud brick huts with thatch roofs. Those that can afford it build their homes with cement blocks and tin roofs.	
Energy/Fuel (Quality)	Poor	
Comment (Energy)	Firewood is the main energy source. Kerosene is used in small quantities for light. None of the communities have electricity.	
Clothing	Some cloth is locally spun and woven. Most cloth is produced in Burkina Faso and neighboring countries and fashioned by local tailors. Large quantities of imported second hand clothing of all kinds is available in the markets.	

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Item Name	Item Note
Transportation	Walking and bicycling are the most common forms of transportation. Mopeds and small motorbikes are used by those who can afford them. There is public transportation from Bobo-Dioulasso to the main village in the area, 130 kilometers away, once a day.
Infant Mortality Rate	16%
Life Expectancy	47 Years
Leading Cause Of Death	Untreated illness
Comment (Community Development)	The figures below are UNICEF statistics for Burkina Faso as a whole, and might differ locally.

### Society & Culture

### Group Description

Family Structures	The Sicite have very tight knit families, with many extended family links.
Neighbor Relations	Cordial. They live in quite close proximity to each other within the village. They have cordial relations to other people groups.
Authority / Rule	A group of elders, representing the clans of the village, is the authority in the village.
Social Habits/Groupings	There is a lot of collective work, as people often take turns working in each others fields with each other, or they work together to fulfill their field obligations to their in-laws.
Cultural Change Pace	Slow
Identification With National Culture	Integrated
Self Image	Prestigious
Judicial / Punishment System	There is very severe punishment for foreign intruders. Negotiations and fines are imposed for insiders who violate the laws. They also make use of the government judicial system.
Celebrations	There is an annual week-long festival in each village to honor the village spirit and especially the ancestors. Funerals are important occasions.
Recreations	Dancing, visiting each other, especially at the market. Young men enjoy playing soccer.
Media	The news broadcast is once a day in Sicite, but less than 20 minutes.
Local Language Broadcasting	< 20 minutes daily
Attitude To Outsiders	Somewhat receptive
Attitude To Change	Very resistant
Comment (Culture)	They are receptive to receiving visitors, hospitable, but they are very resistant to change. Tradition rules, especially for religious affairs. Individuals can add a religion as long as they continue with the traditional rites.

### Youth

### Group Description

Labor and tasks (6-12 year olds)	Generally, the young people help with all farming and domestic tasks as appropriate for their gender and age and ability.
Youth Problems (Teens)	Premarital sexual activity is a growing problem. Divorce is not uncommon. Polygamy is the norm. Young people are choosing their own mates, but parents can say 'no', which can cause family tensions.
Youth Greatest Needs (teens)	Rechanneling their energies and ambitions. There needs to be a reconciliation in their minds between, on one hand "modern" ideas and innovations, and on the other hand, population growth and limited employment, which can leave a great gap between their aspirations and reality. They need to know that they can count on the Lord to supply their needs. They need to know that there is something much more wonderful to life than the fulfillment of its immediate drives and pleasures.
Comment (Youth)	Young people leave the Christian faith because of parental pressure, sexual pleasure and a desire for a second wife, peer pressure, social status within the village, and pressure from the Muslim communities when they migrate to Cote d'Ivoire.

### Education

### Group Description

Primary Schools	12
Primary School Enrollment	2500
Percent Of Eligible Students Enrolled	37
Teacher To Pupil Ratio	70

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Item Name	Item Note	
Language Of Instruction Early Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Early Years	French	
Language Of Instruction Later Years	French	
Language Of Textbooks Later Years	French	
Number Of Schools > 90% Homogeneous	10	
Comment (Education)	<p>There is also a secondary school in the area which opened around 1990. It is about 80% Sicite.</p> <p>The figure of the percentage of eligible students enrolled is from the year 1994-95; it is for the whole province, including the major towns, where the percentages would be considerably higher than in the villages. This figure also seems only to reflect the situations where there are schools.</p>	
<b>Church Growth</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Reached Status	Adopted	
Total Baptized	120	
Lay Leaders	3	
Comment (Church Growth)	<p>The number of churches includes 3 Roman Catholic chapels. The number of believers include 70 Catholics.</p> <p>The Lay leaders are the three Catholic catechists.</p>	
<b>Religion &amp; Response</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Religious Practices & Ceremonies	Ancestor worship, appeasing the field and water spirits.	
Attitude To Christianity	Very resistant	
Attitude To Religious Change	Very resistant	
Resistance / Receptivity	<p>They are very resistant to Christianity, even sorcery is practiced against Christians, younger people are threatened if they want to believe, and the older ones are subject to the expectations of the community to maintain the traditional values.</p>	
Spiritual Climate And Openness	<p>Christianity 1%</p> <p>Islam 50%</p>	
Recommended Approaches	<p>They somehow need to comprehend the omnipotence and holiness of God. Many people want to leave the old ways, but they are afraid to do so.</p> <p>The way to go is: Develop relationships. Pray. To show love, pray for the sick. Share in informal groups. Share about the beginnings of mankind. Use Old Testament stories to show why mankind needs a Savior. Speak in their language. Develop a music ministry among them. Use Sicite Scripture.</p>	
Current Needs	<p>There are great spiritual barriers. Repeated attempts to find personnel have been in vain. Very few have become Christians, and numbers have backslidened. Freedom from spiritual bondage, medical availability, nutritional counseling, literacy and education.</p>	
Items For Prayer	<p>Pray for personnel.</p> <p>Pray that spiritual barriers will be broken down.</p>	
<b>History Of Christianity In Group</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Year Began	50	
By Whom	Roman Catholic Church	
Significant Events	<p>The African Inter-Mennonite Mission started working in the area in 1982. The first Christian and pillar of the church died tragically in 1994, creating a setback for the church. He was 36 years old.</p> <p>ANTBA Bible Translation began 1992 with 3 translators.</p> <p>Assemblies of God started work in 1993, doing evangelism with one worker.</p>	
<b>Scripture</b>		<b>Status of Christianity</b>
Translation Status	In Progress	
Available Scripture	Portions	
Form Of Scripture Available	Printed	

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### Item Name

### Item Note

Scripture Use

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Scripture Use

Private use only

Comment (Scripture)

The epistles of James and 1 John, and the Gospel of Mark are published. No other Christian literature is available. Some Hymns are being transcribed.

### Missions and Churches

### Status of Christianity

Organization Name

Roman Catholic Church

Main Ministry

Church Planting

Year Started

50

Number Of Adherents

70

Number Of National Workers

3

Number Of Local Workers

3

Number Of Workers Using Local Language

3

### Christian Literature And Media Status

### Status of Christianity

Literature Available

some Scripture, some hymns.

Audio Recordings Available

Nothing formal or of quality. This needs to be developed as music in Sicite has the greatest potential for outreach.

Films Available

None in Sicite, but some in Jula.

Radio Programs Available

No Christian radio in the area. There is a Christian program in Bambara that is broadcast over Malian radio once a week, and is listened to even by non Christians.

Videos Available

None

Audio Visual Available

None