

CAPRO MISSIONS People Group of the Week:

The Somali People

The **Somali** are an ethnic group belonging to the Cushitic people, native to Greater Somalia. They are a **mix** of **Arabian** populations and Cushitic **sub-Saharan African** indigenous people. They are **about 25,768,000 in number worldwide**, and though they generally **share one language and culture**, there is **extreme tribalism and civil war** within Somali itself.



Language(s):

The two official languages of Somalia are **Somali and Arabic**. Some of its secondary languages are English and Italian, but you can expect most people to speak Somali, Arabic, or both. **Somali is a language that few people know outside of this region**. This makes sense because it is a language that is **native to the Somali people only**.

Country(s):

Ethnic Somalis are principally concentrated in **Somalia** (around 12.3 million), **Ethiopia** (4.6 million), **Kenya** (2.8 million), and **Djibouti** (534,000). **Somali diasporas** are also found in parts of the **Middle East, North America, Western Europe, African Great Lakes region, Southern Africa and Oceania**. The civil war that has been going on since 1991 has caused many to take refuge and seek asylum in other countries.

Religion:

The **primary religion of the Somalis is Islam (99.6%)**, making Somalia an Islamic nation. This means the traditional Muslim-based laws and customs are prominent in society. There are less than 1% that adhere to any Christian faith and **only 0.01% Evangelical Christian**. A majority of these Somali Christian live outside the country of Somalia. **Converting to Christianity in Somalia is against the law**.

Prayer Points

- Praise point: Praise God for the growing **CAPRO work in Kenya among the Somalis**. Praise Him especially for the growing **platform of farming** that is opening doors to many more homes. Pray that as the team make great agricultural harvests, so there will be **harvest among the Somali souls!**
- Somalis consider the Gospel foreign/western and are more resistant to listening to foreigners/westerners preaching the Gospel. Pray that God would continue **to raise African labourers** and **give them a special grace for learning the language** (Somali and Arabic).
- Somalia is the **third most dangerous place to live as a Christian**. Somalis who convert and are caught are either **ostracized, killed, raped or beaten to paralysis**. Pray that God would continue to **give converts boldness and protection** even in the midst of these dangers. Pray also that the **Church will rise up and give refuge** to those that have survived this persecution.
- Thank God for the **open door into Somaliland** (Northern Somalia). Pray that God will raise and **empower the team currently preparing**. Pray that God would go ahead of them and **prepare hearts for Himself amongst the Somali people**. Pray also for the **necessary provisions and resources needed**.