Afghan People

Afghanistan has experienced decades of devastating wars, natural disasters, economic instability and crippling poverty. It is thought that 90% of Afghans live below the poverty line and more than 23 million people require humanitarian assistence. Literacy levels in Afghanistan is estimated around 43%, however, for women that does a shocking plummet to 30%.
Within this nation of 38 million people, lies a tapestry of 70 different ethnic groups, 42 languages and 34 provinces. The two main languages spoken in Afghanistan include Pashto, spoken by 13 million people and Dari, spoken by 9 million people. In addition, there are estimated 40 minority languages and over 200 dialects. This creates a beautifully diverse country yet holds the painful challenges of internal conflict and rivalry between ethnic groups, especially between the Sunni majority and Shia minority. Yet across them all, strings a rich communal and hospitable culture, with guests being treated with the highest regard and extended extravagant generosity; communities are closely knitted together, and it is of high value to share all aspects of life together, including delicious feasts and copious amounts of tea.
According to the UNHCR there are 4.2 million forcibly displaced people within the country along with 6.4 million refugees and 296,033 asylum seekers from Afghanistan across 101 counties worldwide.

As of the beginning of 2024, the largest populations of Afghan refugees & asylum seekers were in:

- Iran (3 431 680)
- Pakistan (2 128 694)
- Germany (298 601)
- Turkey (139 333)
- France (82 192)
- Austria (50 392)
- Greece (38 379)

***These figures will be different now in light of the major repatriation of Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan back to Afghanistan.*

Unreached People Groups

69 unreached people groups are found within the boarders of Afghanistan, while 61 of those 69 are considered frontier people groups.

So what is an unreached and frontier people group?
In short, a people group is considered 'unreached' if they have less than 2% evangelical Christ followers among them or less than 5% 'Christian Adherent', people claiming to follow any form of the Christian religion. Whereas a Frontier people group is a group where there are less than 0.1% Christian Adherents.

Western Region

The Baloch (Baluch) are a most ancient semi-nomadic tribal group who eventually occupied an area of land stretching through Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. They first settled there between the 5th and 7th centuries. Considered to be an Iranian people based on language, their racial origin is murky.
There are a couple of Baloch dialects, one of which is known as Western Baloch. They are far more numerous in Pakistan; they also have a large population in neighboring Afghanistan.
Most in Afghanistan are grain farmers and herders of sheep, goats and cattle.
The Western Baloch are Sunni Muslims who in theory are part of several "schools." They identify with Sunni Islam, but for specifics, only the religious intellectuals actually adhere to the schools of Sunni Islam. A typical Baloch is likely to be involved with pre-Islamic practices that involve jinns, the evil eye, etc. They believe it is necessary to appease the spirit world for their practical needs since Allah is so distant.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15356/AF

Pray for the Nations

Baloch, Western in Afghanistan

Source: Mostafa Meraji - Pixabay

Population: **398,000**
World Popl: **1,373,300**
Total Countries: **4**
People Cluster: **Baloch**
Main Language: **Balochi, Western**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.01%**
Chr Adherents: **0.01%**
Scripture: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

From ancient times, Afghanistan has been the crossroads of Asia. The ethnically mixed Aimaq tribes formerly stretched from northeastern Iran into western and central Afghanistan, where they still reside. Aimaq are known as formidable warriors. They live semi-nomadic lives, traveling seasonally to graze their herds and/or subsisting as sedentary farmers and carpet weavers in mud-brick villages.

Strong tribal and family loyalties create difficult barriers for the message of God's grace found in Jesus. In addition, the Aimaq live in remote areas of Afghanistan. Scripture resources are needed in the Aimaq language.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/21454/AF

Pray for the Nations

Aimaq in Afghanistan

Source: Tomas Balkus - Flickr

Population: **1,796,000**
World Popl: **2,378,000**
Total Countries: **5**
People Cluster: **Persian**
Main Language: **Aimaq**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Unspecified**

www.joshuaproject.net

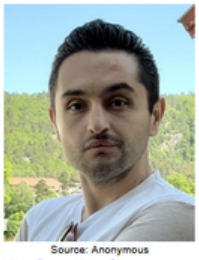
"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Qizilbash are bilingual Persian and Turkic-speaking Azerbaijani background, united in their belief in Twelver Shia Islam.
Qizilbash are Azeri Turks tribes mainly from Anatolia and Azerbaijan. The main difference between Qizilbash Oghuz tribes and other Turkic people is that they are Shia Turkic people. Therefore the name Qizilbash is usually applied to them only.
Qizilbash in Afghanistan live in urban areas, such as Kabul, Herat, Logar, Kandahar or Mazar, as well as in certain villages in central Afghanistan. They are descendants of the troops left behind by Nadir Shah Afshar during his "Indian campaign" in 1738. Afghanistan's Qizilbash held important posts in government offices in the past, and today engage in trade or are craftsmen. Since the creation of Afghanistan, they constitute an important and politically influential element of society.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14498/AF

Pray for the Nations

Qazilbash in Afghanistan



Source: Anonymous

Population: **337,000**
World Popl: **342,600**
Total Countries: **2**
People Cluster: **Turkish**
Main Language: **Dari**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The name "Punjabi" is used to describe both those who speak Punjabi and those who inhabit the Punjab region in India and Pakistan. Punjabi is an Indo-European language that is divided into six main dialects. In Afghanistan, Punjabis might speak either the Western or Eastern Punjabi dialect. Modern Punjabi culture was largely shaped by the partitioning of India and Pakistan in 1947. This event resulted in massive migrations that separated the Muslims from the Hindus and Sikhs. In general, the Muslim Punjabis live in Pakistan, while the Hindu or Sikhs are in India. One can also find large Punjabi communities in nearly thirty other countries, including Afghanistan.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14483/AF

Pray for the Nations

Punjabi, Western in Afghanistan

Source: Steve Evans - Flickr

Population: **42,000**
World Popl: **773,900**
Total Countries: **6**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Punjabi, Western**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.10%**
Chr Adherents: **0.20%**
Scripture: **New Testament**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Uyghur are a Turkic people whose home is primarily in northwestern China. Their origins can be traced back to Turkic nomads who lived in Siberia.
Significant diasporic communities of Uyghurs can be found in the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. Smaller communities live in other countries, including Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Norway, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the Netherlands, Turkey, and the United States. The Uyghur of Central Asia play an important role in the lives of the Chinese Uyghur who are struggling to gain greater freedom. For example, they often help by smuggling needed materials into China. In China, there is evidence of much hostility, bitterness, hurt, and mistrust between the Uyghur and the predominant Han Chinese.Traditionally, the Uyghur were shepherds and today many in Afghanistan still are.
Sunni Islam has been the dominant religion of the Uyghur since the tenth century. In the past, they were Muslim in name only; however, there is some renewal that is currently taking place among them as they continue in their Sunni Islamic faith.

Pray for the Nations

Uyghur in Afghanistan

Source: EnricX - Flickr

Population: **3,800**
World Popl: **12,299,300**
Total Countries: **17**
People Cluster: **Uyghur**
Main Language: **Uyghur**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.05%**
Chr Adherents: **0.05%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

By definition, Persians (also known as Iranians) are an ethnic group native to Iran. The Persian language, called Farsi, is part of the Indo-Iranian language family, and is the official language of Iran. Dari, the language of the elite in Afghanistan, is a dialect of modern Farsi.

Prior to the Arab invasions, the Persian religion was Zoroastrianism. This religion taught that there was an eternal struggle between the forces of good and evil. Shia Islam became the national religion of Iran in the sixteenth century, at which time the ulama (clergy) began playing an important role in both the social and political lives of the people. Today, most Persians are Shia Muslims of the Ithna Ashari branch, and are radical in their adherence to Islamic laws and principles. Thanks to the excess of the Iranian government, a high percentage of Persians are secularized and tired of forced religion. The Lord is growing his Church in Iran, and many have come to faith in recent years. Unfortunately, this does not seem to be affecting Persians in other Muslim countries including Afghanistan.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14371/AF

Pray for the Nations

Persian in Afghanistan

Source: Hamed Saber - Flickr

Population: **746,000**
World Popl: **48,387,500**
Total Countries: **48**
People Cluster: **Persian**
Main Language: **Persian, Iranian**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.10%**
Chr Adherents: **0.12%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Eastern Region

Pray for the Nations

Pashtun, Southeast in Afghanistan

Source: Jeremy Weate - Flickr

Population: **4,165,000**
World Popl: **4,165,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - Pasht**
Main Language: **Pashto, Southern**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.01%**
Chr Adherents: **0.01%**
Scripture: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

he Pashtun of Afghanistan and Pakistan have been called the largest Muslim tribal society in the world. There are at least 30 major tribes, and countless sub-tribes and clans. Spread over a vast geographical area and riven by socio-economic, political, tribal and linguistic (dialectical) differences, Pashtuns nevertheless share a unique sense of common identity. Pashtun identity is based on four elements: Heritage (descent from a common ancestor); Islam (99.9% Muslim); the Pashtunwali Code of Honor ("The Way of the Pashtun"); and to some extent, language (Pakhtu or Pashto). They have dialectic differences, one of which is Southeast Pakhtu, who only live in Afghanistan.

All Pashtun groups, including those who speak the Southeastern Pashtun, are Sunni Muslim.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/22356/AF

Pray for the Nations

Khik (Wakhi) in Afghanistan

Source: Robertino Radovix - Flickr

Population: **23,000**
World Popl: **129,000**
Total Countries: **4**
People Cluster: **Tajik**
Main Language: **Wakhi**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Guhjali, also known as the mountain Tajiks, are of the Tajik people cluster. They are also called the Guhiali, Khik, Vakhan, Wakhani, Wakhi, Wakhigi, or Wakhs.
The Wakhi are found in China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, they are found in small, remote villages in the lower altitudes in the Wakhan Corridor and upper Badakshan. They mostly reside in 64 villages on the left bank of the Panj River in the Wakhan Corridor.
The Kirghiz live in the high mountain valleys of the area, while the Wakhi lived in the lowlands areas. Relations between the two groups are often tense, yet both groups are economically dependent on each other. The Kirghiz depend on the Wakhi for grain, while the Wakhi depend on the Kirghiz for animals.
The Wakhi are Ismaili Shia Muslims. Some, however, are Imami Shia and Sunni.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18693/AF

Pray for the Nations

Kyrgyz in Afghanistan

Source: Theklan - Wikimedia

Population: **1,400**
World Popl: **6,057,200**
Total Countries: **14**
People Cluster: **Kyrgyz**
Main Language: **Kyrgyz**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Kyrgyz are a Turkic people who have their origins in southern Siberia and northeastern China. Slowly they migrated to Mongolia and beyond. Though the Kyrgyz have their own nation, Kyrgyzstan, there are some who live in each of the Central Asian countries.
Most of the Kyrgyz are herdsmen who raise cattle, horses, sheep, camels, and goats. They live in white felt tents that are easily moved from place to place. They have particularly hardy and adaptable breeds of sheep, goats, yaks, horses, and camels. Not only are the animals used for food and exchange, but they also provide the only means of transportation in the region.
Today, almost all Kyrgyz in Afghanistan still consider themselves to be Muslim; however, they hold onto some shamanistic practices. (Shamanism is the belief that there is an unseen world of many gods, demons, and ancestral spirits that must be dealt with through a shaman). Many people still turn to mediums and seers to cure sickness with magic, communicate with spirits and control events.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12933/AF

Pray for the Nations

Munji in Afghanistan

Population: **7,800**
World Popl: **7,800**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Munji**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Munji are of the Kashmiri people cluster and are, for the most part, only found in Afghanistan. They reside in northeastern Afghanistan in the Munjan and Mamalgha Valleys. This is a very remote area of Afghanistan and is separated by a mountain pass. Some have fled to Chitral, Pakistan, but plan to return to Afghanistan when it becomes more peaceful. The Munji are Muslims. There are few if any believers or churches among them.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13878/AF

Pray for the Nations

Wotapuri-Katarqalai in Afghanistan

Population: **3,900**
World Popl: **3,900**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Pashto, Northern**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Kohistani tribes live along the upper banks of the Swat and Panjkora Rivers in northern Pakistan, with a few in Afghanistan including the Wotapuri-Katarqalai speakers. Today, there are several different ethnic groups living in the Kohistan region that are subgroups of the Kohistani people. They include the Turvali, the Bateri, the Galo, the Rajkoti, the Wotapuri-Katarqalai, and the Kohistani themselves. The Kohistani have been described as a powerful, well-built, brave, but quiet people. The tribes speak several distinct Dardic dialects, but their main language of communication is Pashto, the language of the dominant Pashtun ethnic group. Some would say that the Wotapuri-Katarqalai language is extinct, and they are now speaking Pashto.Centuries ago, their area was primarily Buddhist. Later, Buddhism was replaced by Hinduism. However, around 1000 A. D., the Islamic faith spread through the region. At that time, the Kohistani converted from their polytheistic Aryan beliefs to Sunni Islam. Traces of traditional, pre-Islamic beliefs still linger in a few areas. Some of the tribes practice shamanism. They believe that there is an unseen world of gods, demons, fairies, and ancestral spirits. They depend on shamans (priests or priestesses) to cure the sick by magic, communicate with the gods, and control events.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15418/AF

Pray for the Nations

Warduji in Afghanistan

Population: **9,100**
World Popl: **9,100**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **Persian**
Main Language: **Dari**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Warduji is a language of a small people group in northern Afghanistan. The Warduji people live only in the Zebak region of Afghanistan.
We know very little about the Warduji people, but we know they live in an isolated area. Most likely they have livestock and do some farming. They speak the Zebaki language.
The Warduji people are solidly Sunni Muslim.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15866/AF

Pray for the Nations

Afshari in Afghanistan

Source: Frontiers

Population: **17,000**
World Popl: **433,000**
Total Countries: **2**
People Cluster: **Azerbaijani**
Main Language: **Azerbaijani, South**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.04%**
Chr Adherents: **0.04%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

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"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Most Afghan Ashari believe that Ali, Muhammad's cousin, was ordained by Allah to follow Mohammad, and after him came 11 more imams selected by Allah. The 12th one, Hujjat-Allah, is recognized as the promised Mahdi, their messiah, whom they say has been living is seclusion since 874. They believe that in God's time, he will return with Jesus to establish Islam in the world. This is called the Twelver Shia doctrine of Islam. Asharis mainly live through farming, herding and carpet weaving in isolated regions close to Kabul, Afghanistan. Others are found in Iran, Syria and Turkey.

Anyone who decides to follow Christ in Afghanistan is rightfully fearful of persecution. For this reason, the small number of Ashari followers of Christ usually hide their beliefs.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19409/AF

Pray for the Nations

Sanglechi in Afghanistan

Population: **3,100**
World Popl: **5,300**
Total Countries: **2**
People Cluster: **Tajik**
Main Language: **Sanglechi**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Sanglechi people are very proud of their unique culture and language. The vast majority live in one city: Ishkashim. This is in high elevation at the southern tip of Tajikistan on the Afghanistan border on the west end of the Wakhan Valley. They also live in Afghanistan.

The Sanglechi people are hospitable to foreigners and most speak Russian or Tajik. Their lives are largely agrarian, although some hold urban jobs. Many of the men seek employment in Russia. The women dress very modestly with long dresses and head scarves. They live in clay-block houses and drink much tea. For breakfast they may have bread in a bowl of tea-milk with butter.

Their spiritual lives can best be described as Islam mixed with Zoroastrianism and traditional beliefs. They claim all their beliefs are part of Muslim culture. Secular humanism affects some of them.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14727/AF

Pray for the Nations

Bania (Muslim traditions) in Afghanistan

Population: **7,300**
World Popl: **7,300**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Urdu**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.20%**
Chr Adherents: **0.23%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

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"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Vania people are also called Bania or Mahajan. The word Vania is derived from Vaniji, which means "trader" in Sanskrit. The Bania community has gotras or clans. Many of their clan names are based on the names of the place they are from. Though most Banias are in India, there are a fair number of them in other nearby countries including Afghanistan. Most Banias are Hindu by religion, but those in Afghanistan are Sunni Muslims. At one time in their history, they were converted to Islam by Muslim saints.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19423/AF

Pray for the Nations

Arab, Tajiki in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **5,100**
World Popl: **6,700**
Total Countries: **2**
People Cluster: **Arab World, general**
Main Language: **Arabic, Tajiki**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.20%**
Chr Adherents: **0.20%**
Scripture: **Unspecified**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

There was a time when Muslim Arab missionaries came to Tajikistan to spread the Islamic religion. Their ancestors were from the Banu Tamim tribe originating from what is now Iraq and Syria. Today their descendants live in the southern part of Tajikistan and in Afghanistan. Their language is a hybrid between Tajik and Arabic. These Tajik Arabs live mainly in Tajikistan's Shakhritus and Kabodiyon regions. A small number live in the two neighboring districts of Kabodiyansky and Nosiri Khusravsky. The Tajik Arabs are few in number, both in Tajikistan and Afghanistan.

Tajik Arabs are virtually all Sunni Muslim. Islam completely permeates their lives, governing what they eat, how they act, and how the women dress. They also observe Islamic rituals that are related to birth, puberty, marriage, and death. They faithfully repeat memorized prayers five times each day, facing Mecca, Islam's holy city. In addition to their Islamic beliefs, many practice spiritism, practices that make use of charms and amulets. Such practices are frowned upon by orthodox Sunni Muslims.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15202/AF

Pray for the Nations

Parya, Laghmani in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **400**
World Popl: **6,800**
Total Countries: **3**
People Cluster: **Tajik**
Main Language: **Parya**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Their heart language is Parya which may either be a dialect of Marwari which is related to Punjabi, or the Laghman dialect of the Southeastern Pashayi of Afghanistan. Within Parya is the subdialect of Laghmani, which is an endangered language. Though there are other Parya groups in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and other parts of Afghanistan, the Laghmani subgroup is only in Afghanistan.

The Parya are mostly rice farmers. They also grow corn and fruit.

The Parya are Sunni Muslims. Not only are they in bondage to the belief that there is no Savior from sin, they believe in local spirits that can make their lives miserable.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14324/AF

Pray for the Nations

Kalash (Chitrali) in Afghanistan

Source: Tahsin A Shah - Wikimedia

Population: **11,000**
World Popl: **41,000**
Total Countries: **2**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Khowar**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Since the fifth century BC the Chitrali people have lived in the mountainous region that straddles Afghanistan and Pakistan, speaking their own Khowar language. For centuries they have grown fruit trees near their homes in order to offer luscious fruit to passers-by and visitors.

Most live in rugged mountain regions, where farming is very difficult. They are mostly farmers and shepherds.

They reside in the mountains around the borders of China, Pakistan, India, and Afghanistan. These northern tribes are believed to be the original inhabitants of this area.

The Kho people are mostly Sunni Muslims. However, many combine Islamic practices with their traditional folk religions, which involves worship of spirits and fire, animism, and ancestor worship.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19437/AF

Pray for the Nations

Parachi in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **12,000**
World Popl: **12,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **Persian**
Main Language: **Parachi**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Needed**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Parachi people are of the Pathan people cluster. They are mostly found in Afghanistan in villages in Nijrau and Tagau, Pachaghan, Shutul north of Kabul, Ghujulan, and in the Hindu Kush Valley near Kabul.

They speak Parachi, which is similar to Ormuri. Parachi was spoken in the Panshir Valley, but most who live there now speak Tajiki Persian. Almost all Parachi speakers are bilingual. The literacy rate in their primary language is less than one percent, while the literacy rate in their second language is between five and fifteen percent.

They are Sunni Muslims. There are few, if any, known believers or churches among them. At this time there are no known groups working among these people.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14311/AF

Pray for the Nations

Garwi, Kohistani in Afghanistan

Source: COMIBAM / Sepal

Population: **2,200**
World Popl: **2,200**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Gawri**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Kohistani tribes live along the upper banks of the Swat and Panjkora Rivers in northern Pakistan, with a few such as the Garwi in Afghanistan. Today, there are several different ethnic groups living in the Kohistan region that are subgroups of the Kohistani people. They include the Turvali, the Bateri, the Galo, the Rajkoti, the Garwi, and the Kohistani themselves. The tribes speak several distinct Dardic dialects, but their main language of communication is Pashto, the language of the dominant Pashtun ethnic group. The Pashtun have dominated the Kohistani for years, either buying their land or forcing them out with violence. The Kohistani have been described as a powerful, well-built, brave, but quiet people.

Around 1000 A.D. , the Islamic religion spread through the region. At that time, the Garwi Kohistani converted from their polytheistic Aryan beliefs to Sunni Islam.

Traces of traditional, pre-Islamic beliefs still linger in a few areas. Some of the Kohistani tribes practice shamanism. They believe that there is an unseen world of gods, demons, fairies, and ancestral spirits. They depend on shamans (priests or priestesses) to cure the sick through magic, communicate with the gods, and control events.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12741/AF

Nuristani People Groups

The Nuristani people groups are unique amid others living in Afghanistan – so unique they cannot be viewed through a single lens. Their only common threads may be religion, ethnicity and remnants of customs pre-dating their collective conversion to Islam little more than 100 years ago.

Ethnically, the Nuristani people cluster embraces eight groups – the Ashkuni-Wamayi, Bashgali-Kati, Grangali, Kamviri, Malakhel, Waigeli, Prasuni, and Tregami with a population likely between 120,000 to 250,000. Linguistically however, two of these clans speak languages unrelated to the Nuristani family of Indo-Iranian languages. Often, a language spoken in one valley is largely unintelligible to a near neighbor in another. None of their languages are in written form and their literacy rate in other languages is very low. Oral traditions testify to longstanding interaction between groups through the centuries despite language barriers. Geographically, as early inhabitants of the Nuristani region in northeast Afghanistan, most still reside there.Oral accounts from tribes dating to a thousand years ago indicate they lived northeast of the merging point of the Kabul and Kunar Rivers, having moved westward to escape encroaching Muslims, whom they viewed as belligerents intent on forcing Islam upon them. The clans' beliefs had roots in an older form of Hinduism that featured a supreme creator and lesser gods who distinguished between impure humans and pure gods. One's destiny was determined by these gods although appeals could be made through animal sacrifice and prayer - even large feasts which also assured the host of purity and favorable community status. Honor to the gods was offered through a shaman and local animistic rites became intermingled. This religion was supplanted after some 800 years of resistance when, in 1895, the Nuristani clans were out-fought by Amir Adur Raham Khan's forces and forced at sword-point to convert to Islam. Previously the region had been called Kafiristan by the Muslims – "Land of the Non-Believers" or Infidels. It was renamed "Land of the Enlightened" - Nuristan - at that time.Nuristani villages, ranging from 30 to 300 families, are the core of a patriarchal culture. Influential men, called mediators, are leaders respected for skills in negotiating conflicts to a non-violent end, perhaps with the aid of a local or area council of leading men. Peace beyond an immediate village is dependent on relationships formed by intermarriage or through friendships with men in other villages who "adopt" one another as brothers.
The Waigeli Nuristani people are Sunni Muslims who believe that the supreme God, Allah, spoke through his prophet, Mohammed, and taught mankind how to live a righteous life through the Koran and the Hadith.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15822/AF

Pray for the Nations

Nuristani, Kamviri in Afghanistan

Population: **30,000**
World Popl: **30,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **Nuristan**
Main Language: **Komviri**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Nuristani, Narisati in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **163,000**
World Popl: **210,000**
Total Countries: **2**
People Cluster: **Nuristan**
Main Language: **Kateviri**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.10%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Nuristani, Tregami in Afghanistan

Population: **4,800**
World Popl: **4,800**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **Nuristan**
Main Language: **Tregami**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Nuristani, Waigeli in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **35,000**
World Popl: **35,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **Nuristan**
Main Language: **Waigali**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Narisati, Arandui in Afghanistan

Population: **44,000**
World Popl: **44,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Gawar-Bati**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Nuristani, Prasuni in Afghanistan

Population: **11,000**
World Popl: **11,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **Nuristan**
Main Language: **Prasuni**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Nuristani, Malakhel in Afghanistan

Population: **3,600**
World Popl: **3,600**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **Nuristan**
Main Language: **Dari**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Nuristani, Ashkuni in Afghanistan

Population: **54,000**
World Popl: **54,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **Nuristan**
Main Language: **Ashkun**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Nuristani, Grangali in Afghanistan

Source: seair21 - Flickr

Population: **12,000**
World Popl: **12,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **Nuristan**
Main Language: **Grangali**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Needed**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Pashayi in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **53,000**
World Popl: **80,000**
Total Countries: **2**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Kohistani, Indus**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Pashayi, Southwest in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **99,000**
World Popl: **99,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Pashai, Southwest**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.01%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Pashayi, Southeast in Afghanistan

Source: Todd Huffman - Wikimedia

Population: **179,000**
World Popl: **179,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Pashai, Southeast**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Pray for the Nations

Pashayi, Northeast in Afghanistan

Source: Todd Huffman - Flickr

Population: **54,000**
World Popl: **54,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Pashai, Northeast**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The **Pashayi,** one of the most ancient peoples in Afghanistan, have been animists, Buddhists and Hindus before they became Muslim. Pashayi refers to their language. There are two theories regarding the origins of the Pashayi people. One is they were members of the Gandhara culture that goes back to 1400 BCE and they were pushed out of their original homeland by a Pashtu speaking people. The other theory, based on ethnographic evidence, suggests that they share a common root culture with the other mountain peoples of this region that predates the Gandhara culture.

Very few people actually refer to themselves as Pashayi, rather they call themselves Safi, Kohistanis, or **Nuristanis.**

Pashayi, a Dardic language, is their primary language and has many dialects. The **Southeastern Pashayi** speak the Southeast dialect of Pashayi, which is unintelligible to other Pashayi speakers. The **northeastern Pashayi** speak the northeastern dialect of Pashayi, which is unintelligible to other Pashayi speakers. This is why there will need to be a separate church planting movement among each Pashayi subgroup.

It is believed that the Pashayi once inhabited the northeastern plains of Afghanistan, however they were forced to move to the mountains as Pashtun warriors invaded their areas.
The **Northeast Pashayi and Southestern Pashayi** live in Afghanistan, mostly in the valleys of the Hindu Kush in northeastern Afghanistan. They tend to live in valleys located near major river systems. The Northeastern Pashayi mostly live in the Kunar Province, in the side valleys between the Kunar and Pech Rivers.
The **Southeast Pashayi** mostly live in the Upper and Lower Darrai Nur Valley, Damenche, and Shale. They are found in the Nangarhar Province and in the southern part of the Laghman Province.

The Pashayi converted to Sunni Islam in the late sixteenth century. Many Pashayi have maintained some Folk Islamic practices, and it is not uncommon for Pashayi men to leave their communities to study under Pakistani or Afghani holy men. There are shrines dedicated to saints throughout their areas. There are few, if any, known believers or churches among them. There are Christian audio recordings in this language.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13996/AF

Sau, in Afghanistan
Population: 5300 Eastern Afghanistan

100% Islamic

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14782/AF

Northern Region

Pray for the Nations

Afghan, Tajik in Afghanistan

Source: Steve Evans - Flickr

Population: **12,313,000**
World Popl: **12,734,200**
Total Countries: **4**
People Cluster: **Tajik**
Main Language: **Dari**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.01%**
Chr Adherents: **0.01%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Afghanistan boasts the largest Tajik population outside their homeland to the north in Tajikistan. Comprising over one-quarter of the Afghan population, they are the second largest group in the country. Dating from the 4th century, historical evidence strongly supports their being one of the most ancient of the surviving Central Asian people groups. A Mediterranean sub-group of the Caucasian race, modern Tajiks are descended from Persian peoples. A tall, slender, fair-skinned people with blue or green eyes and often with red or blond hair, intermarriage with Turks and Mongolians introduced almond-shaped eyes and straight black hair to their physical characteristics.

For more information: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14372/AF

Pray for the Nations

Ishkashimi in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **3,500**
World Popl: **5,400**
Total Countries: **2**
People Cluster: **Tajik**
Main Language: **Ishkashimi**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.06%**
Chr Adherents: **0.06%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Ishkashimi is an Iranian language. There are only a couple thousand people who still speak it, and most likely it will be an extinct language by the end of the 21st century. The Ishkashimi language is spoken in the Badakhshan Province of Afghanistan, the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region in Tajikistan, and the Chitral region of Pakistan. Like the other people groups in their part of Afghanistan and Tajikistan, the Ishkashimi speakers are farmers and livestock herders. The primary religion practiced by Sanglech-Ishkashimi speakers is Shi 'ite Islam, one of two major denominations of Islam. They live among mainly Sunni Muslims. There is often hostility between the two sectors of Islam.

For more information: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/20542/AF

Pray for the Nations

Pashtun, Northern in Afghanistan

Source: Don LaVange - Flickr

Population: **4,588,000**
World Popl: **39,694,200**
Total Countries: **20**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - Pasht**
Main Language: **Pashto, Northern**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.01%**
Chr Adherents: **0.01%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Pashtun of Afghanistan and Pakistan have been called the largest Muslim tribal society in the world. There are at least 30 major tribes, and countless sub-tribes and clans. Spread over a vast geographical area and riven by socio-economic, political, tribal and linguistic (dialectical) differences, Pashtuns nevertheless share a unique sense of common identity. Pashtun identity is based on four elements: Heritage (descent from a common ancestor); Islam (99.9% Muslim); the Pashtunwali Code of Honor ("The Way of the Pashtun"); and to some extent, Language (Pakhtu or Pashto). They live primarily in Afghanistan and Pakistan, though there is a significant Pashtun diaspora in the Arab Gulf and many Western countries.

For more information: https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14372/AF

Pray for the Nations

Kazakh in Afghanistan

Source: Petar MiloÃ¡eviÃ‡ - Wikimedia

Population: **3,600**
World Popl: **17,951,200**
Total Countries: **24**
People Cluster: **Kazakh**
Main Language: **Kazakh**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Kazakhs, a Turkic people, are the second largest Muslim people group in Central Asia. In times past, they may have been the most influential of the various Central Asian ethnic groups.
Most Kazakhs live in Kazakhstan. Large communities can also be found in Mongolia, Ukraine and Russia. There is a small Kazakh community in Afghanistan that is growing smaller. The remaining Kazakhs in Afghanistan live in rural areas or the city of Mazar-e Sharif.
Kazakhs embraced Islam during the sixteenth century and still consider themselves Muslim today. Their Islamic practices have been combined with traditional folk religions.
Traditional Kazakh folk religion includes beliefs in spirits. They practice animism and ancestor worship. Animism is the belief that non-human objects have spirits. Ancestor worship involves praying and offering sacrifices to deceased ancestors. Kazakhs continue to consult shamans (priests who cure the sick by magic, communicate with the spirits, and control events). They also practice various traditional rituals before and after marriage, at birth, and at death.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12599/AF

Pray for the Nations

Tangshuri in Afghanistan

Population: **18,000**
World Popl: **18,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **Tajik**
Main Language: **Dari**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Tangshuri people are also known as the Tangshewi people. Their language and culture are related to that of the Tajiks. Their homeland is in northeastern Afghanistan near the Tajikistan border. Some live in Turkmenistan.

Like the peoples nearby, the Tangshuri are herders and farmers.

The Tangshuri are Muslims, and we know of no Christ followers among them. Some Christian audio recordings have been translated into their language. It will be humanly impossible to get these materials to them; God will need to intervene in their remote communities.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15253/AF

Pray for the Nations

Uzbek, Southern in Afghanistan

Source: COMIBAM / Sepal

Population: **3,738,000**
World Popl: **3,852,900**
Total Countries: **5**
People Cluster: **Uzbek**
Main Language: **Uzbek, Southern**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.01%**
Chr Adherents: **0.01%**
Scripture: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The group designated as Southern or Afghan Uzbek formed from waves of ancient migrations, as well as more recent ones in the 1920s-1940s from Russia when that government's atheistic policies persecuted their Islamic religion and customs. Speaking Uzbeki, their own Turkish dialect, Uzbeks identify themselves as Hanafi Sunni Muslims, although this is largely a cultural identity now rather than a religious one.

As Afghanistan's fourth largest ethnic group (2.5 million and nearly one-tenth of her total population) Southern Uzbeks still reside primarily in mountainous northern regions, particularly the Fariab Province. They live simply in small villages, often with Tajik neighbors. They are hostile towards the dominant Pushtun who moved into their homelands in numbers sufficient to render them a minority by the 1960s.

Most Uzbeks are Sunni Muslims of the conservative Hanafite branch. They are generally not Orthodox Muslims since they usually mix traditional beliefs with their Islamic practices.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15756/AF

Pray for the Nations

Turkmen in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **1,194,000**
World Popl: **8,721,900**
Total Countries: **12**
People Cluster: **Turkmen**
Main Language: **Turkmen**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Turkmen groups migrated southward at various times in history from east of the Caspian Sea, settling along the rim of the Kara Kum (Black Sand) desert, which extends into Afghanistan. Today, a relatively small population of Turkmen is concentrated in a narrow region in north Afghanistan, extending along the border with Turkmenistan. Some continue a semi-nomadic life, while others live in permanent homes or tents, farming, raising livestock and weaving carpets. One can find Turkmen in most Central Asian countries, including Afghanistan. Typically, the Turkmen people in Afghanistan fled there between 1915 and 1940 from the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union.

Cross-like designs may indicate a past history of Christian influence that left an indelible print and were preserved among time-honored symbols. Prior to the introduction of Sunni Islam by Arabs in the late 10th century, Nestorian Christianity had spread among Turkmen in the 4th century A.D

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15654/AF

Southern Region

Pray for the Nations

Tirahi in Afghanistan

Population: **6,500**
World Popl: **6,500**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Pashto, Southern**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Tirahi people are of the Kashmiri people cluster. They are found in the village of Nangarhar, southeast of Jalalabad and west of the Khyber Pass. At one time they lived among the powerful Pashtun tribes, but were expelled from their homeland by the Afridi Pashtuns.

Some speak Tirahi, which is an almost extinct language. Only a few of the Tirahi, mostly the elderly, still speak Tirhai.

The Tirahai people are Sunni Muslims.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15500/AF

Pray for the Nations

Ormuri in Afghanistan

Source: Rozi Khan Burki

Population: **3,600**
World Popl: **3,600**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - Pasht**
Main Language: **Pashto, Southern**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Ormuri is the language of the Ormur/Baraki tribe in Pakistan s Waziristan, Pakistan and in a small part of Logar Province, Afghanistan. This language is endangered. It has two dialects.

The Ormuri people in Afghanistan live among Tajiks and Pashtuns. Most Ormuri people also speak one of these more dominant languages. Like the neighboring peoples, the Ormuri probably herd livestock and do so some farming.
Communication is difficult because of remoteness, topography, and erratic weather.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/15735/AF

Pray for the Nations

Pahlavani in Afghanistan

Source: Hossein Khosravi - Wikimedia

Population: **4,200**
World Popl: **4,200**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **Persian**
Main Language: **Dari**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Pahlavani are of the Persian people cluster meaning that their languages come from the same linguistic branch as Farsi. They are found in Afghanistan, mainly in the Chakhansoor Province.
Their primary language is now Dari, shifting from the Pahlavani language. Dari is the trade language of Afghanistan.
The Pahlavani are primarily Shia Muslims. There are few, if any, Christians or churches among them and there are currently no Christian resources translated into Pahlavani. However, there are many resources available in the Dari language. Both Sunnis and Shias agree that Allah is the one true God and that Mohammad was his messenger. They both practice the Five Pillars of Islam, but there are some major differences. The Shias believe that Muhammad's successor should be someone in his bloodline, namely Ali. The Sunnis believed a pious individual who would follow the Prophet's teachings was the right choice. Because some of their leaders have faced violent, martyr's death, Shias understand that a righteous man can be killed by the unrighteous. For this reason, Christ's death on a Roman cross isn't as foreign to them as it is to Sunnis. Only about 15 percent of the world's Muslims are Shia; most of the rest are Sunni.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14255/AF

Pray for the Nations

Brahui in Afghanistan

Source: Akhtar Hassan - Wikimedia

Population: **363,000**
World Popl: **725,500**
Total Countries: **4**
People Cluster: **Brahui**
Main Language: **Brahui**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.10%**
Chr Adherents: **0.10%**
Scripture: **New Testament**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Brahui of Afghanistan live in an area known as Registan, or "land of sands." This region lies in southern Afghanistan near the border of Pakistan, where the main group of Brahui lives.

The Brahui are made up of a confederation of 29 tribes. They are distinguished from their Pushtun and Baluchi neighbors by language. The Pushtun and Baluchi speak Indo-Iranian languages, while the Brahui speak a Dravidian language. This is somewhat of a mystery to linguists because most Dravidian-speaking tribes live in southern India, more than 1000 miles away.
The Brahui have a reputation of being a fierce tribe of strong desert men who submit to no law except the law of retaliation. Their resistance grows with the hardships of the environment in which they live.
Virtually all of the Brahui are Sunni Muslim. Like other peoples in Afghanistan, they are deeply rooted in their Islamic beliefs. They adhere to the five essential duties of Islam: praying, fasting, giving to the poor, affirming that "Allah is the only god and that Mohammed is his prophet", and making a pilgrimage to Mecca.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/10959/AF

Pray for the Nations

Pashtun, Southern in Afghanistan

Source: chiplanay - Pixabay

Population: **8,840,000**
World Popl: **9,353,100**
Total Countries: **10**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - Pasht**
Main Language: **Pashto, Southern**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.02%**
Chr Adherents: **0.02%**
Scripture: **Portions**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The **Pashtun** of Afghanistan and Pakistan have been called the largest Muslim tribal society in the world. There are at least 30 major tribes, and countless sub-tribes and clans. Each clan can be friendly or hostile towards members of another particular clan, adding more divisions. Pashtuns share a unique sense of common identity. Pashtun identity is based on four elements: Heritage (descent from a common ancestor); Islam, the Pashtunwali Code of Honor ("The Way of the Pashtun"); and to some extent, Language (Pakhtu or Pashto). They live primarily in Afghanistan and Pakistan, though there is a significant Pashtun diaspora in the Arab Gulf and many Western countries.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14327/AF

Pray for the Nations

Ansari in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **2,700**
World Popl: **17,534,800**
Total Countries: **6**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - Ansar**
Main Language: **Urdu**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Ansari reside in most countries of South Asia, and a small number are in Afghanistan.

Ansari is Arabic and is derived from Ansar (also Arabic) which has a literal meaning of "those who support". It is considered to be primarily a nisbat which is a second or suffix name used as a specifier. Ansar originated from the Medinan people who assisted the prophet Muhammed as he migrated from Mecca to Medina. These people later became his emissaries and soldiers.

The Ansaris are Muslims who practice folk Islam, which incorporates many folk beliefs into their observance of the religion. There are almost no followers of Christ among the Muslim Ansaris. In Afghanistan, there probably are none.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16221/AF

Central Region

Pray for the Nations

Hazara in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **3,769,000**
World Popl: **4,654,000**
Total Countries: **11**
People Cluster: **Persian**
Main Language: **Hazaragi**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.03%**
Chr Adherents: **0.03%**
Scripture: **New Testament**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Shia Muslim Hazara of Afghanistan have been the recipients of attacks by Afghan Sunni Muslims for centuries. At one time, Hazaras formed half the population of the nation. Today they make up only about one tenth. Some Hazara have settled in cities, but the majority still carry on their traditional, nomadic lifestyle of seasonal migration with their herds of goats, sheep, cattle and horses.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/12076/AF

Hazara's are said to have Monlogian roots from when Gengis Khans troops...
Many Hazara's have fled Afghanistan due to persecution.
There is a growing group of believers among this people group.

Other people groups dwelling in less defined regions

Pray for the Nations

Bengali Muslim Moghal in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **2,600**
World Popl: **3,503,000**
Total Countries: **6**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Dari**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Moghals or Mughals have two main divisions: the Moghal of Persian and the Indian descent. Both are of relatively high social status as people from the conquering Muslim kingdoms. Because of their wide distribution across India and Pakistan they are well respected. In Nepal they can be found in nearly all the Terai districts. The Moghal people are of the Urdu Muslim people cluster and are believed to have originated in Mongolia.
They are found mostly in northern India and Bangladesh, however there are smaller populations residing in Afghanistan and Nepal. In Afghanistan, they live primarily in two villages near Herat, Kundur and Karez-i-Mulla.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/13761/AF

Pray for the Nations

Brahmin in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **4,200**
World Popl: **40,227,500**
Total Countries: **6**
People Cluster: **South Asia Forward Caste**
Main Language: **Urdu**
Main Religion: **Hinduism**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Brahmin is a Hindu Indian caste. The English word brahmin is an anglicized form of the Sanskrit word Brahmana. Brahmin refers to the 'Supreme Self' in Hinduism or the first of the gods. Because of the diversity in language, religious and cultural traditions and practices, and the Vedic schools which they belong to, there are numerous types of Brahmins. At one time they were the ones who performed Hindu rituals.
The history of the Brahmins is associated with the Vedic religion of early India, usually referred to as Sanatana Dharma. Brahmins first come to notice historically in the Vedic period, but how the modern caste system developed is a highly contested topic due to lack of clear data. Brahmins and kings became the dominant social and religious forces in many of the kingdoms that developed over pre-modern India.
There is a worldwide Brahmin diaspora, but they are concentrated in India. Partly because there are so few Hindus in Afghanistan, there are few Brahmins in that country.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/16521/AF

Pray for the Nations

Parsee in Afghanistan

Source: Ramniklal Mod - Shutterstock

Population: **2,600**
World Popl: **172,000**
Total Countries: **10**
People Cluster: **Persian**
Main Language: **Dari**
Main Religion: **Other / Small**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Parsee people, which literally means inhabitant, are of the Indo-Iranian affinity bloc.
They are known as Zoroastrians, Zarathushti, Parsees, Parsis, and Zarthusht.
This people group traces its origin to the Persian Kings of the Old Testament including King Darius, Cyrus, and Xerxes who aided in the rebuilding of the Temple.
Parsee communities are tightly knit closed groups that view themselves as superior to all other religious groups and races.
Their primary religion is Zoroastrianism. Zoroastrianism has fire as its supreme deity of worship believing it to be the son of god. All religious rituals and rites of passage are performed with burning fire present, and it is often lit by sandalwood and oil. Fires burn continuously in homes, and the temple fire is forbidden to burn out. Fire worship may include one falling prostrate before the flames.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14322/AF

Pray for the Nations

Deaf in Afghanistan

Source: Kate Nelson/AusAID - Wikimedia

Population: **190,000**
World Popl: **27,576,680**
Total Countries: **218**
People Cluster: **Deaf**
Main Language: **Afghan Sign Language**
Main Religion: **Unknown**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **Unknown %**
Chr Adherents: **0.05%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Deaf people live anywhere in Afghanistan. They are not grouped in any particular region or city.
Afghanistan is a third-world country. Only 28% of adult Afghans can read and this makes reaching the deaf even more difficult since they obviously cannot be reached with audio resources.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/19007/AF

Pray for the Nations

Gujar (Muslim traditions) in Afghanistan

Source: Matt Brandon

Population: **20,000**
World Popl: **6,049,000**
Total Countries: **3**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Gujari**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.03%**
Chr Adherents: **0.03%**
Scripture: **Portions**

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"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Gujar are comprised of three very closely related people groups that are collectively known as the "Gujar Rajasthani." As various Muslim groups began invading India and Pakistan in the eleventh century, the Gujar Hindus converted to Islam. When this happened, their resentful Hindu neighbors began to rise up and take control of the area. The Gujar were forced to leave the region and search for good pastures elsewhere. Their wanderings took them into Pakistan and Afghanistan, where thousands have remained until this day.

They are located in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and several states in northeastern India (Himachal, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan). In addition, the Gujarat state of western India is named after the historic Gujar peoples.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17549/AF

Pray for the Nations

Khatri (Sikh traditions) in Afghanistan

Source: India Missions Association

Population: **3,100**
World Popl: **349,100**
Total Countries: **2**
People Cluster: **South Asia Sikh - other**
Main Language: **Punjabi, Eastern**
Main Religion: **Other / Small**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Khatri are a people with an undefined people cluster. They are also known as Arora Khatri, Bhiya Kshatriya, Chhatri, Katri, Khakar, Khakha, Khattri, Khakhar, Khakha Khatri, Patnulkaran, Patnulkarar, or Sethara. They are found mostly in India, but a small population resides in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Their primary religion is Sikhism, which most Khatri take very seriously. Sikhism originally formed as a sect of Hinduism; it was intended to blend the best aspects of Hinduism with the best of Islam. There are few if any known believers among Khatri Sikhs.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18125/AF

Pray for the Nations

Kurd, Sorani in Afghanistan

Source: TheKurds.net

Population: **4,500**
World Popl: **3,789,900**
Total Countries: **6**
People Cluster: **Kurd**
Main Language: **Kurdish, Central**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.01%**
Chr Adherents: **0.01%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Today, Kurds are the largest ethnic group in the world without a state of their own. The Kurds are a large ethnic group who have always lived in the same region and who trace their roots back to the Medes of ancient Persia (the frontier of what is now Iraq, Iran, and Turkey) more than 2,500 years ago. In fact, the Magi, or wise men, who traveled from the East to deliver their gold, frankincense and myrrh to the newborn Jesus in Bethlehem, were most likely Zoroastrian priests, ancestors of the modern Kurds.
The small number of Kurds in Afghanistan speak Sorani. They live in the cities of Kabul, Herat, Ghazni and Mazar-i-Sharif.
Kurds "hold their Islam lightly," meaning that they are not so strongly committed to Islam, and do not identify as closely with it as Arabs do. This is perhaps due to several factors, one being that many Kurds still feel some connection with the ancient Zoroastrian faith, and they feel it is an original Kurdish spirituality that far predates the seventh-century AD arrival of Muhammad. Kurds have had conflicts with important Muslim people nearby: Turks, Arabs and Iranians. Nonetheless, most Kurds are Muslims.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/11126/AF

Pray for the Nations

Mussali in Afghanistan

Source: Matt Hahnewald - Shutterstock

Population: **3,600**
World Popl: **2,886,600**
Total Countries: **3**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Punjabi, Eastern**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Indigenous Hindus were forcibly converted to Islam and given the derisive name "Mussali." Today they have low status wherever they live in South Asia, including Afghanistan.
There is a small number of Mussalis in Afghanistan. The majority of them live in Pakistan's Punjab Province, and India's state of Rajasthan.

The Mussali people are looked down upon by other communities. They are unhappy with their lot and they want more out of life.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/17714/AF

Pray for the Nations

Turk in Afghanistan

Source: Anonymous

Population: **12,000**
World Popl: **67,710,500**
Total Countries: **69**
People Cluster: **Turkish**
Main Language: **Turkish**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The mighty Ottomans had trouble expanding their empire into what is now Afghanistan, which was closely associated with a Persian dynasty. For this reason, the Ottomans did not send Turks to settle there. There are many people who speak Turkic languages and adhere to Turkish-based cultures in Afghanistan, but few actual Turks in that country today.
The small number of Turks in Afghanistan usually live in the capital city of Kabul. Though there are Turks in Afghanistan, they are overshadowed by the much more numerous people groups that speak a Turkic language.
The Turks are nominally Sunni Muslim.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/18274/AF

Pray for the Nations

Shumashti in Afghanistan

Population: **1,000**
World Popl: **1,000**
Total Countries: **1**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Shumashti**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Translation Started**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

Northern Pakistan, bordered by China to the north, Afghanistan to the northwest, and India to the east, has some of the most breathtaking mountains in South Asia. Nestled between five of the world's highest peaks live the northern tribes. They are the original inhabitants of the area. The northern tribes include the Badeshi, Burushas, Kolai, Punjabi Pahari, Shina, Shumashti, and Kho. The Pashtuns have dominated the ethnic groups in this region for years, either buying their land or forcing them out with violence.

Like the other tribes of northern Pakistan, the Shumashtis are farmers and herders. Farming is difficult due to the dry, rugged mountain terrain. On terraced hills and in river plains they grow but one crop a year. In addition, they herd goats and cattle from pasture to pasture.

Sunni Islam has prevailed among these tribes in northern Pakistan and Afghanistan since the early Middle Ages. Their form of Islam, however, is tainted by belief in the power of shamans and unclean spirits. Islamic festivals govern rites of passage and prayer life. There are no known Christ followers among the Shumashtis of Pakistan or Afghanistan.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14924/AF

Pray for the Nations

Sindhi in Afghanistan

Source: Khalid Mahmood - Wikimedia

Population: **27,000**
World Popl: **529,500**
Total Countries: **11**
People Cluster: **South Asia - other**
Main Language: **Sindhi**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.08%**
Chr Adherents: **0.08%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

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"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The Sindhi of Afghanistan are part of a much larger Sindhi people group. This larger group is the second largest ethnic group in Pakistan. The Sindhi, named after the Sindhu (Indus) River, are also said to be one of the oldest people groups in Pakistan. Most of them have lived there for centuries and call themselves the pukka, or "real," Sindhi. Some have traced their origin back to the Arab invaders who introduced Islam to Pakistan in 711 A.D. Prior to 1947, Muslim and Hindu Sindhi lived together in the same region. Today, however, most of the Hindu Sindhi live in India and most of the Muslim Sindhi live in Pakistan, but a smaller number of these Muslims spilled over into neighboring Afghanistan.
Today, a majority of the Sindhi in Afghanistan are engaged in irrigation farming.
Most of the Sindhi in Afghanistan are Muslim. The majority of the rural Sindhi, however, have no clear understanding of their Muslim faith and still believe in "folk spirits." Before 1947, many Hindu and Muslim practices were combined. For example, it was not uncommon for both Hindus and Muslims to venerate the same saint. Today, the practice of saint worship still persists. There are also Sufi shrines in Sindhi communities.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14192/AF

Pray for the Nations

Punjabi in Afghanistan

Source: Web Flippy - Pixabay

Population: **6,700**
World Popl: **1,825,400**
Total Countries: **20**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Punjabi, Eastern**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.30%**
Chr Adherents: **1.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

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"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

The name "Punjabi" is used to describe both those who speak Punjabi and those who inhabit the Punjab region in India and Pakistan. Punjabi is an Indo-European language that is divided into six main dialects. In Afghanistan, Punjabis might speak either the Western or Eastern Punjabi dialect. Modern Punjabi culture was largely shaped by the partitioning of India and Pakistan in 1947. This event resulted in massive migrations that separated the Muslims from the Hindus and Sikhs. In general, the Muslim Punjabis live in Pakistan, while the Hindu or Sikhs are in India. One can also find large Punjabi communities in nearly thirty other countries, including Afghanistan.
Those in Afghanistan are usually Muslim, though there are a small number of Hindus and Sikhs among them.

https://joshuaproject.net/people_groups/14483/AF

Pray for the Nations

Changgar in Afghanistan

Source: Adnan Mughal - Pexels

Population: **3,400**
World Popl: **408,800**
Total Countries: **3**
People Cluster: **South Asia Muslim - other**
Main Language: **Urdu**
Main Religion: **Islam**
Status: **Frontier Unreached**
Evangelicals: **0.00%**
Chr Adherents: **0.00%**
Scripture: **Complete Bible**

www.joshuaproject.net

"Declare His glory among the nations." Psalm 96:3

No extra information available on Joshua Project.