

# ANEUK JAMEE



Photo by RD

*Aneuk Jamee girl*



Map by RD

Aneuk Jamee Home Area

Demography	Aneuk Jamee Language	Status
Location: Aceh Population: 71.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: New Testament Jesus Film: Yes Online Media: No	Believers: <5 Engaged: No Indigenous Church: 0

## Identity and Location

The Aneuk Jamee are one of the peoples who live along the West coast of the Special Islamic Province of Aceh. They comprise the majority in the regency of Aceh Selatan, especially the districts of Tapak Tuan, Samadua, Sawang and Labuhan Haji. They also have communities in the districts of Johan Pahlawan, Kaway XVI, and Kuala.

“Aneuk Jamee” means “Offspring of Guests” or “New Arrival.” This name was originally used for Minangkabau people who began arriving during the 17th century from Lubuk Sikaping, Pariaman, Rau, and Pasaman.

Over time they integrated, becoming one group with local Aceh people. The groups integrated smoothly owing to their common Islamic religion. Eventually they felt distinct from other Aceh people, but also distinct from the Minangkabau, having become their own group with their own local language.

The Aneuk Jamee use their own language, called Jamee or Jamu language. It is easy for Aceh people living in southern Aceh to understand this language, but not easy for Aneuk Jamee to understand or use Aceh language.

## Society and Culture

Many of the Aneuk Jamee work as fishermen, while others work either wet or dry-land rice farming, or fruit orchards. Some do trading, either in permanent shops or from village to village (which is called penggaleh).

*Traditional leadership combines elements of both Minang and*

*Aceh culture.*

There are three layers of Aneuk Jamee society. The top layer are the Datuk (royalty); the middle layer are the local leaders (hulu baling) and religious leaders (teungku). Ordinary members of society form the lowest layer.

Traditional leadership combines elements of both Minang and Aceh culture. This differs from the district-level leadership which is the same as traditional Aceh leadership structure.

## Beliefs

Islam is the religion of the Aneuk Jamee. However, like other Indonesians, many of their actual habits and beliefs originate from persistent earlier beliefs. The services of a shaman (cursing, casting spells, and occultism) are still utilized in many situations. For example, a shaman is often consulted to cause a young woman to fall in love with a young man, and sometimes the girl’s family will then also come to pay a fee to undo the spell.

## Needs

Many of the boats used by Aneuk Jamee fishermen are actually owned by people in Medan or Banda Aceh. Therefore, a program to help fund local fishermen to purchase their own boats would be fitting and useful.



Photo by RD

*An Aneuk Jamee man*