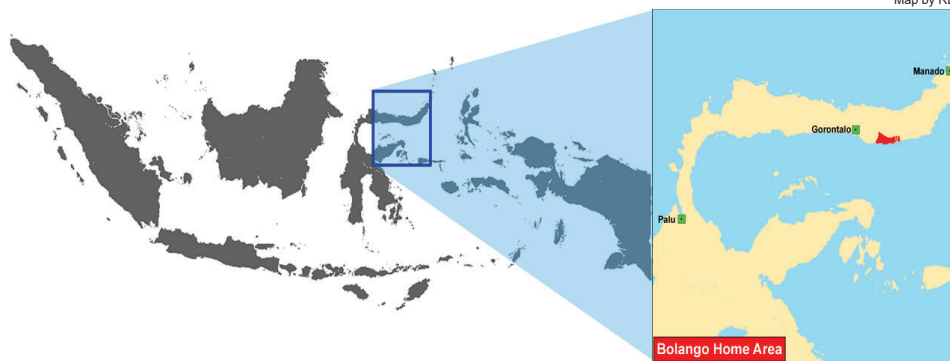


BOLANGO



Demography	Bolango Language	Status
Location: North Sulawesi Population: 30.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: 0 Engaged: Yes Indigenous church: 0

Identity and Location

It is said that the word Bolango comes from the word balongon which means “sea/ocean.” The Bolango are people of Gorontalo origin who migrated to an area in North Sulawesi Province and married with the Bolaang people, native to that province. The resulting union between these two groups created a merging of languages and cultures with a result different than either the Bolaang or the Gorontalo had individually. As the group grew, their own language emerged and formed as well.

Currently, the Bolango live in Bolaang Uki District, Bolaang Mongondow Regency, North Sulawesi Province, near the border of Gorontalo Province. This is three to four hours east of the city of Gorontalo (capital of the province of Gorontalo) and six hours west of Manado, the capital city of North Sulawesi Province.

Society and Culture

From earliest times, the community has had three shared styles of living, which still continue today. They are: (1) Pogogutat, potolu adi’, (2) Tonggolipu’ and (3) Posad (mokidulu). The goal of mutual shared living is the same, but the forms of expression are somewhat different. Pogogutat, potolu adi’ has to do with family. Pogogutat is from the word utat which means “relative” (sibling, cousin). Potolu adi’ is from the word Tolu adi’ (motolu adi’) which means “father, mother and children” (being with one’s wife and children).

Imbalu’, meaning greeting, is a sign of mutual respect between people, whether they have previously met or not

One cultural norm for the Bolango people is greeting

each other as they pass on the street. They call this mogimbalu’, meaning greeting, a sign of mutual respect between people, whether they have previously met or not. It’s like saying “Good morning” or something similar.

The Bolaang area used to be quite underdeveloped. However, with the creation of the Southern Highway (an alternative route from North Sulawesi to Gorontalo), economic development has been stimulated. Sadly, the road is still underutilized and often damaged due to flash flooding. The income of the community has also improved due to the opening of a fish processing plant in Bitung that handles the area’s tuna production.

Beliefs

The Bolango people are Muslim. No Bolango people are known to follow a religion other than Islam, despite the fact that this area is close to Minahasa, where the majority religion is Christian.

Needs

Illegal logging in the Bolango area causes floods which damage bridges and roads due to the massive volume of sand and stone carried along by the water. If the damage continues, homes in the area will also be threatened.

Because of this, community awareness of forest conservation is needed in order for reforestation to take place. This could open a field of work and form an integrated step toward meeting a need for the Bolango people.^(RD)