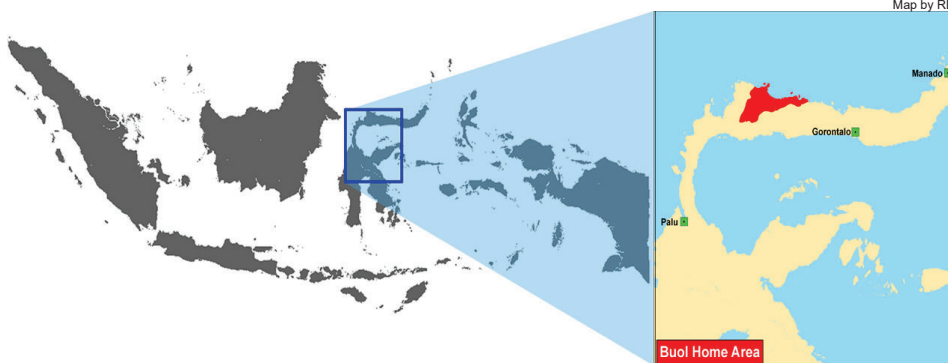


# BUOL



Photo by RD

One of Buol Village chiefs



Demography	Buol Language	Status
Location: Central Sulawesi Population: 110.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: <5 Engaged: Yes Indigenous church: 0

## Identity and Location

The Buol people live in the districts of Biau, Momunu, Bunobugu and Peleleh, in Toli-toli Regency, in the northern part of Central Sulawesi Province. They previously lived in the mountains, but now they live scattered along the central part of the northern peninsula of Sulawesi, northwest of Gorontalo. Because their language and culture is similar with Gorontalo, the Buol people are sometimes considered a part of the Gorontalo people.

The Buol language is similar to the Toli-toli language, a neighboring people group. However, linguistically, the Buol language is a part of the Gorontalic family which also includes the Bintauna, Kaidipang, Bolango, Gorontalo, Lolak and Suwawa languages. Buol was a small kingdom that rose and fell and would sometimes join with other kingdoms to defend itself or overcome others.

## Society and Culture

The roads surrounding the Buol people are not good, so in order to connect with others they often utilize their proximity to the Sulawesi Sea and travel by water. Relations between the villages are very limited. However, they continue to maintain unity through their common language and culture.

Many Buol people work as rice farmers or in the field. They often grow and export coconuts and cloves. The tropical rainforests give them forest products such as rattan, resin, cinnamon and coconut sugar. Those who live on the coast are mostly fisherman, others are traders.

In the past the Buol people lived under the rule of a king. As a result of the pattern of royal society, the Buol people followed layers of social status: the royal family

(tanpoyoduiya), the group close to the royal family or the nobility (tan wayu); a group not as close to the royal family (tan wanon); ordinary people (taupat), and groups of people who violate customs or are prisoners of war. At that time, every level of social status was identified by the clothes people wore.

The influence of Islam and the increasingly advanced education in this area have changed the structure of society. Advances in the economy have also changed the lifestyle of the Buol people. Today, high government positions, religious leaders and advanced education represent status within the community. Nevertheless, cultural leaders, traditional leaders and elders are still honored.

## Beliefs

Most of the Buol people have embraced Islam and this has had a major effect on their lifestyle. However, previous animistic beliefs still play a major role in their everyday lives. They still believe in supernatural powers that inhabit sacred places. Many Buol people seek help from a shaman for preventing illness, healing the sick and casting out demons.

## Needs

Forestry and fishery products have the greatest potential for supporting the development of the economy in this area. Tourism also has potential for development, as the area is home to many beautiful beaches. However development of proper transportation facilities is needed as Buol is quite far from Palu, the capital of Central Sulawesi Province and Gorontalo, the capital of Gorontalo Province.<sup>(E-RD)</sup>

