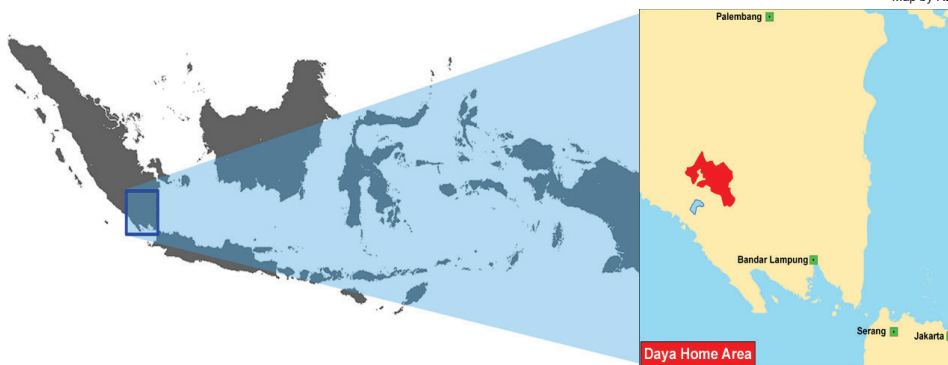


DAYA



Photo by VVV



Demography	Daya Language	Status
Location: South Sumatera Population: 90.000 Major Religion: Islam	Bible: NT Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: <10 ⁽²⁷⁷⁾ Engaged: Yes Indigenous Church: 0

Identity and Location

The Daya live in the Barisan Mountains in the southern part of South Sumatra Province. They are spread throughout the two districts of Simpang and Muara Dua in South Ogan Komering Ulu Regency in South Sumatra.

Society and Culture

In their homeland, the Daya live in the same area as the Aji and Komering. The mixing of the Daya villages among Komering and Aji villages is unique in that their villages are often in an alternating pattern geographically. On a trip from Simpang to Muara Dua Kisam, one will see alternating Aji, Komering and Daya villages.

the Daya feel that their language and identity are distinct from the Komering. Even so, the Daya don't deny that there are many similarities between the Daya and Komering languages.

The Komering often consider the Daya to be a part of the Komering because they use the same language. There are many similarities between the Daya and Komering languages. However, the Daya feel that their language and identity are distinct from the Komering. Even so, the Daya don't deny that there are many similarities between the Daya and Komering languages. Linguistically speaking, the Daya use the Daya dialect of the Lampung Api language.

The Daya live at an elevation of 100-500 meters above sea level. Many varieties of plants can grow in this fairly fertile area. Farming in this area is successful. Harvest can be done two or three times per year. This work is generally done by Jawa people who manage the rice fields, either as owners or as laborers in fields owned by the Daya. If someone becomes a laborer in the rice fields, he will receive a portion that is one-half or one-third of the total harvest. The Daya typically don't manage their

rice fields well, therefore many of them entrust their land to Jawa managers. A Daya family will often own 1-2 hectares of rice fields.

The housing style among the Daya has shifted from the traditional raised wooden homes to more modern cinder block and concrete homes built at ground level. Only older houses are on stilts.

Beliefs

The Daya's Islamic beliefs are strongly held. For example, one young man told the story of a Chinese person who married a local Ogan person. He explained: "Chinese, but Muslim...!!" This story displays that Islam is still a strong part of their identity. Even so, almost every village has a burial ground for the ancestors that is well guarded and taken care of. Some tombs are seen as sacred, such that some people come there to pray and make special requests.

Needs

Jobs are hard to come by in this area. Many young men are unemployed because there is no work in the village and they are reluctant to leave for the city. The surrounding people groups tend to view the Daya youth as lazy. Only a small number of the young men here seek work outside the local area. Character building and skills development for the young men would assist them greatly. ^(E-RD)

