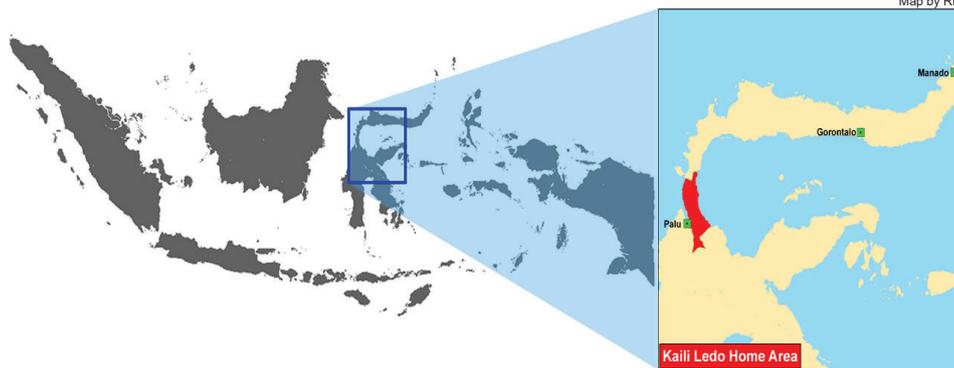


KAILI LEDO



Demography	K. Ledo Language	Status
Location: Central Sulawesi Population: 380.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: NT Jesus Film: Yes Online Media: No	Believers: <50 Engaged: Yes Indigenous church: 0

Identity and Location

The Kaili Ledo people live in the northern part of Central Sulawesi in the city of Palu and the surrounding areas of Buromandu, Dolo, Marawola and Tawaili. The area is very mountainous. Even so, the city of Palu is known to be the driest place in Indonesia.

The word ledo means “no”. Besides the prestigious Palu (Ledo) dialect, the people also speak other Kaili dialects including: Doi, Ado, Edo, Tado, Taa (Palolo), Tara (Parigi), Rai (Tawaili-Sindue), Raio (Kori), Ija (Sigi) and Ta’a (Dalogo-Sausu). Each dialect has different word for “no”. In Ado the word for “no” is ado, in Doi it is doi, etc. The dialects are named after their word for “no”. The Kaili Ledo language is closely related to the Baras, Kaili Da’a, and Kaili Unde languages.

Society and Culture

Family is very important to the Kaili Ledo. They give great honor and obedience to their parents and elders. Decisions are always made by the family as a whole. When the eldest son reaches adulthood, parents give him a larger role in the family.

Villages among the Kaili Ledo are usually small, with houses built on stilts. Farming of cloves, coconut and copra provides many Ledo people with their livelihood. Others make their living as traders, fishermen or sailors. Those living in the mountains grow rice, corn and sago.

In the 1950s a rebellion called the Permesta Separatist Movement halted the economy of this part of Sulawesi. This rebellion was led by youths wanting to separate from the Republic of Indonesia. The climax of this rebellion took place in the 1960s in Tomini. For a number of years, no marketable goods were produced in the area

as a result of the struggle. Since then however, efforts have been made by the government to connect the local economy with national and international trade. Cloves have become a major crop in large plantations, and international-scale lumber industry has developed. Unfortunately though, production has dropped off dramatically in recent years.

Marriage customs are a mix of Islamic and traditional influences. A matchmaker determines the bride price, which varies according to the social status of the girl. Marriage with first cousins is permitted. Although polygamy is allowed, it very rarely takes place. Newlywed couples usually live with one of their parents until they have their own children.

Beliefs

Most Kaili Ledo people are Muslim. They are proud of their Islamic identity and seek to follow the pillars of Islam. However, some still believe in the power of spirits. In many ways they mix Islamic teaching with the beliefs of their ancestors.

Many still seek the help of a dukun (shaman/healer/occultist) to cure or prevent sickness. When building a new house, they give offerings to both good and evil spirits. The larger the house, the larger the offering.

Needs

The Kaili Ledo need assistance to increase the quality and quantity of their agricultural products. Formal education in schools, as well as exposure to new appropriate technologies could increase their employment opportunities and aid in the development of their local economy.