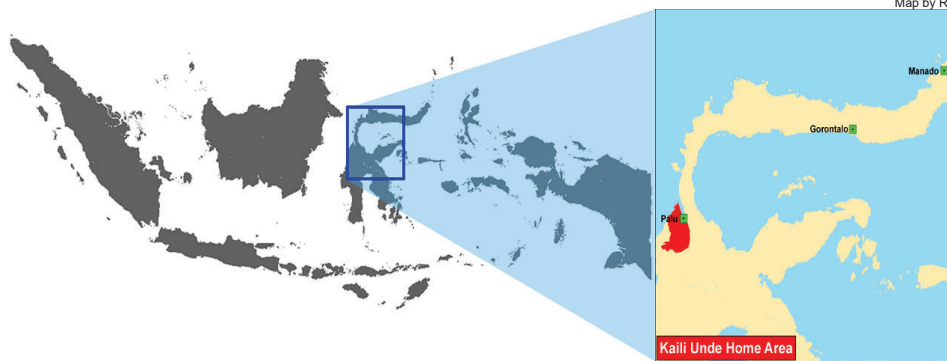


KAILI UNDE



Demography	K. Unde Language	Status
Location: Central Sulawesi	Bible: NT	Believers: 0
Population: 31.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous church: 0

Identity and Location

The Kaili Unde people live in the northern part of Central Sulawesi Province, in the districts of Palu and Banawa, on the east coast. Some of them also live in southern Donggala, scattered along the coast. In their language the word unde means “no.”

The Kaili Unde language is part of the larger Kaili linguistic family, which consists of Baras, Kaili Da’a, and Kaili Ledo, and is associated with the Lindu, Moma, Sedoa and Topoiyo languages.

Society and Culture

Kaili Unde villages are usually small, comprised of houses on stilts. The coastal Kaili Unde area produces cloves, copra, and coconuts. They also plant rice, corn and sago in their fields. Some Kaili Unde make a living as traders, fishermen and sailors.

The Lalove is a kind of flute played by the balia (shaman). It may not be played at random, because those who hear it may become possessed.

Family is very important to the Kaili Unde. They give great honor and obedience to their parents and elders. Decisions are always made by the family as a whole. Parents give a larger role to their oldest son when he becomes an adult. When a child reaches the age of 12, there is a ceremony called nokeso or noloso. This ceremony is very important because at this time the young person is considered an adult. The young person is then given the title toniasa which comes from the words tona (person) and nipaka asa (become an adult).

Marriage arrangements are a mix of Islamic and traditional influences. The price of the bride is determined by a matchmaker, mainly based on the bride’s social status. Marriage between first cousins is

permitted. Newlywed couples usually live with one of their parents until they have children of their own. Polygamy is permitted, but it is rare.

The lalove is a flute-like musical instrument which is played by the balia (shaman). According to their beliefs, the lalove should not be blown arbitrarily, because those who hear it could become possessed. Only the bule (special blowers) are allowed to blow the lalove. The lalove is very important in healing ceremonies. At this ceremony, the dancers become possessed. This ceremony usually begins at night and sometimes continues until the next afternoon.

Beliefs

Most Kaili Unde are devout Muslims. They believe they will be judged by their knowledge of the Qur’an (Muslim holy book) and their good works.

The Kaili Unde people have merged traditional animistic beliefs with Islamic teachings. Many still seek the help of a dukun (shaman/healer/occultist) to prevent sickness or to exorcise evil spirits. When building a new house, the Kaili Unde give offerings to both good and evil spirits. The bigger the building, the bigger the offering.

Needs

The Kaili Unde people need assistance to increase the quality and quantity of their crops as well as help in marketing the produce. Formal education in schools as well as exposure to new appropriate technologies could increase their employment opportunities and help them in the development of their local economy.

