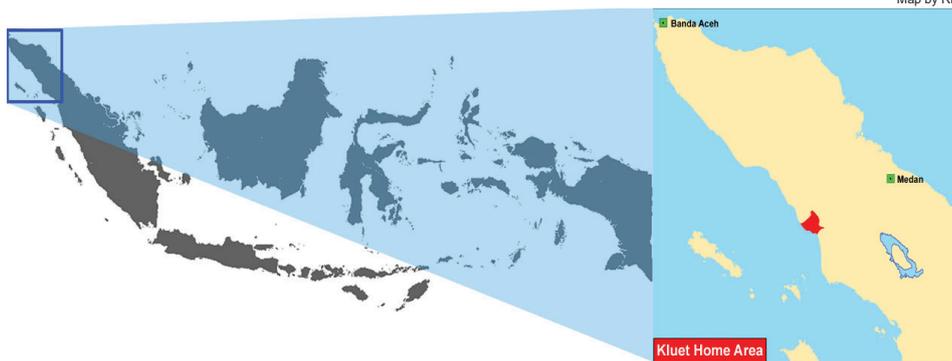


# KLUET



Photo by RD



Map by RD

Demography	Kluet Language	Status
Location: Aceh Population: 55.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: 0 <sup>(41)</sup> Engaged: No Indigenous Church: 0

## Identity and Location

The Kluet are one of eight people groups that live in Aceh Province on the island of Sumatra. They are found in two districts of South Aceh Regency: North Kluet District and South Kluet District. These two districts are divided by the Krueng Kluet River, which has its source in the Leuser Mountains and empties into the Indian Ocean. The area where the Kluet people live is remote, about 12 miles (20 km) from the main road, 31 miles (50 km) from the town of Tapak Tuan, and 310 miles (500 km) from the provincial capital of Banda Aceh.

The Kluet language has three dialects: Paya Dapur, Meunggamat, and Krueng Kluet. It appears that the language developed from a combination of the Alas, Kuo, Aceh, and Minangkabau languages.

## Society and Culture

The Kluet area is very fertile, and most Kluet make their living from farming irrigated and unirrigated rice fields or growing crops such as coffee, patchouli (which produces fragrant oils), and vegetables.

Other means of livelihood include raising livestock and fishing. Fish are either eaten fresh or preserved for storage, often by smoking. This type of smoked fish, called ikan saleh, is a specialty of the Kluet people.

The Kluet are famous for their hunting skills since they live at the edge of the forest. During the time of Dutch colonization they were often noted for their skill on the battlefield. Their skill as hunters equipped them to be skilled warriors as well. They often used guerilla tactics to fight their enemies. Kluet people

*The meeting center (called a meursah) and the women's center (called deyah) are important places*

Kluet people prefer to live in groups and only in certain areas. They have a strong sense of ethnic identity, and therefore do not spread out very far from each other. They find it difficult to mix with other people groups, and as a result their culture is rather closed to outsiders. Kluet villages are comprised of houses and a number of other buildings, including rice barns, a meeting center, women's center, Islamic school, and mosque.

The meeting center (called a meursah) has a variety of functions. It is used as a place to read the Qur'an, say daily prayers, hold Islamic celebrations, and hold meetings, or for young people to sleep if there is no religious school in the village. The women's center (called deyah) is a place where women say prayers..

## Beliefs

The Kluet are followers of Islam. However, traditional animistic beliefs have not totally disappeared and often have significant impact. This can be seen in their daily lives, especially in special ceremonies.

Many Kluet are afraid of evil spirits. They believe that one of the graves in their area has magical powers. The Kluet say that this grave can be seen at certain times while at other times it disappears. They use magic charms so that evil spirits will not hurt them. These charms help them feel calmer and more protected.

## Needs

Modern agricultural tools and methods would help keep them from feeling left behind and threatened by outsiders who come to their area. Medical assistance is greatly needed due to an increase in malaria and dengue fever as well as poor nutrition among the Kluet.