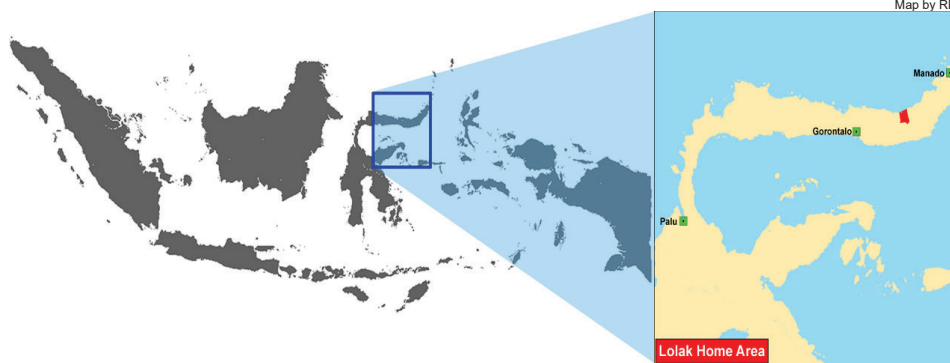


LOLAK



Demography	Lolak Language	Status
Location: North Sulawesi Population: 17.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: Yes Jesus Film: Yes Online Media: No	Believers: <10 Engaged: Yes Indigenous church: 0

Identity and Location

The Lolak are an agrarian people who have always lived on the fringes of neighboring more powerful people groups. They live in the Lolak District in North Sulawesi Province. Sulawesi is a vast and mountainous island that some say is shaped like a crab or an orchid. Eighty percent of the Lolak population live in this area in three villages: Lolak, Mongkoinit and Motabang. There are only 21,000 inhabitants in the main village of Lolak.

The main characteristics that distinguish the Lolak from the Mongondow is their language, which is similar to the Gorontalo language. Despite the similarities to Gorontalo, the Lolak language borrows heavily from the language of the neighboring and surrounding Mongondow people. As a result, Mongondow has become a second language for most Lolak people.

Society and Culture

The Lolak area is fertile with long black sand beaches, flat grassy fields, coconut plantations and rugged inland mountains. The Lolak are farmers who grow rice, coconuts, corn, cacao, and large healthy cattle. The government provides assistance in the form of subsidized pesticides when insects or other plant diseases threaten the rice crop. The vast lands are generally owned by wealthy people from outside the village who employ the Lolak as tenant farmers. Rice and sago are food staples. In addition, the Lolak sometimes hunt deer in the jungle.

Housing is very basic and in some places very poor. When a Lolak family becomes wealthy enough, they replace their thatch roof (made from sago leaves) with tin, and the even wealthier generally have satellite dishes. Access to fresh water is not a problem since

many families have water wells. Their main village, Lolak, even has a hospital. Although typhoid is present in the area, cases of malaria are very rare. Lolak has 20 elementary schools and most Lolak children are able to attend. Those able to attend high school typically study in Kotamobagu or Manado. Of the few who can seek higher education, most study farming, animal husbandry (livestock breeding), economics, or law at Sam Ratulangi University in Manado.

Lolak genealogy is bilateral (traced through both parents). Inheritance is handled in the same way for both male and female descendants. Male family members receive no special treatment. They typically marry before 20 years of age and have more than two children per family.

Beliefs

The Lolak are Sunni Muslims, and have three mosques in the village of Lolak. The Lolak typically marry with neighboring Bolaang-Mongondow, Gorontalo and Bugis Muslims. They intertwine traditional beliefs with Islamic teaching and regard this a positive influence for their salvation and hopes of getting to heaven.

Needs

Economic development is slow, because this area is still very underdeveloped. Creating new job opportunities is one of the greatest needs of the Lolak people. A Lolak person who graduates from university often finds it hard to obtain a job in their field of study, so they often return to farming. Many young adults move to cities like Manado, Makassar and even Jakarta in search of work.

