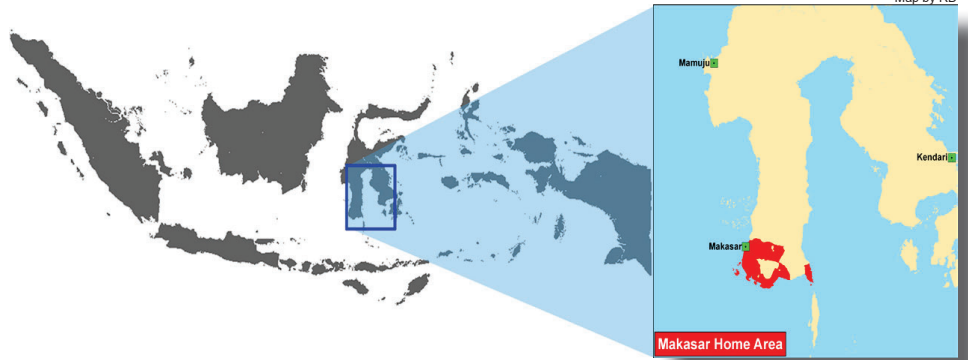


# MAKASSAR



Photo by RD



Data Demografis	Makassar Language	Status
Location: South Sulawesi	Bible: Yes	Believers: <500 (G1)
Population: 2.350.000	Jesus Film: Yes	Engaged: Yes
Major Religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous Church: 5

## Identity and Location

The Makassar (also known as the Taena, Tena, or Goa) live in the southern part of the southwestern peninsula of Sulawesi. The heart of their area is Makassar, the capital city of the province of South Sulawesi. The Makassar also live in the Konjo highlands, the coastal areas and the Selayar and Spermo islands. They speak the language of Makassar which has three dialects Gowa: (Goa, Lakiung), Turatea (Jeneponto) and Maros-Pangkep.

## Society and Culture

The primary source of income among the Makassar is rice farming; however, they are also well known throughout Indonesia for their skill in trading and as fishermen. Their houses are often built on stilts, two meters above the ground. Makassar houses in the plains and beach areas are close to each other and those in the mountains are spread out.

The fishermen living on the beaches build their houses in rows facing the sea or the main road. Villages like these are known kampung pajjaku (fishermen villages). Farmers build their houses around the fields and are known as kampung pamarri (farmer villages). Each village usually has a center (pecci tana) which formerly was considered a sacred place, marked by a sacred (banyan) tree.

*Polygamy (having multiple wives) is accepted; however, it is only practiced among the wealthy since a separate house must be provided for each wife*

Division of labor among the Makassar is strict because of rigid separation of the sexes. Men are responsible for matters outside the house such as farming, working the plows and carrying rice bundles after the harvest. Household duties are assigned to women.

The family structure is headed by the man. The

wife and children must show respect for the head of the household in public. The head of the family is responsible for making decision on behalf of the family. In rural locations, marriages are still arranged by the parents and/or close relatives. Communication between the prospective bride and groom is strictly prohibited. Polygamy (having multiple wives) is accepted; however, it is only practiced among the wealthy since a separate house must be provided for each wife.

Siri (respect and honor) is a famously high value for the Makassar. Anyone seriously offending another person's siri runs the risk of being killed and no one else will want to get involved.

The Makassar often work together with their neighbors in tasks such building houses and working in the rice fields. They also gather for times of celebrations, such as birthdays, weddings and funerals.

## Beliefs

The Makassar are almost all Muslim. Nevertheless traditional beliefs are still influential, especially in the remote areas. They maintain beliefs in gods and ancestral spirits; giving ritual offerings in the required manner. Special ceremonies are held at the beginning of the planting and harvest seasons. They believe the ancestral spirits have a direct influence on their daily lives.

## Needs

Currently, the Makassar need training to increase their agricultural production. Medical personnel and nutritional information are also needed because nutrition is a common problem for those living in rural areas.