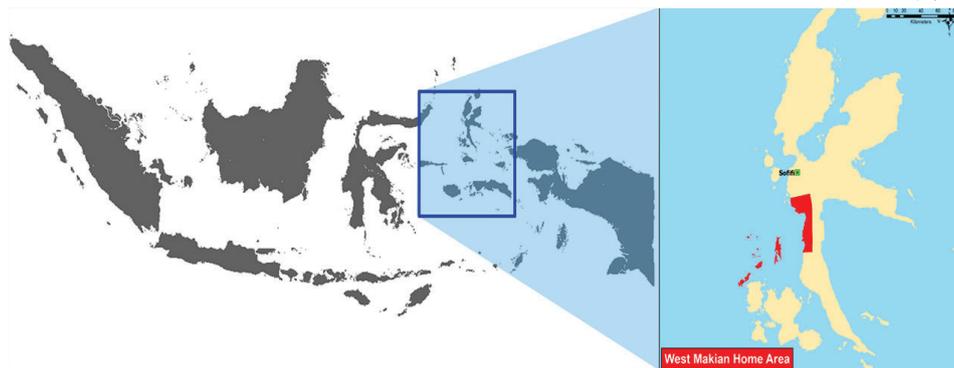


# WEST MAKIAN



Demography	Makian Language	Status
Location: North Maluku Population: 44.500 Major religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: 0 Engaged: Yes Indigenous church: 0

## Identity and Location

The West Makian (Makian Barat), also called the Makian Luar (Outer Makian), occupy all of the island of Makian except the east coast which is inhabited by the East Makian or Inner Makian). Makian Island is mountainous and is the home of a volcano called Kei Besi, which has erupted several times and claimed many lives.

In 1975, with no prior warning, Mount Kei Besi erupted violently. This prompted the national and provincial governments to begin relocating residents living near the volcano to the nearby island of Halmahera. As a result, many small communities of Makian Barat people live on the Kayoa islands, located south of Makian Island.

In the past most observers classified the Makian as one people group with one language consisting of two dialects. However, careful linguistic analysis has shown the West Makian language Jitinee, is part of the West Papuan language cluster, while the East Makian language Tabayama, is part of the Austronesian language cluster.

## Society and Cluster

Most West Makian are farmers. Primary crops include rice, corn, sweet potatoes, legumes, spices and vegetables. To fell trees, the Makian use short knives (samaran) and axes (tamako), and to plant rice and corn they use sticks (hamasik or leko). They also catch fish for their daily needs. In the past, Makian Island was known for producing cloves and nutmeg.

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One of the important practices in the Makian community is mayakalo – cooperative community work projects. Activities include clearing forest, preparing fields for farming, building homes, wedding celebrations and funerals. The concept of mayakalo is clearly displayed in the movements of the Cawa dance.

## Beliefs

The Makian generally adhere to Islam. The influence of Islam is strongly evident in Makian arts such as chanted recitation of prayer, the Salaijin dance, recitation of the Qu’ran and the debus performance involving a display of magic. The debus performance is connected with an ancient ancestral system of supernatural power, which includes stabbing oneself without suffering harm.

## Needs

The Makian people need to improve their skills in agricultural technology in order to produce greater crop yields. They also need better infrastructure to improve transportation of their goods to markets so their crops can sell for higher prices.

The Makian Barat are also short of preventative medicine and adequate medical treatment. Because of the cost and distance, trips to seek medical attention are usually made as a last resort and are often too late. <sup>(E-RD)</sup>