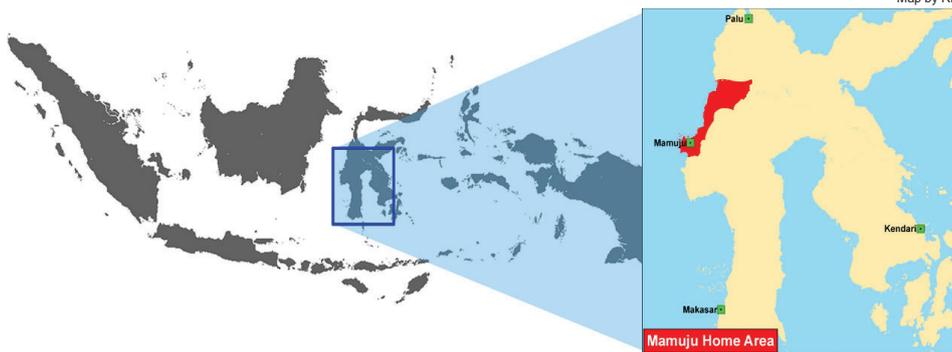


# MAMUJU



Demography	Mamuju Language	Status
Location: West Sulawesi Population: 61.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: Yes Online Media: No	Believers: <10 Engaged: Yes Indigenous church: 0

## Identity and Location

The Mamuju live in West Sulawesi, on the coast and on the mountain slopes of the Mamuju regency. The Mamuju are spread from the southern border of the regency to the mouth of the Budong-Budong River in the north. They speak the language of Mamuju, which has the four dialects.

The capital of the West Sulawesi regency is the city of Mamuju, a rapidly developing area that was previously quite isolated. Historically, the Mamuju are a part of the larger Mandar Alliance, which includes the Seven River Tribes (Pitu Ulunna Salu), the Seven Mountain Tribes (Pitu Ba'bana Binanga), and a few additional, uncategorized member-tribes.

## Society and Culture

The livelihood of the Mamuju is derived primarily from farming and fishing. They plant and harvest dried coconut and chocolate, and along the coastal areas they grow shrimp, seaweed, tobacco, corn, and cassava on a smaller scale. Some Mamuju farmers raise cattle, and their primary forest product is ebony wood. In the cities and towns, other Mamuju work as tradesman, teachers, health professionals, and public servants.

*They look to the local witch doctor to tell them the best time to do certain activities such as harvest rice or get married.*

The Mamuju live peacefully with their neighbors, respecting other people as they would their own family. They often work together, for example, to help build each others' houses, to prepare for community celebrations, or to dry coconut meat.

They treat visitors as honored guests, though serious conflict will arise if they feel dishonored or shamed. Many women and girls will wear gold earrings in order to show that they are not poor. Men and women do not

gather together in groups, but remain separate. Even when fishing, the men will sail out to fish while the women stay on the shore.

The Mamuju home is simple, consisting of wooden walls and a coconut leaf roof and typically standing on a raised platform two meters off the ground. Important meetings are typically held in the local mosque. The Mamuju have many distinctive rules and regulations. For serious offense, a person often has to give a cow to the offended party.

Mamuju people are free to choose whom they will marry. Women usually marry around 16-17 years old, while men usually marry around 18-20 years old. They often have big families, typically having 5-6 children.

## Beliefs

Almost all the Mamuju are Muslim. Almost every village and neighborhood has a mosque. However, an underlying animism is still evident in their lives, leading them to be afraid of spirits in nature, for example believing that a particular bird sound is the sound of a ghost or evil spirit.

All Mamuju leaders are men. They look to the local witch doctor to tell them the best time to do certain activities, such as when to harvest rice or when to get married. The Mamuju have religious leaders as well as government officials who are appointed by the local government. The religious leaders hold great sway with the people, while the government officials are effective only as far as the people believe them to be good leaders.

## Need

The Mamuju need information about health and nutrition. Many Mamuju children are malnourished, and child mortality is high..<sup>(E-RD)</sup>