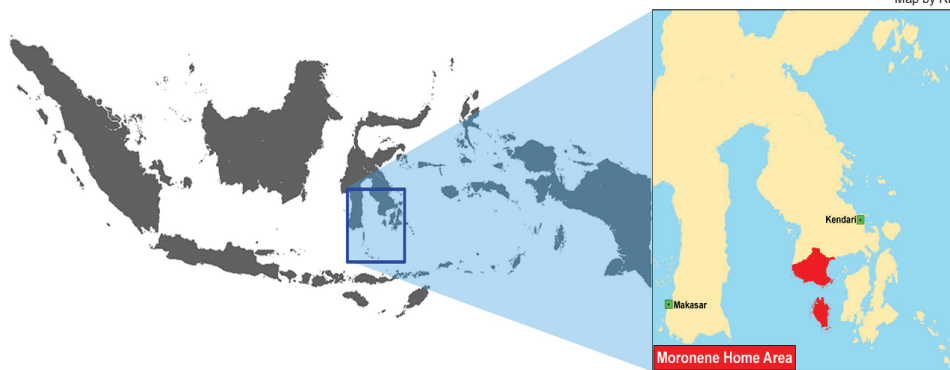


# MORONENE



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Demography	Moronene Language	Status
Location: Southeast Sulawesi	Bible: NT	Believers: <700
Population: 38.500	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous church: Some

## Identity and Location

The Moronene consider themselves the oldest tribe and the first to settle Southeast Sulawesi. Today they are mostly spread across the southern part of Southeast Sulawesi, including their oldest village (toba) which is HukaEa LaEa.

Some anthropologists believe that all the ethnic groups in Sulawesi are descended and derived from people who came from the Philippines, with some settlements likely established by 1720. The Moronene live in the districts of Kabaena, East Kabaena, Rumbia, East Poleang, Rarowatu and Watubangga in Bombana Regency and Watubangga in Kolaka Regency. In the five last districts mentioned, they live together with the Bugis.

The Moronene language is part of a larger linguistic grouping called the Eastern Bungku-Tolaki subfamily which also includes the Koroni, Bungku, Taloki, Mori, Kulisusu, Padoe, Wawonii i, Kodeoha, Rahambuu and Tolaki languages.

## Society and Culture

The Moronene area is known as the Negeri Dewi Padi (the land of the rice goddess). This name is based on a myth that depicts the Moronene area as a place possessing agricultural fertility that brings prosperity to those inhabitants who are creative and want to work hard. However, if the Moronene community (both on the mainland and on Kabaena Island) continues to depend on the generosity of nature and doesn't accept social change, they may find their socio-economic status in decline.

The Moronene community has always been known for highly valuing peace, patience, and simplicity. As a result, whenever they are engaged in conflict with another party they will always choose to concede and avoid conflict. These values are reflected in several aspects of the Moronene society, economy, and everyday culture: (1) they live very simply and are happy to live in small groups. (2) Their houses are mostly made from bamboo obtained near their gardens. (3) As a result, when they move in order to avoid conflict in their current location, it is not difficult for them to build new homes in a different location. (4) They generally like to decorate their festivals with bright colors. Though there is little data available, it appears that these values have allowed the Moronene to be pushed aside from generation to generation in politics, economy, social life, and culture. This is very unlike the other large groups in Southeast Sulawesi.

## Beliefs

Sunni Islam has been the dominant religion since the 1600's. However, animistic beliefs are still very apparent in their lives. They believe in the power of evil spirits and mountains. They will never wear red clothing when climbing a mountain, and they honor certain places of power. Mountains and caves are especially used for prayer.

## Needs

Better education and health facilities are the primary needs of the Moronene. They also need training in order to increase the productivity of their land. <sup>(RD)</sup>