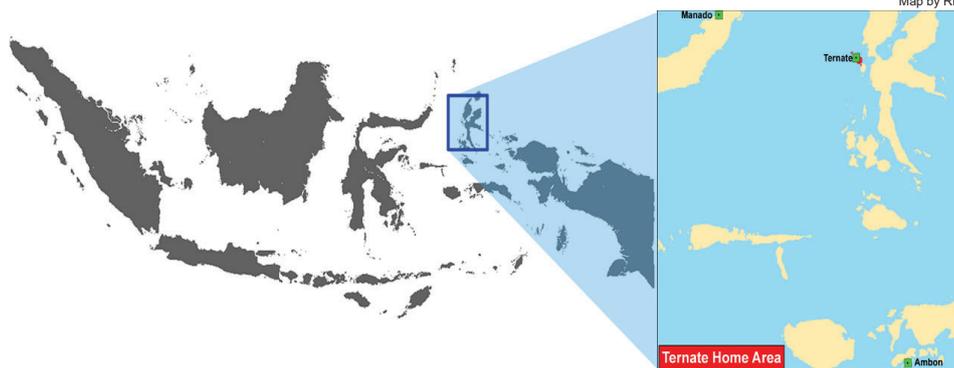


TERNATE



Demography	Ternate Language	Status
Location: North Maluku Population: 66.000 Major religion: Islam	Bible: No Jesus Film: No Online Media: No	Believers: <20 Engaged: Yes Indigenous church: 0

Identity and Location

The Ternate people live on the small island of Ternate, near the larger island of Halmahera in the province of North Maluku, between North Sulawesi and the western end of Papua. The area of Halmahera and the surrounding islands (including Ternate) covers approximately 6500 square miles.

The Maluku Islands, historically called the “Spice Islands”, consist of over one thousand islands scattered throughout eastern Indonesia. They include most of the islands between Sulawesi and Papua, and between Timor and the Philippines.

Fifty percent of the Ternate people live on the island of Ternate, while the other fifty percent have migrated elsewhere, but still identify themselves as Ternate.

Ternate people speak the Ternate language. Linguistic experts classify this as a West Papuan language, which is part of the North Halmahera language cluster, rather than a part of the Austronesian language cluster dominant in most of Indonesia.

Society and Culture

The livelihood of most Ternate people comes from farming and fishing. Besides growing rice, vegetables, legumes, cassava and sweet potato, they also cultivate cloves, nutmeg and coconut. Cloves, which were a special attraction for European colonial powers, have a long history in Ternate. Ternate sailors are famously reliable and tough.

Ternate villages are often built along the beach. Houses in rural areas are made from woven grass. In the urban areas houses have a variety of structures, some of which

imitate the house styles of immigrants from outside Halmahera.

Before the arrival of Islam, the Ternate community consisted of family groups, each led by a momole. After the coming of Islam, these leaders gathered into a confederation which was led by a kolano. Later, as Islam gained in influence, the group of kolano became a sultanate. In the kolano structure, genealogical and territorial structures had been unifying factors, while under the sultanate, Islam became the unifying factor. The Sultanate of Ternate still exists today, but only in symbolic form.

Beliefs

The majority of people in Ternate are Muslim. As followers of Islam they believe that they will be judged based on their knowledge of the Qur’an and their deeds in life. In the past, the Ternate sultanate, along with the Tidore sultanate, was a main disseminator of Islam throughout eastern Indonesia.

Needs

At this time the Ternate people need help in developing modern and efficient farming methods. They also need effective efforts to develop and process their abundant natural resources.

Three fields in special need of assistance for development are forestry, oceanic resource development and farming. The Ternate Sultan’s palace and the ancient Portuguese fortress are two of the many places of interest that have great potential for tourism.

