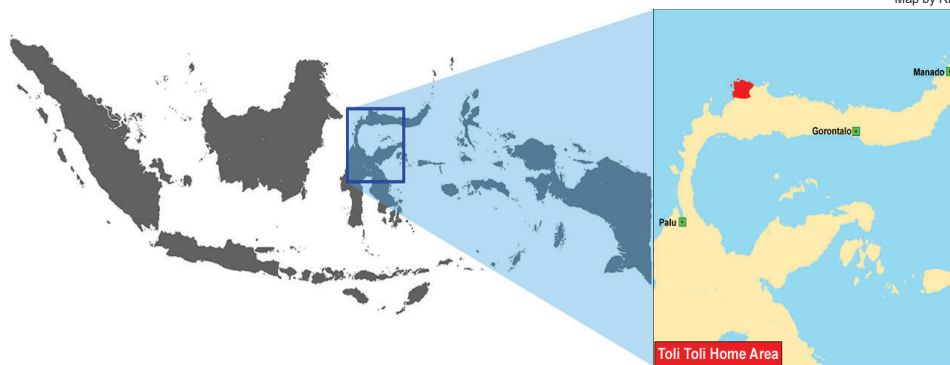


TOLI-TOLI



Demography	Toli-toli Language	Status
Location: Central Sulawesi	Bible: No	Believers: <10
Population: 23.000	Jesus Film: No	Engaged: Yes
Major religion: Islam	Online Media: No	Indigenous church: 0

Identity and Location

The Toli-Toli are also known as Tontoli, Totoli, or Gage. They live in the districts of North Toli-Toli, Galang, Baolan and Dondo in Central Sulawesi Province. The Toli-Toli area has steep rolling hills along its coast.

The Toli-Toli live close to the Gorontalo, Buol, and West Toraja peoples. The Toli-Toli are considered part of the larger Tomini language cluster. Formerly, it was thought that all of the Tomini languages could be mutually understood. However, recent research shows that each of the groups within this larger language group have their own distinct language.

The Toli-Toli language is closely related to the Boano language, which is related to Tomini group of languages (Dampelas, Dondo, Lauje, Tomini, Balaesang, Pendau, Taje and Tajio). There may be so many Toli-Toli languages because historically this area was governed by many independent small kingdoms which didn't associate with one another until Islam came into the area in the 1500s.

The history of the Toli-Toli is divided into 5 eras: The Traditional era; Islamic entry era; Dutch Colonial era; Japanese colonial era; and the Independent era.

Society and Culture

Toli-Toli villages are usually small, comprised of houses on stilts. Toli-Toli living on the coast are often fishermen, while those in the hills typically cultivate rice in unirrigated fields, as well as corn and sago.

The community had four social classes: royalty, nobility, common people and slaves.

Marriage customs are a combination of Islamic teaching and local traditions. A matchmaker determines the bride price based on her social status. Marriages between first cousins are not unusual. After children are married they live with one or the other of the parents until they have their own children. Polygamy is not illegal, but it is rare.

Long ago, the Toli-Toli were governed by a sultan. Each clan was led by a head man who was chosen along ancestral lines. Because of that, four social classes developed among the people: royalty, nobility, common people and slaves.

In the Toli-Toli area, the development of transportation facilities by land, air and sea tends to be slow. Adequate transportation facilities are much needed to support smooth distribution of their abundant crops.

Beliefs

Most Toli-Toli people are Sunni Muslims, however many do not strictly follow the teachings of Islam. In the more isolated locations, many of the Toli-Toli still hold to their local ancient animistic religion, believing that inanimate objects are indwelt by spirits. Many Toli-Toli mix worship of nature and their ancestors with Islam.

Needs

Better education- both formal and vocational is needed in order to help the Toli-Toli have better employment potential. Infrastructure to help them in marketing and trade is also needed to help stimulate their economy and help them compete both nationally and internationally.^(E-RD)