

The Ik

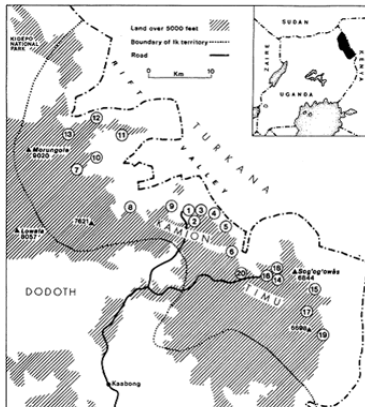


LOCATION: Northeast Uganda in the high hills between Uganda and Kenya and subsequently wedged between more aggressive tribes, the Karamojong and Turkana, who often beat and plunder the Ik. The Ik were displaced from their homeland to create the Kidepo Valley National Park.

POPULATION: 5,000 - 10,000

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS: portions

CHARACTERISTICS: The Ik are known as a peace-loving group. They are pastoralist, hunters and do subsistence farming. While they live in Karamoja, they are not Karamojong. They struggle to survive among droughts and floods, experiencing intermittent famine. They struggle against isolation, marginalization and to enter Ugandan national life with their culture and their voice. To drown their misery, many drink maize beer and spend the little money they have on cheap gin. This has a devastating effect on their society, especially families, where often children aren't cared for properly.



The territory of the Ik. Villages: 1 Kamion A, 2 Lomoli, 3 Moruatop, 4 Nawadou, 5 Narukeng, 6 Louana, 7 Lokwarumot, 8 Kokosotono, 9 Kubou, 10 Napitiro, 11 Loni, 12 Loni, 13 Pirre (sunshades), 14 Naruore, 15 Lokite, 16 Gakladou, 17 Singila, 18 Ti'adi-an, 19 Kalkoba, 20 Lota (Nania).

Map: Bernd Heinde, "The Mountain People: Some Notes on the Ik of North-Eastern Uganda" *Africa: Journal of the International African Institute* Vol. 55, No. 1 (1985), pp. 3-16 (14 pages). Cambridge University Press

BELIEFS AND SPIRITUALITY:

An Ik legend tells how God created herders by letting cattle down to them from heaven by a rope and giving them spears. To the Ik, God gave only the digging stick, with an order to never kill. The most important annual event is the "blessing of the seed" ceremony which starts the agricultural year. Another ceremony is held to mark the opening of the harvest.

Many of the IK have heard the name of Jesus but they don't understand what Jesus has done for them and the implication for their lives. Only Mark, Ruth and parts of Genesis have been translated into their language. Some "Bible stories" also exist in their language. Several Christian groups are resent among the Ik and have built church structures, but there are no indigenous pastors.



Ik villagers at a recent medical mission



Hearing the Gospel at a recent crusade

MINISTRY DESCRIPTION & PLATFORM

You will work with a local Ugandan mission agency called Frontier Mission Team staying at their facility in Lotim. Ministry work begins with prayer walking while learning language and culture. You are looking for open doors, persons of peace and bridges for the Gospel in this people group. Opportunities for compassion ministry will enhance your engagement with the people. All this work will be done as you build interpersonal relationships among the Ik. As relationships are established, discipleship (using Discovery Bible Study methods) can begin even before they have come to follow Christ. Since this is a very communal society, you will encourage them to share their questions and what they are learning with family and close friends. You will look for platforms and opportunities for other field partners to join you in reaching the Ik people. You will look for resources, networks and opportunities for partnerships with other organizations and individuals as you develop strategies for multiplying movements among the Ik.

Available Platform: Internship with Frontier Mission Team



If you are a follower of Christ, have a heart for those who have not yet been reached, are ready and willing to relocate and learn a second language, are excited to build a team in the field with people from other cultures and if you are ready to respond to God's call to go, we are ready to send you.

Email Jenny at mobilization@global-teams.org or visit <https://www.global-teams.org/letsgo>