

# Silt'e of Ethiopia



Picture Credit: Joshua Project

## About the Silt'e

The Silt'e are a part of the Gurage ethnic group, which was made up of three distinct subgroups, Northern, Eastern and Western. The Silt'e were the largest grouping within the Eastern subgroup.

After the fall of the Derg regime in 1991, a political movement formed to establish an independent ethnic identity for the Silt'e, as they now call themselves. Ten years later, the Silt'e were successful in obtaining an administrative independence from the Gurage Zone in the creation of the Silt'e Zone.

## Where Are They Located?

The Silt'e people are an ethnic group in southern Ethiopia. They inhabit today's Silt'e Zone which is part of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region. A considerable number of Silt'e live in Addis Ababa, Adama and other cities and smaller urban centres of southern Ethiopia where they make a living as merchants or keepers of petty shops. In the countryside the Silt'e practice mixed farming and cultivate ensete.

**Population:** 1,732,000

**Language:** Silt'e

**Largest Religion:** Islam

**% Christian:** 2.00%

**% Evangelical:** 0.09%

**Bible Available:** Bible Portions Complete, No Complete Bible

**Ministry Resources:** Jesus Film, Audio Bible teaching, Story of Jesus audio

### **What Are Their Beliefs?**

The great majority of the Silt'e population is Muslim. One can expect spiritual opposition when Jesus is presented to a people who regard Christ as foreign and threatening.

### **What Are Their Needs?**

There is a need for addressing poverty, human development, rural development, food security, capacity building, greater commercialization of agriculture, enhancement of private sector development, and industrial development.

There are wonderful opportunities to show the love of Christ to the people of Silt'e, especially in areas of health and education.

There are many local resources that the church can use or give one-time support for the Indigenous people who can be an insider leader so that they can support him/herself in tent-making ministry. There are many opportunities to work with the youth of Silt'e because they gather together often. The only recreation for them is to gather together and play. Ministries such as gathering to play football with friends, assisting with water aid, and the like can be helpful. There are opportunities to help the local people with sustainability and independence.

### **Prayer Points**

- For the Bible to be complete in their language.
- For their daily needs to be met, for poverty to be alleviated, for food security, and for the flourishing of their communities.
- For God to continue to raise up indigenous leaders and church planters to reach the Silt'e people.
- For God to soften the hearts of the Silt'e towards him.

**Information from The Joshua Project at [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net)**



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