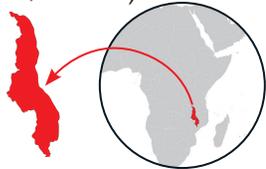


# Yawo

## Unreached & Unengaged People Group living in Malawi

### Malawi

The Yawo (pronounced Yow) live in Malawi, a landlocked African country bordered by Zambia, Mozambique, and Tanzania. It has an area of 45,747 square miles (118,500 km<sup>2</sup>).



The major topographic feature is Lake Malawi, a freshwater lake that is home to hundreds of fish species found nowhere else in the world.

### Family Life

Yawo are a matrilineal society: a group of sisters and their families live with an elder brother or uncle and consider him their leader. Husbands live in their wife's village, and are often considered strangers in the village for many years. Men have multiple wives. Divorce among the Yawo is common.

### Population



**Malawi** 1.7 million  
**Mozambique** >450,000  
**Tanzania** >500,000  
**World** >2.7 million

### A Name Change

Originally called Yao (Yow), their name was changed to Yawo so they would not be confused with the Yao of south Asia.

### Religion



Many Yawo practice Islam, influenced by animism, witchcraft and ancestral African cults. In recent years there has been a move toward Islamic orthodoxy, yet there is also an openness to the message of Jesus.

### Language



School is taught in ciChewa, so many Yawo are unable to read in their own language.

### Livelihood

Yawo are generally subsistence farmers and in recent years, fishermen. There has been a significant migration into urban areas as Yawo seek temporary employment opportunities.

### Engaging with God

The Yawo people have been engaged through signs and wonders, raising local leaders to start discipleship groups and access programs such as sustainable farming.

Sources: [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net) and [everyculture.com](http://everyculture.com)

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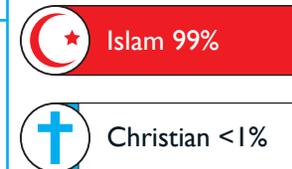


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