

WANETSI OF PAKISTAN

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QUICK FACTS

People Name: Wanetsi

Primary Language: Waneci

Trade Language: Urdu

Primary Religion: Islam 100%

Population: 124,000

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for more information to be gathered about these people in Pakistan so that the worldwide Church can pray and send more effectively.

Ask God to open up doors of opportunity for believers to share their faith with the Wanetsi.

Ask God to prepare the Wanetsi to understand the Gospel.

WAY TO HELP

There is a need for training in basic healthcare among many of the peoples in Northern India. Those who could train others in community health or field dentistry could be very helpful.

CONTACT

FRONTIERS

(800) 462-8436
www.frontiers.org

ABOUT THE PEOPLE

The Wanetsi people are a group of Muslims in Pakistan who speak Waneci and number over 120,000 people. Waneci is a version of the Pashto language and is spoken only in Pakistan. The speakers live in the northeastern Baluchistan province of the country. Pashto belongs to the southeastern subdivision of the Iranian languages, which, together with the closely related Indo-Aryan languages, constitute the Indo-Iranian subgroup of the Indo-European language family.

Pashto is subdivided into two major dialect groups: Pashto Proper and Waneci. Pashto Proper is further subdivided into four subgroups: 1) Southwestern Pashto, spoken in southwestern Afghanistan, where the most prominent dialect is the dialect of Kandahar; 2) Northwestern Pashto, spoken in eastern and northeastern Afghanistan; 3) Southeastern Pashto, spoken in the Baluchistan province of Pakistan; and 4) Northeastern Pashto, spoken in Northwestern Pakistan.

Pashto and the Dari variety of Persian became the official languages of Afghanistan in 1936. Pashto is the first language of up to 50 percent of the inhabitants of Afghanistan, but only spoken by 10 percent as a second language. Dari has a much higher proportion of second language speakers due to the fact that it is the common language of multi-ethnic Afghanistan.

Very little information is known about the Wanetsi of Pakistan. Since no Gospel material is available to them, they must currently hear about Jesus through Pashto or even Urdu, languages which are more foreign to them.

