



## Cameroon

# The Pol

### Daily Life

The Pol are subsistence farmers, usually with their farms in the jungle, a few hours' walk from their homes. They spend each day toiling in order to eat, collect clean water and have food for their children.

They are an oral society in which each village has a chief who is responsible to maintain order and uphold cultural traditions.

### Where Do They Live?

The approximately 38,000 Pol live in the East Region of Cameroon. Pol is spoken in twelve villages which are situated off the main road on the edges of a lush jungle.

**World Team**

[us.worldteam.org](http://us.worldteam.org)

[mobilize.us@worldteam.org](mailto:mobilize.us@worldteam.org)

800.967.7109

### Who Are the Pol?

The Pol live tucked away in the jungles of eastern Cameroon. If you were to visit a Pol village, you would find children playing on dirt roads, women and children hauling water from nearby springs and men leaving to set traps in the rainforest. You would see hens hiding their chicks under their wings and dogs wandering aimlessly throughout the village. You would look around to see houses made either out of mud-brick or planks of wood. You would see women with mortars and pestles crushing local greens for their families for dinner. You would surely notice that the Pol are not a rich people.

### Spiritual Climate

Not only are the Pol poor in a material sense, but they also have great spiritual needs. The Pol are an animistic people who cling tightly to their traditions which are usually tied to witchcraft.

Church denominations in Cameroon send French-speaking pastors and priests to work among the Pol, but no one is reaching out to them in their own language, and their understanding of French is minimal.

In addition, village churches in East Cameroon often preach Prosperity Theology—that God is a spirit to be manipulated for the purpose of material gain. This teaching aligns with native traditions in local villages. Just as the people perform certain rites to manipulate their deceased ancestors into receiving health and wealth, so they see God as a supernatural power to be won for the purpose of self-gain.

The God of the Bible is not being worshipped among the Pol.

# Bible Translation and Literacy

## World Team Among the Pol

A believer named *Ange* grew up in a mixed family of Kwakum and Pol speakers and has been praying for the Lord to work among the Pol. *Ange* is willing to help World Team workers talk to village chiefs and enter into the community. His cooperation, coupled with the religious freedom in Cameroon, provides a wide-open door for ministry among the Pol.

Because the Pol are without the Bible in their language, CABTAL, a national Bible translation organization, has begun developing their language and translating oral Bible stories. World Team would like to place linguistically minded church planters alongside the Pol translation team to encourage them and teach the Scriptures as they are translated.

Since the Pol villages are remote, World Team is praying for committed, long-term workers who are willing to live in not-so-western conditions to come bring the gospel to the Pol.

## Ministry Overview

People	The Pol
Language	Pol
Location	Cameroon, Africa
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Church planting: Make disciples and teach them to obey all that Christ has commanded</li><li>• Literacy: Teach the people how to read and write Pol</li><li>• Oral Bible Storying: Spread the truth of God's Word even before the writing system is developed</li></ul>

*Psalm 67:3 says, "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!"*

*World Team's prayer is that the Pol people would praise and worship Jesus Christ for all eternity. In order for that to become a reality, committed workers need to go teach the Pol who Jesus is.*

*Seriously consider joining the chorus of missionaries all around the world who are calling the lost to know, praise and worship Jesus Christ.*



**Join the Team!**

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**[Mobilize.US@WorldTeam.org](mailto:Mobilize.US@WorldTeam.org)**