

Opportunities to serve

# REACHING THE UNREACHED DIDINGA



WHO ARE AFRICA INLAND MISSION?

## WHO ARE THE DIDINGA?

The Didinga people are one of the larger unreached people groups in Eastern Equatoria State (EES), South Sudan. They are two distinct groups, those living in the lowlands to the west of the Didinga Mountains and those living in the mountains. The total population is estimated between 60,000 of which approximately half live in the mountain regions. Access to the people living in the lower regions is easy, whereas access to those living in the mountains is difficult. The Didinga Mountains at 1,900m cover approximately 30,000 square kilometres, with many communities located in valleys, slopes and plateaus across the hills. There are no roads, poor public radio coverage and very limited cell phone network.

The herding of cattle is very important to the Didinga, and at 2000m elevation, the area has sufficient rainfall to grow two crops per year. The Didinga also enjoy making music and various crafts. They live in homesteads with their clan, in round houses with cone-shaped roofs.

## WHAT'S THE VISION?

*Our vision is to see maturing churches planted on the mountains, planted in partnership with the church in South Sudan. We long to encourage and equip the Africa Inland Church in South Sudan to begin reaching its own people.*

Africa Inland Mission are an evangelical, interdenominational organisation with the vision of, 'Christ-centred churches among all African peoples.' We exist to help churches in Europe send mission partners to Africa, to partner with the African Church in reaching Africa's unreached peoples with the Good News of Jesus Christ.



WHAT IS TIMO?

TIMO (Training in Ministry Outreach) is AIM's two-year training programme with a team approach to learning. It's main focus is to reach the unreached with the good news of Jesus Christ and plant churches that plant churches...





## WHAT CAN I DO?

### LONG TERM

We are planning to place a team from the global church to live among the Didinga in Nagishot and the surrounding mountains for two years. Team members will go to serve as learners, passionate about the application of the Bible in their own lives and for sharing the gospel with the Didinga through word and deed. If you are interested in joining this team or another team among an unreached people group, please contact us at [mobcoord.eu@aimint.org](mailto:mobcoord.eu@aimint.org) or **0115 983 8130**



### SHORT TERM

There will also be a number of short term opportunities to help set up for the team and work alongside them for a shorter amount of time. More details will be available soon. If you are interested in serving short term amongst the Didinga or elsewhere in Africa, please contact us at [mobcoord.eu@aimint.org](mailto:mobcoord.eu@aimint.org) or **0115 983 8128**



### BUT I DON'T FEEL CALLED TO GO...

*"And how can anyone preach unless they are sent?"* Paul in Romans 10:15 reminds us that senders play just an important role as goers. We are always thankful for the many people who don't go, but faithfully help send others. One vital way that all believers can be involved in overseas mission, is to pray. Visit [eu.aimint.org/pray/didinga](http://eu.aimint.org/pray/didinga) for a prayer sheet on the Didinga, or visit [www.aimint.org/eu/pray](http://www.aimint.org/eu/pray) for more prayer resources from AIM.

If you like to have a chat or to meet up with a mission advisor, please contact us:

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## CHURCH PLANTING

## AMONG THE DIDINGA

### STILL WAITING FOR THE GOSPEL

The Didinga's neighbours are the Laarim in the north, the Toposa in the east and to a lesser extent, the Ik in the south and Dongatona in the west. The Didinga, Laarim and Murle originated from the same people in southern Ethiopia 200 years ago and still share a common language. In 1949 AIM began ministry in South Sudan and through the Africa Inland Church - South Sudan gradually extended its influence further east. Today there are Christ-centred churches in Chukudum, a town near to the Didinga mountains. As a result, the people of the lowland regions are reasonably engaged, but those living in the mountains have not been reached by the lowland churches. Most have never heard of the gospel, and they are surrounded on all sides by similarly unreached groups.

### DEVELOPING THE CHURCH

The plan to reach the Didinga with the gospel consists of two strategies. Firstly, we will continue to partner with Evangelical Free Church of Sudan to evangelise, train and equip the local church to reach the greater Nagishot region with the gospel. Secondly, we will initiate a new ministry east of Nagishot, partnering with Africa Inland Church - South Sudan to plant churches on the eastern regions of the Didinga mountain plateau. We hope that through these different works that many on the Didinga mountains will come to know and love the Lord, and be able to worship in Christ-centred churches supported by the wider church network in South Sudan.

### SHARING THE NEWS OF SALVATION

As the team live and work among the Didinga, they will show them God's love both in word and deed. There are many ways that the team can reach out to the community, and the Didinga are specifically looking for ways in which their young people can receive a better education. By 2017 it is hoped that there will be gospels available in the Didinga's language. Our prayer is that the team and the local church can work with members of the Didinga community to improve literacy skills, so that when the Bible arrives the Didinga can read the story of their salvation for themselves.