

The Khmer Krom of Vietnam

“Have you and Heng chosen an official Vietnamese name for your son?” Sovann asked his sister Sokphy. “Yes. We decided on ‘Vinh Bao’ as his name is ‘Vibol’, answered Sokphy. “Since my father-in-law is from Soc Trang, his family had long adopted the Vietnamese family surname ‘Thach’ for their official documents.” The **Khmer Krom** woman shook her head. “My little boy is going to get confused as to why he is called Heng Vibol at home and Thach Vinh Bao at school!”

Khmer Krom or “Lower Khmer” is the name given by Cambodia to about 1.28 million Khmer living in southern Vietnam. This is a region in the Mekong Delta that was colonised by Vietnam during the 17th century and later by the French colonialists before being finally officially incorporated as part of Vietnam by the French in 1949. Many **Khmer Krom** people had tried to migrate back to Cambodia but often found themselves treated as illegal immigrants by the Cambodian authorities and as outsiders by Cambodia’s Khmer majority despite their common ethnic origin. As a result, many remain in Vietnam where they continue to endure subtle pressure to assimilate into the Vietnamese society.

The **Khmer Krom**’s homeland is dotted with over 560 Buddhist temples, indicating their strong adherence to Theravada Buddhism. Only around 3.0% are Christian.

- Pray that the **Khmer Krom** may be set free from all forms of oppression and receive a new, abundant life in Jesus Christ.
- Pray for open doors for the Gospel to be proclaimed to the **Khmer Krom**, particularly to the remote villages.
- Pray for local Vietnamese believers to have God’s heart and burden for the **Khmer Krom**. Pray for sensitivity and wisdom in their outreach to the **Khmer Kro**.

This is a series of useful prayer profile compilations to pray for people groups collated from various online sources. Please click on the links below for more info:

<https://joshuaproject.net/>, <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>,
<http://asiaharvest.org/people-group-profiles/>