

MAKHUWA

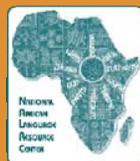
LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Makhuwa is a Bantu language in the Niger-Congo language family. It is also sometimes referred to as Emakua, and Makoane. Makhuwa has many different dialects including Emwaja, Enaharra (Maharra, Nahara, Emathipane), Enyara, Central Makua (Makhuwana, Makuana, Emakhuwana), Rati Empamela (Nampamela), Enlai, Saka, Shirima, Marrevone, Makhuwan (Emakhuwana), Meetto, and Moniga. Makhuwa uses Latin alphabet. Oral literature and proverbs are important ways that the Makhuwa identify and pass on knowledge.

The Makhuwa people have a very rich culture. They are known for their skill in making Capulanas, artful pieces of cloth that serve as common female attire all over Mozambique. Woodcarving is their most pertinent art form among Makhuwa. Women also make clay pots for cooking and men traditionally weave straw mats. For leisure, the Makhuwa play a game similar to mancala with pebbles and small impressions in ground. They are also known for decorative facepainting that serves aesthetic purposes as well as protection from heat. The white cream used is called Musiro and is made from a tree bark. Cassava is the staple food of Makhuwa. Additionally, Makhuwa embrace a matrilineal society.

STUDYING MAKHUWA IN THE UNITED STATES

Please contact the National African Language Resource Center, or check the NALRC website at <http://www.nalrc.indiana.edu/>



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MAKHUWA WOMAN

NATIONAL AFRICAN LANGUAGE
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WHO SPEAKS MAKHUWA

The Makuwa speaking people are thought to have originated in northern Mozambique as early as year 800 A.D. They were first under control of Arabs who came to Mozambique to trade slaves and ivory. The Portuguese arrived in 1498 and ruled over Mozambique as a colonial power until 1975. Makuwa were heavily influenced by the Portuguese, especially in adapting Portuguese language and Christianity. Makuwa are traditionally the farmers. Their staple crops are coconuts, cashews, rice, cotton, cassava, tea and corn. Even in the most contemporary times, many people dwelling in urban areas still keep a rural plot of land to grow their food. The Traditional Makuwa housing consisted of huts made of mud bricks and thatch roofs. Traditionally, there was no central authority over the Makuwa before the Portuguese. They organized themselves in small village polities ruled by chiefs.



Makua dancers from Tanzania

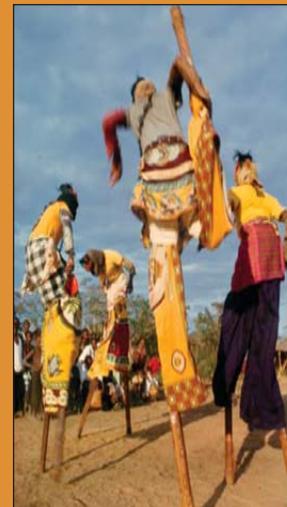
WHY STUDY MAKHUWA

Makuwa is the largest indigenous language in Mozambique. It is spoken by over four million people, the majority of which are located north of the Zambezi River in Mozambique, particularly in the province of Nampula. There is also a small Makuwa speaking population in Madagascar.

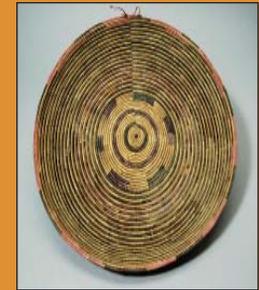
In Mozambique, there are several radio and television programs conducted in Makuwa. Makuwa is taught in primary schools and there are many literary publications that have been published in Makuwa. Students interested in international development, HIV/AIDS education and prevention government work, sociology, non-governmental organization (NGO), anthropology, linguistics, African art, or African history among other disciplines may be interested in studying Makuwa.



Makua traditional drummer



Makua men stilt dance



Makuwa Crafts



Makuwa Jewellery



Mancala Game