

## H People of Central Asia

### The People Group

The third largest of over 50 people groups in Central Asia are the H people, numbering over 13 million people. They live across the region in rural areas working as farmers and merchants as well as in towns where they work in shops, restaurants and factories. Most H people are direct descendants of Persian and Arab traders who intermarried with locals and converted them to Islam. The H people predominantly identify themselves as Sunni Muslim and their mosques are the centre of their community life. With the influence of Eastern religions there are many expressions of Islam across the region although the more devout followers are found in rural areas.

Only about 500 H people are known to be following Jesus. While the number of believers is growing in many parts of the region very few have the opportunity to hear the Gospel. There are still cultural and geographical challenges impacting the sharing of the Gospel and growth of a sustainable faith community.

### Prayer Needs

- More members to join the team
- Deeper insight into the culture and strong, trusting relationships to form with the H people so there are natural opportunities to share the Gospel
- More opportunities, like the previous sheep project, to create new connections within rural H communities
- Praise God for the 3500 people who receive Hotline and Pray Daily. May God bless them as they cover this ministry in prayer for protection from persecution

### Global Interaction team among the H People

Our cross-cultural team has formed significant friendships within the H community through teaching in the university and being involved in a rural development project. These relationships are deepened as they share hospitality, providing safe environments to discuss issues of faith, hope and love. The team continues to explore avenues for cultural exchange and using professional expertise to open further opportunities to connect with the local H people.

### Pray for the team members (secure names used)

Kevin

Pete and Nomes (candidates)