



Sam Doruz

Location: Although various sources suggest a large population of more than a quarter of a million Tedim Chin people live in Myanmar, this number includes 16 tribes or language groups that have been profiled separately in *Operation Myanmar*.² The combined population of those 16 tribes is 216,000, therefore the remaining people counted under this generic Tedim Chin classification is 43,700. They inhabit four townships: Tedim and Tonzang in northern Chin State, and Kale and Mawlaik across the border in Sagaing Region. More than 155,000 Tedim people are said to live in northeast India, but a similar situation exists there, with the Indian government recognizing several different Tedim-related tribes, including the Sokte, Zomi, Vaiphei, and Paite. Thousands of Tedim people are also found among the Chin diaspora now residing in as many as 37 countries, with most living in Malaysia, the United States, Australia, and Thailand.³

Identity: It is difficult to classify

Tedim Chin people in Myanmar because Tedim is a geographic location rather than a specific ethnic group, resulting in many distinct tribes in the area often being placed under the label of Tedim Chin. The complex structure of the Tedim Chin classification is seen in the fact that Tedim contains a staggering 237 different clans.⁴ Although most are just family units, some have evolved into distinct people groups speaking their own language or dialect.

Language: Tedim is part of the Northern Chin branch of the Tibeto-Burman family, related to languages like Paite and Thado. Almost all Tedim people can also speak the national language, Burmese. The Tedim language was reduced to writing about a century ago, and they also have their own alphabet, which is used for liturgical purposes by members of the Paucinhau cult.⁵

History: The Tedim area was established around 1600 by a Guite prince named Gui Mang II. The name Tedim (meaning “twinkling” or “shiny”) was derived

from a pool in the hills that twinkled in the sunlight. Tedim remained a nondescript village until 1924, when the British chose it to serve as their administrative base in northern Chin State.

Customs: In the past, the Tedim Chin mummified their deceased chiefs by charring the corpses and placing them on a platform near the village entrance, in a type of spiritual sacrifice to ensure a bountiful harvest.⁶ The British found the Tedim to be fierce people who owned slaves and regularly raided other communities, but over time a mutual trust was formed and the colonial government used the Tedim to govern the region.

Religion: Despite the Burmese government’s efforts to convert the Tedim and other Chin groups to Buddhism, “Buddhist monks, unlike Christian missionaries, did not easily win followers. For example, the worship of Buddha figures reminded the Chin people of their offerings to spirits, and the Burmese did not translate the teachings of Buddha into the Chin language.”⁷ Today, approximately 85 percent of the Tedim Chin are Christians, although the influence of the syncretic Paucinhau cult, which blends traditional Animism and Christianity, has clouded the faith of many Tedim people since the Gospel was first proclaimed among them in 1899.⁸

Christianity: American Baptist missionary Arthur Carson was the first preacher among the Tedim Chin at the end of the 19th century. Carson died in 1908 and was replaced by Herbert Cope, who served in Tedim for 30 years. Cope translated and published the Tedim Chin New Testament in 1935, and by the time he died in 1938, the Tedim church consisted of 4,000 baptized members.⁹ Many powerful testimonies of revival occurred in the Tedim area from the 1970s to the 1990s, sweeping thousands of people into the Kingdom of God.¹⁰ Today, hundreds of vibrant Tedim Chin churches exist in Myanmar and wherever they have migrated around the world.¹¹



Population in Myanmar:
43,700 (2025)

Location:
Chin State,
Sagaing Region

Language Family:
Tibeto-Burman

Main Religion:
Christianity (85.0%)

Christians:
37,150 (85.0%)

OVERVIEW

Population:
43,700 in Myanmar
(2025 Asia Harvest)
36,373 (1931 census)¹

Other Countries:
155,000 in India
Also in Malaysia, USA, Australia,
Thailand, Canada, Norway,
Denmark, Singapore

Other Names:
Chin Tedim, Hai-Dim, Kamhau,
Sokte, Teddim, Tidim, Zo Pau,
Zome, Zomi

Location:
Chin State: Tedim and Tonzang
townships in Tedim District;
Sagaing Region: Kale Township
in Kale District and Mawlaik
Township in Mawlaik District

Language: Chin, Tedim [ctd]

Dialects: 2

Scripture:
Bible 1977
New Testament 1935
Portions 1915

Jesus film: Chin, Tedim

Global Recordings:
Chin, Tedim #148

People ID: 15472

