

Questionnaire (put reference #:page # after each entry)

1. Description

- 1.1 Name(s) of society, language, and language family: Sidamo, Sidaama, Sidaamu Afoo, Sidamina, Sidámo 'Afó
- 1.2 ISO code (3 letter code from ethnologue.com): SID
- 1.3 Location (latitude/longitude): N 5°45', E38° (5)
- 1.4 Brief history: For a very long time, the Sidamo people enjoyed a democratic-type rule, with the authority coming from a council of elders in the village. They have a number of different subdivisions, called clans, each of which claim their heritage from one of the founding fathers. They are a mostly peaceful people, in their culture it is strictly forbidden to kill another Sidamo person. Recently however, they have come under the rule of the Abyssinians, and now the Ethiopian government, which they have been trying to break free from. (5) (10)
- 1.5 Influence of missionaries/schools/governments/powerful neighbors: Christian missionaries have frequented this area. Some have converted to Christianity, but most stand by their traditional religion. A small amount of syncretism has also occurred. When missionaries first translated Biblical messages into the Sidamo language, they translated God as "Magano" (which is the title of their god) and they translated Satan to the same word that they use for their own evil spirits. This caused a fair amount of confusion, because they were already honoring Magano and already trying to avoid the evil spirits. The Sidamo people have, in the past, been at war with their neighbors to the north and to the east, the Jamjam and the Arsi. (8)
- 1.6 Ecology (natural environment): They live in an area with variable elevations, each of which have their own temperatures and climates. There is a warm/temperate zone, a hot zone, and a cool zone. (5)
- 1.7 Population size, mean village size, home range size, density: Between 15 and 30 nuclear families (consisting of a man, his wife, and any unmarried children. 240 people per square mile (1) (2)

2. Economy

- 2.1 Main carbohydrate staple(s): ensete and maize (1)
- 2.2 Main protein-lipid sources: Milk and butter from cows (cows themselves are rarely eaten, however) (10)
- 2.3 Weapons: Bow and arrow, blowguns?: Spears and shields (10)
- 2.4 Food storage: Food (particularly ensete) is stored in a pit which is 6 feet deep and 4 feet by 4 feet (10)
- 2.5 Sexual division of production: Males typically do the planting of the crops and tend the herds. Females do the harvesting and housework. (1)
- 2.6 Land tenure: Land is passed down to the sons of the man who owns the land (1)
- 2.7 Ceramics: Traditionally none
- 2.8 Specified (prescribed or proscribed) sharing patterns: most meals are prepared and shared with close agnates (2)
- 2.9 Food taboos: Pigs, wild goats (1)
- 2.10 Canoes/watercraft?

3. Anthropometry

- 3.1 Mean adult height (m and f):
- 3.2 Mean adult weight (m and f):

4. Life History, mating, marriage

- 4.1 Age at menarche (f):
- 4.2 Age at first birth (m and f): Shortly after marriage, if both parties are fertile (10)
- 4.3 Completed family size (m and f): The average family size is 4.43 people: a mother and father, then two children. (10)
- 4.4 Inter-birth-interval (f):
- 4.5 Age first marriage (m and f): Males can be married as young as 17 or 18, females can be 14 or 15 (10)
- 4.6 Proportion of marriages ending in divorce: Divorce is common before the first child is born, but after the first child is born, divorce is highly uncommon (3)
- 4.7 Percent marriages polygynous, percent males married polygynously: 13% of males had more than one wife in this study. Polygyny is typically something only wealthy men can accomplish (1) (10)
- 4.8 Bride purchase (price), bride service, dowry?: Dowry is common (2)
- 4.9 Inheritance patterns: Males give their sons cattle and land at the time of their marriage, the eldest typically gets the largest share. (1)
- 4.10 Parent-offspring interactions and conflict: there can be tension between male siblings, as they can (and do) get different sized inheritances. Parents are usually called upon when it is time to wean children off of breast-milk. (1) (9)
- 4.11 Homosexual activities, social attitudes towards homosexuals:
- 4.12 Pattern of exogamy (endogamy): exogamy (3)
- 4.13 What is the belief of the role of males in conception; is paternity partible? Are these "other fathers" recognized?
- 4.14 What is the belief of the mother's role in procreation exactly? (e.g., "receptacle in which fetus grows")
- 4.15 Is conception believed to be an incremental process (i.e., semen builds up over time)?
- 4.16 Occurrence of sexual coercion, rape: It does happen, but when it does, the rapist typically must give some sort of offering to the victim, and then the rapist is shunned (10)
- 4.17 Preferential category for spouse (e.g., cross cousin)
- 4.18 Do females enjoy sexual freedoms? Virginity is highly regarded for girls. If a girl is found to not be a virgin at the time of her first marriage, the dowry might not be paid. (5)

- 4.19 Evidence of giving gifts to extramarital partners or extramarital offspring: As the Sidamo practice polygyny, a married man can (and does) court eligible women. This usually entails offering a dowry to her family and negotiating the marriage. (10)
- 4.20 If mother dies, whose raises children? In the case of a mother's death or divorce after bearing children, the children remain with the father. They are either given to a co-wife (in the case of polygyny), the father's brother's wife, or the father's mother to be raised. (10)
- 4.21 Adult sex ratio: number of adult males divided by number of (reproductive) females: 1.01:1 (male to female) (5)
- 4.22 Evidence for couvades
- 4.23 Different distinctions for potential fathers (e.g., lesser/younger vs. major/older)
- 4.24 Kin avoidance and respect? Younger people never call older people by their names. They will address them as "Mother of..." Or "Father of..." if they don't know the name of the child, they will refer to the older person simply as "mother" or "father" despite having no relation to them. Mothers-in-law are also avoided. If a newlywed man sees his mother walking down the road towards him, he must run off the road and hide from her. He isn't allowed to mention her name, and if he does make reference to her, he must use extremely proper language (such as using words equivalent to "thou"). Wives are also expected to reciprocate the same sort of respect to her husband's father. (5)
- 4.24 Joking relationships?
- 4.25 Patterns of descent (e.g., bilateral, matrilineal) for certain rights, names or associations: Predominantly Patrilineal (10)
- 4.26 Incest avoidance rules: You cannot marry someone who is in your own clan, or someone related to you through your mothers lineage, or any of your cousins at all. (10)
- 4.27 Is there a formal marriage ceremony? Yes, complete with rituals and feasting (2) (10)
- 4.28 In what way(s) does one get a name, change their name, and obtain another name?
- 4.29 Is marriage usually (or preferred to be) within community or outside community? (m/f difference?) Outside is preferred. If you marry someone from a group that you have disagreements with, it forces you to become allies. (10)
- 4.30 Are marriages arranged? Who arranges (e.g., parents, close kin)? Arranged marriages typically by older males in the wife's family, although arranged marriages are known to be set up or coordinated as young as when both children are infants (there have even been instances when a marriage is promised before either child that are to be married have been born) (3) (10)
- 4.31 Evidence for conflict of interest over who marries who: Yes, women want to make sure their potential husband is wealthy enough for them. Women (or their fathers) can deny a young suitor's proposal for any reason. If a girl is particularly, she might get more suitors than others. (10)

Warfare/homicide

- 4.31 Percent adult (male) deaths due to warfare: Very few (10)
- 4.32 Outgroup vs ingroup cause of violent death: There is rarely homicide between clans (extremely rarely within a clan), but when it does, the murderer and his family typically offer gifts to the family of the deceased. (10)
- 4.33 Reported causes of in-group and out-group killing: One was a drunken brawl. A man is allowed to kill another man if he finds him in the act of adultery with his wife (if the man catches him in the act). (10)
- 4.34 Number, diversity and relationship with neighboring societies (external relations): Mixed relations, they are peaceful with some neighbors and at odds with others. ()
- 4.35 Cannibalism? Cannibalism is not permitted (10)

5. Socio-Political organization and interaction

- 5.1 Mean local residential (village) group size: between 15 and 30 families, which can range anywhere from 30 people to well over 100 people.
- 5.2 Mobility pattern: (seasonality): They typically stay in the same place year round
- 5.3 Political system: (chiefs, clans etc, wealth or status classes): Patrilineal Clans, each with its own chief (the chief is in charge of ritual and mediation) A council of elders also is looked to for guidance. Discipline is accomplished mostly shame-oriented displays. If you do something wrong, people will begin to shun you. If you do something bad enough, you will be completely ignored, possibly for the rest of your time in that village. (1) (8)
- 5.4 Post marital residence: Upon marriage, a man will give his son land and cattle, where he and his wife will reside (1)
- 5.5 Territoriality? (defined boundaries, active defense): Between Sidamo tribes there are no boundaries, and ground between villages or hamlets is often shared. (1)
- 5.6 Social interaction divisions ? (age and sex): Dealt with through a complicated class cycle system. It is variable depending on your age and the age of your father (as well as the age of his father) (1)
- 5.7 Special friendships/joking relationships:
- 5.8 Village and house organization: Villages are typically a series of huts scattered across the hills and connected via narrow trails. Villages are typically centered around a common (shared) grassland or forest. (1)
- 5.9 Specialized village structures (mens' houses): Yes, they are used for the circumcision ritual (1)
- 5.10 Sleep in hammocks or on ground or elsewhere?
- 5.11 Social organization, clans, moieties, lineages, etc: Patrilineal clan system. Social organization is a complicated generational class system that has 5 classes, men cycle through them as they move from boyhood to old age. Each class has different duties, benefits and responsibilities. (1)
- 5.12 Trade: coffee is grown nearly for the sole purpose of trading. (2)
- 5.13 Indications of social hierarchies? The eldest male in a family typically has the most authority (3)

6. Ritual/Ceremony/Religion (RCR)

6.0 Time allocation to RCR:

- 6.1 Specialization (shamans and medicine): Overseen by holy men, who are simply men who strive to live good lives and have favor with their god.
- 6.2 Stimulants:
- 6.3 Passage rituals (birth, death, puberty, seasonal): Circumcision ceremony, called “barcima” is the largest. Passage from one Lua (age class) to the next is also important (called an induction). Females undergo a clitoridectomy before marriage. Deaths have distinct rituals and ceremonies as well. (7) (10)
- 6.4 Other rituals: They offer sacrifices to Magano and to their ancestors.
- 6.5 Myths (Creation): The Sidamo have no real creation myth, but instead they simply acknowledge that their god, Magano, created everything. He is said to have created everything (including the Sidamo and their ancestors) and can take anything away. After creating humans, he came to live among them for a time, where he taught them how to live and taught them to avoid incestuous relationships, but became disenchanted with them because they complained about death. He went back to live in the sky and created the celestial bodies. (5) (6)
- 6.6 Cultural material (art, music, games):
- 6.7 Sex differences in RCR:
- 6.8 Missionary effect: Missionaries have been playing an effect in recent decades, and it is beginning to show. Traditional practices are starting to slow down. For example, with the arrival of modern medicine, people are realizing that their previous belief in Magano taking away their sicknesses might not be true. Missionaries have also encouraged their converts not to interact with non-Christians in anything that isn’t strictly vital to their survival. All of these things are causing stress and friction in everyday life. (8)
- 6.9 RCR revival:
- 6.10 Death and afterlife beliefs: Upon death, the Sidamo are said to go to a gate in the sky, where Magano is waiting. He will ask them if they had any incestuous relations or if they took money from relatives, and he will ask if they were generally a good person and helped out their family and neighbors. If their answers are not satisfactory, Magano will make them stand on a strip of land that has on one side a pit of fire and on the other has a ditch/hole “of great depth,” and they spend eternity balancing between these two, afraid to fall in either one. If they have satisfactory answers, they are led through the gate to an eternity of ease. (6)
- 6.11 Taboo of naming dead people?
- 6.12 Is there teknonymy?
- 6.13 Briefly describe religion (animism, ancestor worship, deism, magic, totems etc.): Ancestor worship is common, and dreaming is a common way to communicate with deceased ancestors. They also believe in one main god, whom they worship before even their own ancestors. They believe in good and bad spirits, as well as a spirit that is purely for women (who is often invoked in situations such as childbirth) (4) (5)

7. Adornment

- 7.1 Body paint:
- 7.2 Piercings:
- 7.3 Haircut:
- 7.4 Scarification:
- 7.5 Adornment (beads, feathers, lip plates, etc.):
- 7.6 Ceremonial/Ritual adornment:
- 7.7 Sex differences in adornment:
- 7.8 Missionary effect:
- 7.9 Types of clothing:

8. Kinship systems

- 8.1 Sibling classification system:
- 8.2 Sororate, levirate:
- 8.3 Other notable kinship typology, especially cross-cousin (MBD/FZD) typology (Crow/Hawaiian/Omaha etc.): Cousin terminology is Hawaiian, with both paternal and maternal cousins classed as siblings, distinguishable only as to sex. (10)

9. Other interesting cultural features (list them):

The Sidamo are renown for their age/class gerontocracy system, which they call Lua

Numbered references

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