

Joshua Project – Small People-Group Policy

Version 1.2 11/10/2025

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1. Purpose

Joshua Project’s vision is to make every people group visible to the Body of Christ so that the church can take prioritized next steps in missions. However, the sheer number of extremely small groups—particularly diaspora segments—can dilute the usefulness of country and district-level people group lists.

This policy aims to strike a balance between:

- **Comprehensiveness:** Every people group matters (Rev. 7:9).
- **Strategic value:** Lists must be actionable for churches, field workers, and mission agencies.

2. Scope of the Policy

This policy governs the inclusion or suppression of very small people group segments based on their population size and strategic relevance.

Context	Geography	Applies To
Country-Level Lists	All countries (especially diaspora)	Each people group-in-country segment
District-Level Lists	South Asia (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan)	Each people group-in-district segment

3. Policy Details

3.1. Small Group Exclusion Criteria for Country-Level Listings

A people group segment in a given country will be excluded from public view **only if all four of the following conditions are met:**

Criterion	Threshold	Rationale
1. Absolute Size	Fewer than 5,000 individuals in the country	Below this level, a group is usually hard to locate or engage.
2. Share of Global Population	Less than 0.25% of the group's total global population	Ensures visibility for globally significant diaspora clusters, and ensures groups only present in a single or few countries remain visible
3. Share of Host Country Population	Less than 0.25% of the country's total population	Accounts for visibility challenges in large vs. small countries.
4. Not Exceptionally Unique	<i>NOT</i> marked as a " uniqueness exception " (e.g. Sentinelese)	Allows manual overrides for visibility due to missiological importance.

- If **any** of these four criteria are not met, the people group segment is **retained**.
- All data, whether excluded or included from public lists, is retained in the database and made available via API or csv download.

Example A – Country-Level Inclusion

- **Group:** Somali in Norway
- **Estimated Pop in Norway:** 45,000
- **Global Somali Pop:** ~28 million
- **Norway Pop:** 5.6 million
- **Assessment:**
 - Size: 45,000 → **X** not below 5,000
 - Global share: ~0.16% → **✓** below 0.25%
 - Country share: ~0.8% → **X** not below 0.25%

- Not Exceptionally Unique → ✓
- **Result: Included in visualization**

Example B – Country-Level Exclusion

- **Group:** Baloch in Canada
 - **Estimated Pop in Canada:** 400
 - **Global Baloch Pop:** ~2.7 million
 - **Canada Pop:** ~40 million
 - **Assessment:**
 - Size: 400 → ✓ below 5,000
 - Global share: ~0.003% → ✓ below 0.25%
 - Country share: 0.01% → ✓ below 0.25%
 - Not Exceptionally Unique → ✓
 - **Result: Excluded** (remains in DB, not public list)
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3.2. South Asia District-Level Small Group Policy

Joshua Project provides district-level people group lists for South Asia to reflect the highly localized nature of caste, language, and religious identity in the region. However, listing every small segment in every district creates noise and distracts from actionable data at the district level.

District-Level Exclusion Criteria

A people group segment in a given South Asia district will be **excluded from the public district-level view only if both the following conditions are met:**

- The population is **fewer than 1,000 individuals in that district**
- and--
- That district's group segment represents **less than 1% of the people group's total population in the country.**

This two-part rule ensures that small *but regionally concentrated* groups are retained, even if their district count is below 1,000.

Criterion	Threshold	Rationale
1. District Size	< 1,000 individuals	Eliminates very small segments unlikely to be actionable at local level.
2. District Share of Group in Country	< 1% of the group's total in the country	Keeps only those districts where the group has a meaningful concentration.

If **either** condition is not met (i.e., $\geq 1,000$ in district, or $\geq 1\%$ of country total), the district-level record is **retained in public visualization**.

Example C – District-Level Inclusion (Below 1,000 but Significant %)

- **Group:** Bagdi
- **District:** Nadia District, West Bengal
- **Pop in District:** 870 - ✓ below 1,000
- **Total Bagdi in India:** ~85,000
 - **District Share:** ~1.02% - ✗ not below 1%
- **Result: Included** in public visualization (below 1,000 but meets $\geq 1\%$ rule)

Example D – District-Level Exclusion

- **Group:** Lohar
- **District:** Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh
- **Pop in District:** 580 - ✓ below 1,000
- **Total Lohar in India:** ~120,000
 - **District Share:** ~0.48% - ✓ below 1%
- Not Exceptionally Unique → ✓
- **Result: Excluded from display on the district listings**, but maintained in the database and calculated to state and country totals