WYCLIFFE SOUTH AFRICA

Celebrating 50 years in 2025



wycliffe
BIBLE TRANSLATION

CONTENTS

Vision & Values 1
Distinctives 2
Pipeline Projects 4
Camucuio 5
Oluhumbi 5
Olukuvale 7
Olukwando 9
CD Cluster 11
Himba 13
Huila 15
Olucilenge 15
Oluhanda 17
!Xun 19
Holo & Kisuku 21
Kaaps 23
Makhuwa 25
Esaka 25
Marrevoni 27
Xirima 29
Marenje 31
Meetto 33
Phimbi 35
Sepulana 37
Siphuthi 39

VISION & VALUES

WSA'S VISION:

"Transformed communities meaningfully engaging with God's Word."

WSA'S MISSION STATEMENT:

"We serve local language communities through strategic partnerships to facilitate the translation of and engagement with God's Word towards transformed lives."

WSA'S CORE VALUES

We believe in:

HIS GLORY - We seek God's glory among nations communities and seek every opportunity to give God all the glory. God-centred, bold, courageous and obedient; and in humility, always pointing to God.

HIS WORD - We pursue the transforming power of the Word of God in our own lives and work passionately to share this with those people who still need to hear it in their own language.

THE CHURCH - We believe in the centrality of the Church in the fulfilment of God's mission on earth. The Church is the bride of Christ, and our attitude and the way we speak about the Church should always mirror the love of Christ for His bride.

PRAYER - We are led by the Holy Spirit as we pray. Prayer is the fibre that runs through all we do, every decision we take, everyone we meet with and every project we are involved in.

AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP - We follow Jesus and have an authentic relationship with Him. We honour and respect all people, and endeavour to guard, strengthen and restore our relationships.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS - We delight in working together in community for the sake of advancing His Kingdom through Bible translation in partnerships. We consider it a real privilege to participate in the Bible Translation Movement and joyfully serve all.

LOCAL COMMUNITY – We respect and understand the dignity of the individual within the community. We value the local community's needs and expressions and serve them by coming alongside to help empower and honour their place in the community.

DISTINCTIVES

FULL BIBLE - BOTH ORIGINAL (OLD) & NEW TESTAMENTS

While there is good reason for Bible translation to start in the New Testament, only 10% of language communities have a full Bible in their Mother tongue. Many of the foundational truths of Scripture are laid in the Original Testament, and Wycliffe South Africa, in our discussions with the leaders in the language communities, supports the request for a full Bible to be translated. The Old Testament is the first division of the Christian biblical canon which translates to the need for Hebrew knowledge as the Old Testament originates from the ancient religion of Judaism and makes up 75% of the Bible.

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

While all Bible translation seeks heart and life change in individuals and communities by accessing God's Word, this will not happen automatically. Wycliffe South Africa emphasizes transformation and seeks to partner, through Wycliffe Links, with individuals, Churches, Businesses, and Missions partners, to support local communities and seek ways to empower for change. The deepest desire is to focus on a holistic approach that meets physical and spiritual needs.

SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT

Is a quality control tool and a step towards transformation, to encourage and equip the translation teams and translation communities to engage with the translated Scriptures in a way that is appropriate to their context. Ideally, a champion or Scripture Engagement team is appointed and trained to effectively implement plans to engage the community with God's Word.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIGENOUS, ORAL-CULTURE TRANSLATORS AND CONSULTANTS

We believe the best people to impact the language community are people from within the community or close neighbours. We have experienced that consultants from an oral-culture background have an instinctive and intuitive knowledge on how to work well with oral communities. As most of our projects are with oral communities, the desire is to raise local capacity to translate God's Word so that the translations are natural and relateable. The whole translation process, using local teams, helps to bring dignity to communities that have often been marginalized. Moreover, the consultant and exegete better have an understanding of the target language.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Transcription has opened an opportunity for language development in oral communities. For example, using the transcribed texts, in Participatory Language Discovery (PLD) the Marenje and Siphuthi programmes have discovered a lot of general knowledge and some linguistic features used in their languages. Before, they only spoke through tacit knowledge, but now they are aware of the parts of speech they are using. They discovered the most commonly used connectors, i.e. 'but', 'then', after'. Also, some letters are not reflected in the Marenje alphabet.

OBT&T & SIGN LANGUAGE

At the moment, Wycliffe South Africa's preferred methodology for translation is called Oral Bible Translation and Transcription (OBT&T). This has been shaped by the language communities in which we work. The full-time projects work to a rhythm to produce an average of a chapter per week which is translated, community reviewed, consultant checked, recorded (as an audio), and transcribed. We use technology to assist the teams, but do not want to embrace tools like Artificial Intelligence if the community benefits more by being hands-on in the process. In dynamic transcription, the team has the opportunity to edit the text as they listen and write/type. We support Sign Language translations and pray for the Deaf to receive a Bible in their heart language.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Wycliffe South Africa's Finance Team not only provides excellent financial management of the projects that we manage, we also provide financial management to others. Due to the majority of our projects being cross-border, we serve both the teams on the ground as well as the funding organisations to provide regular and accurate reporting and accountability. This means we are able to provide processing and reporting in three currencies, and be a seamless link between first-world systems and transactions in remote, rural communities

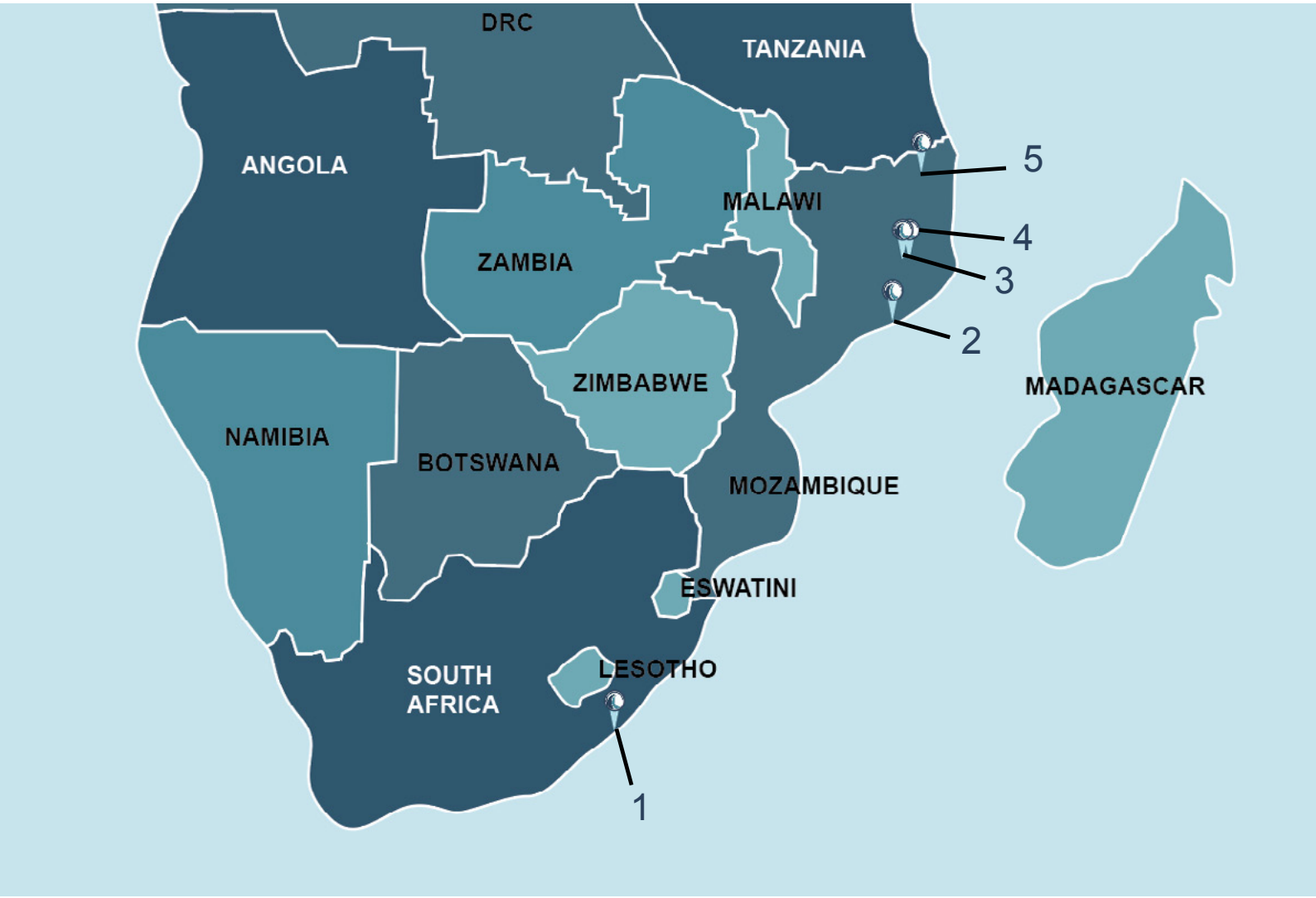
LANGUAGE COMMUNITY CENTRED

Translation is done best in the community itself, for a sense of ownership and so that the finished products can be taken to the people immediately. Training of the translation teams is done on-the-job so that decision-making is in the hands of the local community. Also,during the training, the team is familiarized with the working environment they will become part of, and a hands-on experience. Wycliffe South Africa personnel should always be considered as the guest supporters and not the leaders of the project.

LOCAL CHURCH FOCUSED

It is a joy to serve the local Church and to serve with local churches. Wycliffe Links brings the Church in southern Africa closer to the translation communities for mutual blessing and encouragement. We partner with local churches to equip them in their mission and discipleship, and connect them to language communities for prayer, visits and equipping. We encourage "mission tourism" so that people from all over the world can experience first-hand what God is doing to transform lives and communities through His Word. The stories of transformation documented and published as videos, stories and social media is intended to inspire believers and congregations in service God in His mission to reach nations.

PIPELINE PROJECTS



1 **BHACA (SOUTH AFRICA)**
This project is in the research and readiness phase, with plans to move forward this year.

2 **KOTI (MOZAMBIQUE)**
This translation is due to start in 2025.

3 **NAHARA (MOZAMBIQUE)**
This project is in the research and readiness phase.

4 **MAKHUWANI (MOZAMBIQUE)**
The review the Makhuwani Bible is due to start in 2025.

5 **MAKONDE (MOZAMBIQUE)**
This translation is due to start in 2025.

OLUHUMBI
(Camucuio)





The Oluhumbi people live in rural villages near Camucuio town in Angola, an area that is hot and dry. This makes it difficult to farm the land, but livestock do well, especially goats and cattle. When it does rain, the area can become flooded, cutting the town off from the rest of the country. Their lifestyle consists mainly of tending to their animals and crops, and caring for their children. Of the three Camucuio language groups, the Oluhumbi are the most developed and wealthy, and have been exposed to the Gospel at least since 1995 when Christian missionaries came to evangelise. For some, Christianity is mixed with their traditional beliefs, with people practicing both or choosing one or the other depending on circumstances. They also face poverty and conflict with other language groups. This causes some ethnic groups to totally avoid each other, even in the church. Despite these tensions, young Christians are showing a greater openness to interacting with fellow Christians of different ethnic groups. Access to oral Bible stories in their heart languages is becoming a catalyst to greater harmony and unity among the diverse language groups in the Camucuio area.

Languages: Oluhumbi
People Group: Oluhumbi
People Group Size: 80,000
Location: Angola
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming
Translation Time-frame: July 2024 - September 2027
Completed in Phase 1,2 & 3: 86 portions from the Old and New Testament
Translation Phase: 4
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation of Genesis, Matthew and Luke, including the LUMO Film
Source Languages: Portuguese and Umbundu
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / JOCUM

PRAYER

1. Please pray that God will continue to enable the group to translate the Bible.
2. Please pray for protection and good health of the team and their families.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

No. people praying for this translation:

10

Sign up to pray



OLUKUVALE
(Camucuio)





Formerly part of the Camucuio Cluster translation, the Olukuvale live in low-lying rural areas in the southwest of Angola. They rely on livestock and small-scale cultivation to make a living, and are a traditionally oral people. The Olukuvale were less affected by the civil war than the other Camucuio communities so most still live on their ancestral lands, though some moved to urban areas in search of better work prospects.

The Olukuvale have been described as “aggressive herders” and have very few believers and churches. Obstacles include the continued prevalence of traditional religion and syncretism, as well as poverty, poor access to safe water and sanitation, disease, strained relations with neighbouring language communities, The Word of God can help them navigate these challenges, as well as reach and transform the lives of those as yet untouched by the love of God.

Languages: Olukuvale
People Group: Olukuvale
People Group Size: 103,000
Location: Angola
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming
Translation Time-frame: July 2024 - September 2027
Completed in Phase 1,2 & 3: 83 portions from the Old and New Testament
Translation Phase: 4
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation of Genesis, Matthew and Luke, including the LUMO Film
Source Languages: Portuguese and Umbundu
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / JOCUM

PRAYER

1. The team goes into the community in the evenings, sharing what they've translated. Praise God that many listeners are interested in the various aspects of the translation.
2. Pray for spiritual covering for the children who have given their lives to Christ as their Lord and Saviour (Nononghelo, Jorge and Kamuini).
3. Pray that God will put the Word of God in the hearts of the Elders of the Ovakuvale people.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

No. people praying for this translation:

10

Sign up to pray



OLUKWANDO
(Camucuio)





The Olukwando live high up on the Serra das Neves mountain plateau in Angola, near Camucuio town. Like the other Camucuio groups, they are living mainly on their ancestral lands, except for those who moved due to the civil war or in search of work. They are subsistence farmers, whose lifestyles are built on tending the land and their livestock.

The Olukwando, along with the Oluhumbi, were exposed to the gospel by missionaries in 1995, which may have been their first contact with Christianity. Despite this, traditional religion and syncretism are still common, and many have yet to develop a personal relationship with God. Poverty, harsh living conditions and inter-ethnic conflict further undermine their wellbeing and relationships. Bible translation can help strengthen existing believers, reach the unreached and facilitate unity and reconciliation within and between communities.

Languages: Olukwando
People Group: Olukwando
People Group Size: 8800
Location: Angola
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming
Translation Time-frame: July 2024 - September 2027
Completed in Phase 1,2 & 3: 83 portions from the Old and New Testament
Translation Phase: 4
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation of Genesis, Matthew and Luke, including the LUMO Film
Source Languages: Portuguese and Umbundu
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / JOCUM

PRAYER

1. Give thanks to God for the health of the team members' families.
2. Pray for wisdom as they discuss and decide on difficult key terms.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

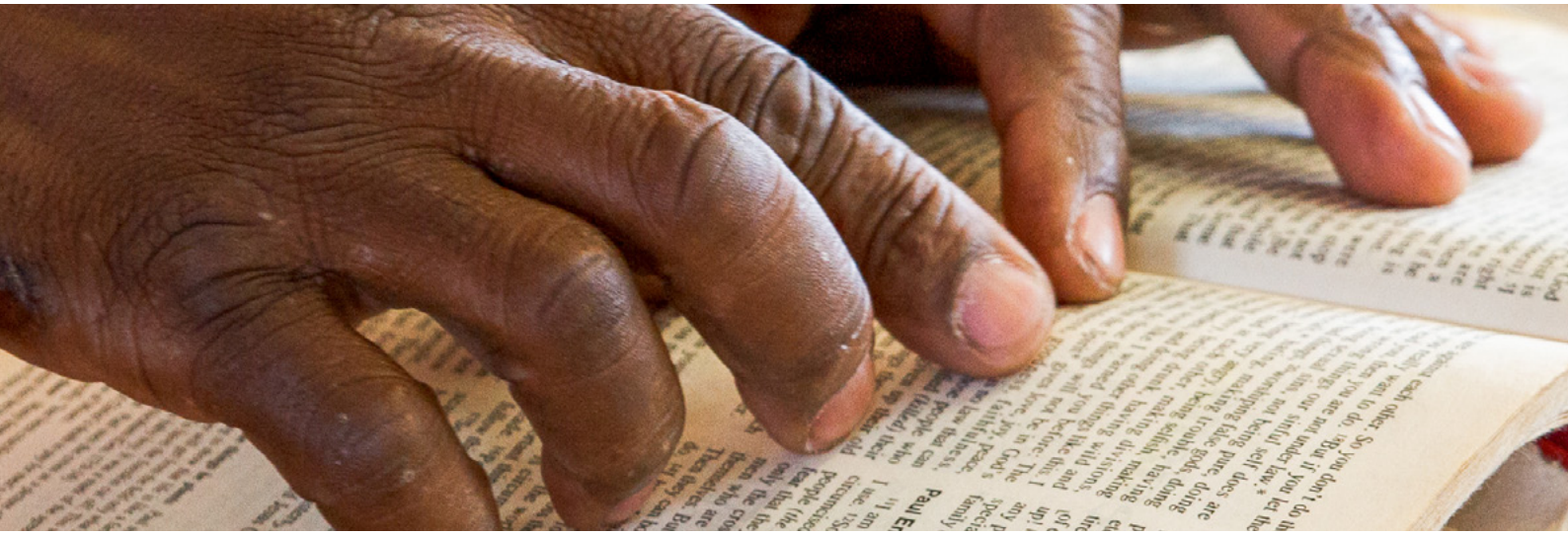
No. people praying for this translation:

10

Sign up to pray



CD CLUSTER



These four language groups live in an area where the dominant religion is not Christian. Over time, the number of believers has grown steadily. One of the languages already had some Scripture, but in 2017 they requested more Old Testament Oral Scriptures. This request was further reinforced after a devastating natural disaster in 2019 that destroyed several villages. When relief aid was being brought to the people, mission organisations reported a huge interest in audio Scripture. Availability of translated Scriptures into these four languages will help to make the God of the Bible known in an environment where it is very challenging and dangerous to preach the Gospel.

In the last few years, the region from which the language communities involved in this project come has been affected by armed conflict, making it unsafe to share many details about this project.

Language: Kiibo, Kichokwe, Kikabe, Kikhuxanga
People Group: Kiibo, Kichokwe, Kikabe, Kikhuxanga
People Group Size: 120,000, 22,000, 517,000 and 380,000
Location: Southern Africa
Lifestyle: Fishing, farming, trading and wood carving

Translation Time-frame: Phase 2 to start in 2025
Translation Phase: 2
Translation Goals: Oral translation and transcription of Genesis, Luke, Acts and Romans
Source Languages: Lingua franca of the country and neighbouring languages
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / local organisations

IMPACT

At one translation workshop, the team decided to include morning devotions in the programme. After three days, two translators gave their lives to Christ.

One of the men said,

"My life is better than before, so I am not turning back to my previous belief and lifestyle, no matter the cost".

Some details have been changed for security reasons

PRAYER

1. Praise God that he protected the four translation teams during this period of unrest and cyclones.
2. Praise God that in March they they were able to hold the final workshop to complete translation of the 60 stories for the four languages, and that despite the inclement weather conditions they could gather.
3. Please pray for the translated Scripture to have great impact in the community.

This translation has been adopted by:
Godfirst Boksburg

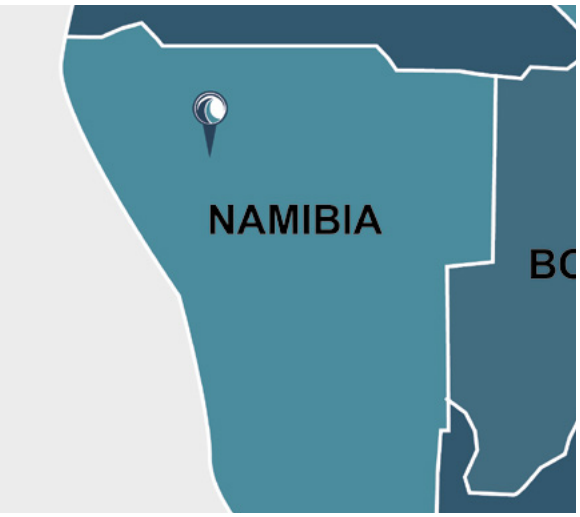
No. people praying for this translation:

16

Sign up to pray



HIMBA





Deep in the north of Namibia live the nomadic cattle herders called the Himba. The Himba number over 50,000 and there is also a community of Himba in the Kunene province of Angola. The Himba are a nomadic, pastoral people, historically related to the Herero people.

For a long time, it was thought that the Himba could share a Bible translation with the neighbouring Herero people, as their languages are closely related. However, the Himba were unable to connect with God through the Herero language. So it was decided that an oral Bible would be recorded for them. There is also a transcription project starting for the Himba community in Angola, who have requested written Scriptures.

Language: Himba
People Group: Himba
People Group Size: 50,000
Location: Namibia
Lifestyle: Semi-nomadic and pastoral (cattle, goats and sheep)

Translation Time-frame: October 2024 – September 2027
Completed in Phases 1,2&3: 83 oral narratives, oral translations of Genesis, Romans, Mark, Luke, Acts, Hebrews, 1 & 2 Timothy, and production of various materials, songs, and the Greatest Gift booklet
Translation Phase: 4
Translation Goals: Oral translation and transcription of Exodus, Matthew, John, Galatians and Ephesians
Source Languages: Herero and English
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / Opuwo Pastors' Forum / Bible Society of Namibia

IMPACT

When Mukaa Mbengera Tjivaro received an MP3 player loaded with Bible passages in Himba, she listened to it day and night, driven by a deep thirst she didn't understand. One day, she approached a visiting pastor to talk about it. He told her about Jesus and she immediately gave her life to Christ. "Since then," she said, "I have joy in my heart that has never departed from me. I feel that I am one of the luckiest people to have this tool, because it has changed my life."

PRAYER

1. For God to sustain the work, and steady progress to be made so that the full Bible will be translated and recorded.
2. For Scripture Engagement initiatives to start soon.
3. For souls to be won for the Kingdom through this translation project .

This translation has been adopted by:
Featherbrook Retirement Village
City Hill Church, Hillcrest

No. people praying for this translation:

46

Sign up to pray



OLUCILENGE
(Huila)





In the south of Angola and north of Namibia are the Olucilenge speakers, who live extensively in the provinces of Huila, Namibe and Bengela. They live in small communities, villages and groups, and are described as a hospitable and considerate people. They live on subsistence or family farming, and raise animals such as cattle, goats, pigs, and chickens. Their traditional religious beliefs are polytheistic and animistic, worshiping gods of the ancestors and the dead, who are considered to be at the centre of their being. With Bible translation underway, more and more people are getting excited about the God of the Bible.

Languages: Olucilenge
People Group: Bantu
People Group Size: 120,000
Location: Huila Province in Angola
Lifestyle: Semi-nomadic and pastoral

Translation Time-frame: March 2023 - March 2026
Completed in Phase 1: 25 stories & 5 songs
Translation Phase: 2
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation of Genesis, Luke and Acts
Source Languages: Nyaneka and Portuguese
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / IESA church

IMPACT

"The impact is incalculable: the first time someone hears the Bible translated into this language, they say: 'oh, so this God we hear so much about, we think he's so far away, turns out he's here, he speaks our language too? It's about time we followed him in our own language.'"

- Jose Ndongundungo, Olucilenge Exegete

PRAYER

1. Praise God that the translation of Genesis is complete.
2. Pray for the Ovacilenge community – for health and that God will reveal Himself through His Word so that they have the conviction that God loves them.
3. Pray for the computers to keep working well and not to have any problems or break down.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

No. people praying for this translation:

27

Sign up to pray



OLUHANDA
(Huila)





The Oluhanda speakers come from the south of Angola in the province of Cunene, and live extensively in the province of Huíla and surrounding regions. We are told that they're very fond of riddles and are a humble people who don't get carried away or like meaningless changes. They survive on agriculture, and breed cattle, goats, pigs, and chickens. They live mainly in villages with wattle and daub buildings. Although they are traditionally a polytheistic people, there is a hunger for the Word of God that we see through the stories we hear about the impact of the translated Word in the local communities.

Languages: Oluhanda
People Group: Bantu
People Group Size: 200,000
Location: Huila Province in Angola
Lifestyle: Semi-nomadic and pastoral

Translation Time-frame: May 2023 - September 2026
Completed in Phase 1: 18 stories & 3 songs
Translation Phase: 2
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation of Genesis, Luke and Acts
Source Languages: Nyaneka and Portuguese
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / IESA church

IMPACT

"In our community when there is a case of death, we used to put on traditional music and listen during the obituary until it was over, but since we received the audio devices [with translated Scripture portions], we have been putting them on at night for everyone to listen to and many come to the tent and listen to the Word of God. This has been a great blessing in our lives because it has brought a lot of transformation in the lives of each one of us and that is why we are asking for more devices because we all want to have more, so we can listen in our homes."

- Chilengula Manuel, Oluhanda Exegete

PRAYER

1. Praise God for the improvement in the working of the Render translation programme and the progress that is now being achieved.
2. Thank God for giving a person who will take care of public relations, which involves teaching the people the Word of God in their language.
3. Pray for the work of the consultant as there is a lot of work ahead. Please pray for the health of the translators and the program coordinator.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

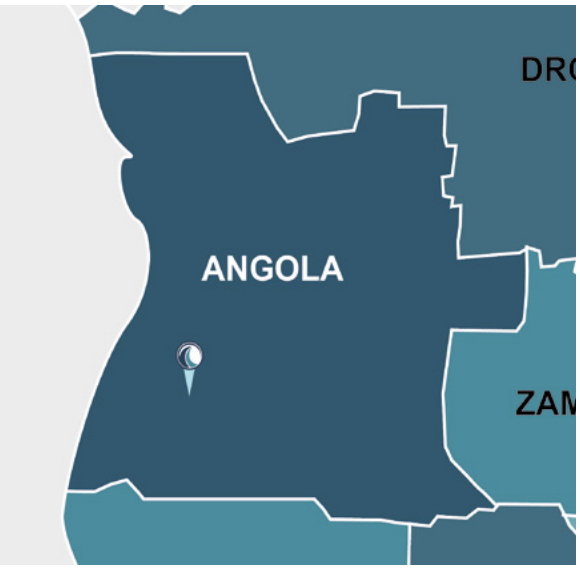
No. people praying for this translation:

27

Sign up to pray



!XUN
(Huila)





The !Xun are an extremely isolated Bushmen group that have largely been without any Christian witness until recently. They originated in the southern part of the African continent, and are scattered across Angola, Namibia, Botswana and South Africa. In Angola they are widespread in the provinces of Huila, Cunene and Cuando Cubango. They live in small groups, usually united by blood ties and their main economic activities are hunting, gathering, fishing, handicrafts and agriculture.

Languages: !Xun
People Group: San
People Group Size: 3,000
Location: Huila Province in Angola
Lifestyle: Semi-nomadic and pastoral

Translation Time-frame: May 2023 - September 2026
Completed in Phase 1: 16 stories & 4 songs
Translation Phase: 2
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation of Genesis, Luke and Acts
Source Languages: Nyaneka and Portuguese
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / IESA church

IMPACT

We were told the !Xun community was overjoyed to be blessed with God's Word in their own heart language.

They said, "Who are we to be remembered? We thought that we were not important and no one knows of our existence, but to hear that now we are about to have a Bible in our language - this is all God's doing."

PRAYER

1. Praise God for the deliverance of the community from sexual immorality, the consumption of alcoholic beverages and tobacco.
2. Please pray for the physical and spiritual health of translation team members.
3. Please pray that God will give them an understanding of His Word.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

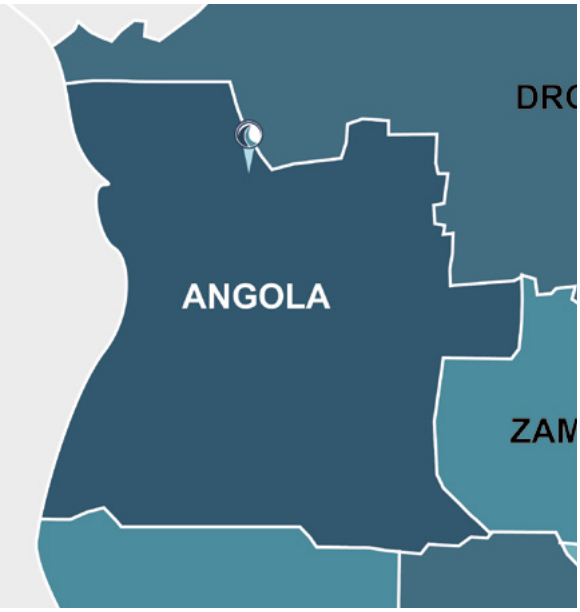
No. people praying for this translation:

27

Sign up to pray



HOLO & KISUKU





The Maholo and Basuku peoples live in northern Angola and across the DRC border. They practice subsistence farming, growing manioc, macunde beans, and vegetables. Livestock farming is also important, with goats and pigs being a symbol of wealth and social status. Oral tradition is a means of passing on knowledge, stories and cultural values. Tales, myths and legends are told in families and communities, strengthening social ties and cultural identity. They mark life events with ceremonies featuring traditional dance, music, and dress, and their traditional religious beliefs center on ancestors, nature, and spirits.

While many are Christian, the Bible is read in other languages at church. So now that translation has started, the local communities cannot wait to receive the Scripture audio devices and hear the Word of God for the first time in their own language.

Languages: Holo, Kisuku
People Groups: Maholo, Basuku
People Group Size: 53,000 (Maholo), 80,000 (Basuku)
Location: Angola
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming

Translation Time-frame: September 2024 - April 2027
Translation Phase: 1
Translation Goals: 60 oral portions and transcriptions selected from the Old and New Testaments
Source Languages: Portuguese, Kimbundo (Holo), Kikongo (Kisuku)
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / IMEAS

PRAYER

1. Pray for the workshops that will be held during this first year of translation.
2. Pray for the health of the teams and their families.
3. Pray for travel mercies for the team and the consultant.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

No. people praying for this translation:

3

Sign up to pray



KAAPS





Kaaps is spoken mainly by the Coloured community in the Cape Flats; a part of Cape Town in South Africa. It can be traced back to the 1500s where it developed as a language used for trade interactions between indigenous peoples, settlers and traders passing through. Until recently it has been treated as a dialect of Afrikaans, but it likely pre-dates Afrikaans and has its own unique form that has evolved in tandem with the culture of its speakers in a way that makes it distinct from the more widely spoken Afrikaans language.

Today's Kaaps speakers are descendants of the multiple ethnicities that lived in the Cape region under European colonisation, including Malays, Khoisan and other African peoples, many of whom were enslaved and oppressed. Through the generations, their language and identity have been stigmatised and ridiculed. But for all they've been through, the Kaaps culture is vibrant and colourful, known for their unique cultural music and creative verbal expressions. As they embrace their identity afresh, the translation of God's Word into Kaaps brings further validation that they are utterly treasured and wonderfully made; a message with the power to heal centuries of discrimination.

Language: Kaaps
People Group: Kaaps
People Group Size: 3,000,000
Location: South Africa
Lifestyle: Urban

Translation Time-frame: To start in 2025
Translation Phase: Pipeline
Translation Goals: Oral translation and transcription of the Old Testament
Source Languages: English and Afrikaans
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA

IMPACT

Through the Psalms that Sing pilot project, a team of artist-translators were put together to explore, translate and perform the biblical psalms in Kaaps. It resulted in a performance called "Alive in Kaaps". Initially, those invited to take part were sceptical, but they left beaming, excited by what they were a part of. Since then, it is having a profound effect on those who are encountering Kaaps as a validated language worthy of God's Word. The most common phrases heard are, "That's how we speak!" or "This is our music!"

PRAYER

1. Pray for divine strategy to execute the translation .
2. For leaders of denominations to buy into the project.
3. That God will prepare the hearts of the people for the translation.
4. For all those working on the project - for protection around families and provision while they are doing the work.

This translation has been adopted by:
The Vine Church, UK

No. people praying for this translation:

12

Sign up to pray



ESAKA
(Makhuwa)





Spread out across the northern provinces of Mozambique is the eMakhuwa language group. This is the largest Bantu language spoken in Mozambique, covering about 1/3 of the population. eMakhuwa is classified into 11 variants, of which eSaka is one. This translation project is located in Alua Village in Nampa district, and the language is spoken in four main districts. The main subsistence activities of the people are agriculture and fishing. An estimated 25% of the eSaka speakers are Christians, with Islam and traditional religion also being practiced.

The need for Bible translation was determined when the Catholic Church, together with other Evangelical churches, began conducting outreach programs. They came to realise that what they needed, both to elevate life transformation in the communities and to follow God's mission, was to have relevant Bible narratives in their own languages.

Languages: eSaka
People Group: aSaka
People Group Size: 432,000
Location: Mozambique
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming
Translation Time-frame: October 2022 to September 2025
Completed in Phase 1: 65 stories
Translation Phase: 2
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation and transcription of Genesis, Luke, Acts, and Romans
Source Languages: Central Makhuwa and Portuguese
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / Nampula Roman Catholic Church

IMPACT

Among many people that praise God for the Esaka Translation Program, is Adelino Warocha. He travelled 300km, searching for the audio Bible passages. In his testimony, he said: "I am amazed how we understand the Word of God which is translated into our mother tongue. [It] is clear and easy to understand. Before I always thought that the Bible is difficult to read and to understand. But since I heard this audio Bible radio I have come all the way to purchase one."

PRAYER

1. Pray for the people in Namapa district, where most of the Esaka live. They have been hit by a series of tragedies, including 2 cyclones and political unrest. With church builings, food, and clothes washed away, people are hopeless.
2. Bridges have been washed away and roads rendered impassable due to the flooding, making it difficult to travel to the translation workshop location. Please pray for travel mercies.
3. Pray for the Esaka translation team who have been affected, that God would strengthen and comfort them.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

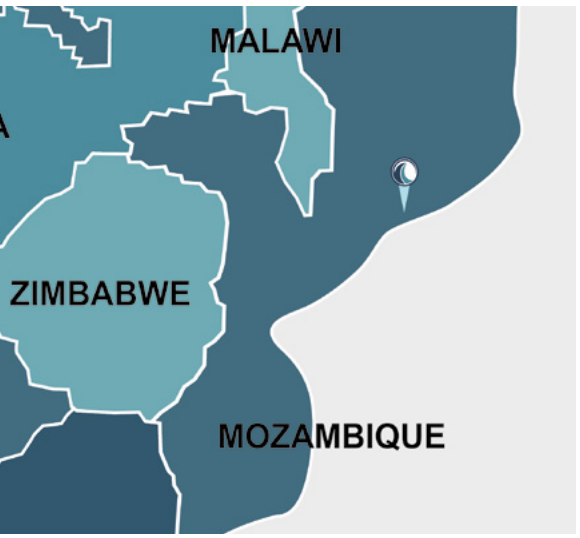
No. people praying for this translation:

19

Sign up to pray



MARREVONI
(Makhuwa)





Marrevoni is one of the 11 variants of the eMakhuwa language group, which is spoken by about a third of the population in Mozambique. The Marrevoni translation project is located in Micane Vilage in Moma District. The subsistence activities are agriculture, and fishing, due to their location alongside the ocean. The majority of the Marrevoni people are Muslim with only a small percentage of Christians. Traditional religion is also practiced.

The need for Bible translation was determined when the Catholic Church, together with other Evangelical churches, began conducting outreach programs. They came to realise that what they needed, both to elevate life transformation in the communities and to follow God's mission, was to have relevant Bible narratives in their own languages. This would open up God's Word and provide opportunities to reach out to all people.

Languages: eMarrevoni
People Group: aMarrevoni
People Group Size: 438,000
Location: Mozambique
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming
Translation Time-frame: October 2022 to September 2025
Completed in Phase 1: 65 stories
Translation Phase: 2
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation and transcription of Genesis, Luke, Acts, and Romans
Source Languages: Central Makhuwa and Portuguese
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / Nampula Roman Catholic Church

IMPACT

One of the team members told us, "I have been visiting many Christian communities. One of the church elders, visibly pleased, said to me that "this translation has made our work easier. It was a hard task to find a right person to do the reading on Sunday but with this device...the words are pronounced clearly, the language is entirely ours. In short, the Word of God goes straight into our bones and flesh.""

PRAYER

1. Pray for translators as they travel to and from translation workshops, as the roads are in poor condition due to flooding caused by recent cyclones.
2. Pray for comfort for one of the translators, Eusebio, who recently lost his father.
3. Pray for the team to make good progress on the translation, despite the disruption caused to the workshops due to the weather conditions.
4. Pray for Jadreque, the field coordinator, as his shop and my kitched were destroyed in the recent Cyclone.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

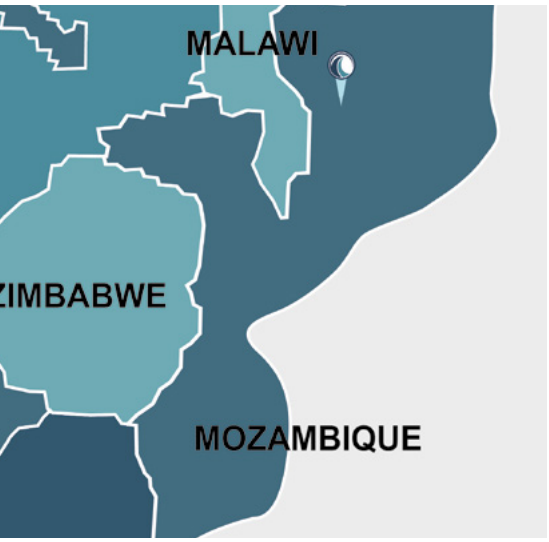
No. people praying for this translation:

19

Sign up to pray



XIRIMA
(Makhuwa)





The Xirima translation project is located in Nampula province in Mozambique. It is a Bantu language, and one of the 11 variants eMakhuwa - the language group spoken by about a third of the population in the country. The Xirima people are traditional farmers, based in Malema district, which is considered the storeroom of the province. This is because it supplies the wider area with all kinds of produce, including maize, beans, tomatoes, onions, and potatoes. Animism is the traditional religion of the Xirima people, but Islam and Christianity are also practiced.

The need for Bible translation was determined when the Catholic Church, together with other Evangelical churches, began conducting outreach programs. They came to realize that what they needed, both to elevate life transformation in the communities and to follow God's mission, was to have relevant Bible narratives in their own languages.

Languages: eXirima
People Group: aXirima
People Group Size: 729,000
Location: Mozambique
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming
Translation Time-frame: October 2022 to September 2025
Completed in Phase 1: 65 stories
Translation Phase: 2
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation and transcription of Genesis, Luke, Acts, and Romans
Source Languages: Central Makhuwa and Portuguese
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / Nampula Roman Catholic Church

IMPACT

Alberto used to indulge in drinking and drug abuse. He was violent, didn't care for his family, and was a thief. When he heard the scripture audios in eXirima, he immediately bought an SD card and listened almost the whole night even though he was drunk. From that day onwards Alberto stopped drinking and was reunited with his family. His day-to-day life has been one of selfless dedication to serving his brothers, and he is now a role model in the community.

PRAYER

1. Please pray for the Xirima people as political tensions escalate, leaving people in fear and justice being taken into people's own hands. Pray for peace and restoration.
2. Pray for the local impact partners, and that local churches support the program so that the Scripture recordings can be shared through the local radio station.
3. Pray for the familieis who have lost their homes and farms in the most recent cyclone.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

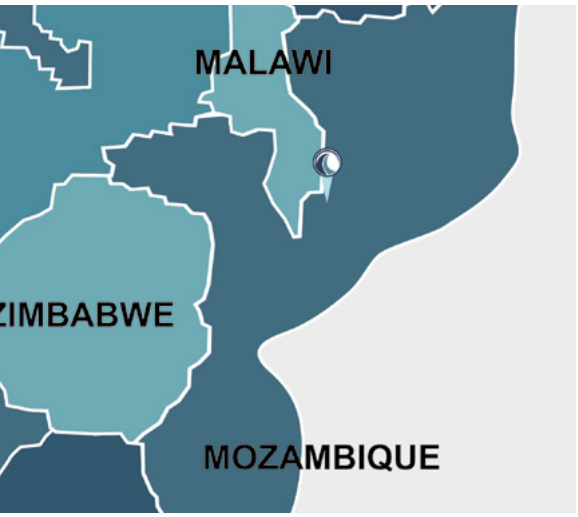
No. people praying for this translation:

19

Sign up to pray



MARENJE





The Marenje live in the Milange district, a tropical and mountainous area of Mozambique, near the border with Malawi. Most of the Marenje survive through farming and selling their produce in neighbouring areas. It's likely that their first exposure to Christianity was as refugees in Malawi during the Mozambique war in the 1980s.

The Marenje church makes use of two Bible translations: Chichewa and Portuguese. The majority of churches use the Chichewa translation and a few of them use the Portuguese translation. However, every time they use either one of these two translations, there is someone who has to translate orally into Marenje in order for the Marenje speakers to understand the message well. Because of this, the Christian Council of Mozambique in that part of the country, together with native church leaders who serve as pastors for some of the biggest churches in the area, have been asking for the Bible to be translated into Marenje. This will make Scripture far more accessible to the people, and they are much more likely to be open to and interested in the gospel when it is presented to them in their own language. Christian discipleship will also be more effective using Scripture in Marenje.

Language: Marenje
People Group: Marenje
People Group Size: 588,000
Location: Mozambique
Lifestyle: Agriculturalists
Translation Time-frame: March 2022 - December 2026
Translation Phase: 1
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation of the New Testament, and a booklet with the transcriptions of the translated books
Source Languages: Portuguese and Chichewa
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA and the Pastors' Forum of Milange

IMPACT

Several members of the translation team told us how their faith has grown because of the translation work, and this, in turn, has impacted their families and local community.

"In my family, the Christian life has changed a lot for the better, as I have come to know more about the Word of God and this has greatly strengthened my faith in God." - Sandra (Translator)

PRAYER

1. We praise God that the Scripture Engagement team visited different churches and the Marenje people are receiving the Word of God with gladness. They have the four gospels to distribute at R15 per booklet, but the poverty is so great that people cannot afford it. Please pray for this community.
2. Pray that as we are contacting local partners, many people and Churches will be open to us.
3. Pray for peace in our country of Mozambique.

This translation has been adopted by:
Godfirst Benoni

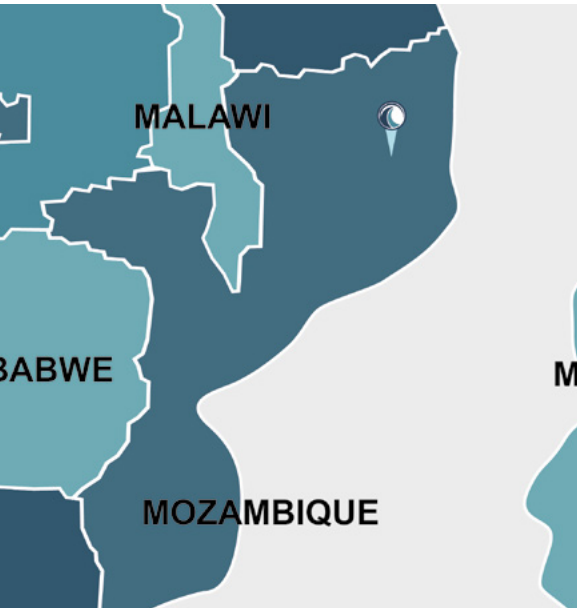
No. people praying for this translation:

17

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MEETTO





The Meetto people are matrilineal, that is, the family line is traced through the mother's line. The clan, or "matriclan" is the group of descendents who are all related through the mother's line. They are also traditionally matrilocal, meaning that a new couple will live near the bride's mother's relatives.

The majority (about 70%) practice folk Islam. There is significant family pressure not to convert to Christianity, although the pressures are not as great as in other neighboring Muslim groups, probably due to the long Catholic presence among the Meetto. The first Christian efforts in the area were the Catholic Montfort Fathers of Holland, arriving among the Meetto in 1922. They had significant impact in the non-Muslim districts of the Meetto area. The evangelical churches are very young, established by Mozambican evangelists from the south. Some of these came north while serving in the army, since much of the fiercest fighting during the civil war (1975-1992) occurred in this region. The first converts among the Meetto date from about 1988. The church is growing, but not as quickly as is often reported. The recently published New Testament is being heavily used and the local churches are asking for the complete Bible.

Language: Meetto
People Group: Meetto
People Group Size: 1.7 million divided between Mozambique (1.2 million) and Tanzania (500,000)
Location: Cabo Delgado province, Mozambique
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming

Translation Time-frame: Jun 2025 - Sep 2030
Translation Phase: 1
Translation Goals: Oral translation and transcription of the Old Testament
Source Languages: Portuguese, Hebrew, Central Makhuwa
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / Boa Nova Para África

PRAYER

1. For the newly formed translation team to work together in a unified fashion.
2. For more churches to use the mother-tongue Scriptures for evangelism and discipleship.
3. For peace in the Meetto region, which has been destabilised in recent years by a violent insurgency.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

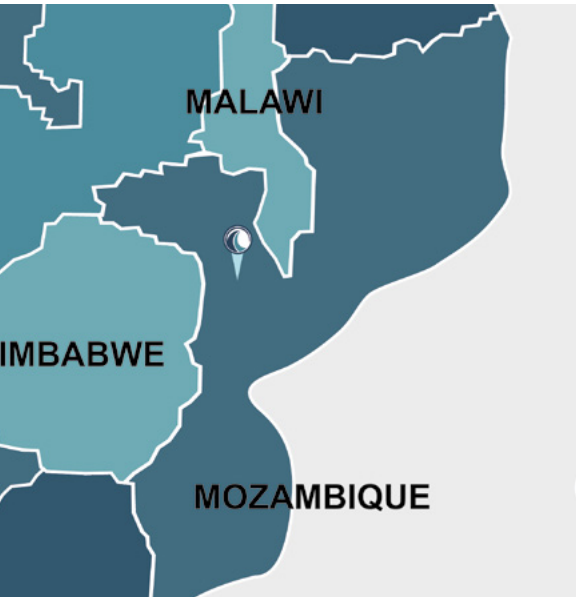
No. people praying for this translation:

0

Sign up to pray



PHIMBI





The Phimbi language originated in Maravia District, in the Tete Province of Mozambique. This language is spoken in a number of villages including Chipera, Nhenda, Mazaze, and Thingwe. But Phimbi has become overlooked and rejected, which likely goes back to the civil war in Mozambique between Frelimo and Renamo from 1976 to 1992. When the Phimbi families fled for their safety to the nearest countries, such as Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, they needed to learn new languages.

After sixteen years of war, some Phimbi speakers remained where they'd fled and established homes and families there. Others went back to their original homes. This might be one reason why, up until today, the Phimbi language does not have the Bible.

Language: Phimbi
People Group: Phimbi
People Group Size: 12,800
Location: Tete province, Mozambique
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming

Translation Time-frame: May 2024 - September 2027
Translation Phase: 1
Translation Goals: Oral translation of 60 biblical narratives
Source Languages: Chichewa
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA, Nazarene Church

IMPACT

Before the Phimbi project even started, an unprecedented number of pastors and church leaders from many denominations gathered in support of the idea. One pastor said, "I have never seen this happen." They said: "This project is coming not only to translate the Bible into Phimbi, but also to unite us." The next day, group went to a nearby mountain to pray together—for the project, for their churches and for their lives. That also had not happened before.

PRAYER

1. Pray for the team to be strong and courageous after the passing of brother Eliseu who played a very important role in translating Gods Word. Pray for comfort and emotional healing for the widow and the 2 orphans he left behind.
2. Pray for traveling mercies for the consultants and translators because the roads from Marravia District to Tete city, where the workshops take place, are not in good condition.
3. Pray for more impact of the Word of God to the Phimbi community and may the Lord open doors for local church partnership to podcast the recorded stories.

This translation has been adopted by:
None

No. people praying for this translation:

5

Sign up to pray



SEPULANA





Mapulaneng is the “Place of the Mapulana people.” The language community is spread across northeastern Mpumalanga and southeastern Limpopo, with Sepulana being a non-official community language spoken by most people in Bushbuckridge. Having been marginalised during apartheid, the community have since lobbied to have Sepulana as an official language of Mpumalanga. In 2018, a government entity agreed to use their long marginalised language in official signage, and then in 2019 the Mapulaneng Writer’s Association introduced and launched six newly published novels written in Sepulana.

For the Mapulana, having the scriptures available will encourage them to study God’s Word and will strengthen the work of reaching out to the unsaved among the Mapulana. The whole community is eager to give Sepulana the status it deserves.

Language: Sepulana
People Group: Mapulana
People Group Size: 800,000
Location: South Africa
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming

Translation Time-frame: October 2022 - September 2027
Completed in Phase 1: Oral Bible translation of 40 narratives from both the Old and New Testament, and an oral and written translation of Mark
Translation Phase: Phase 2
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation and transcription of the New Testament
Source Languages: Sepedi and English
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / Church of the Nazarene / Mapulaneng Writers' Association

IMPACT

When the translation was launched, Pastor Molimi from the Bushbuckridge ministers council said, "Today we walk tall. We feel heaven is opening for us, because the Bible is coming into Sepulana." Praise God for bringing His Word to every language.

PRAYER

1. That the team would obtain local funding for Sepulana Bible Translation to bridge gaps. Pray that God reveal and connect the team with local funders and partners.
2. Please pray for the newly appointed Exegete, Rev. Malebe, and the health of their outgoing Exegete, Dr Letswele.
3. Please pray for a fulltime establishment of the Farming God's Way initiative at the Sepulana Bible Translation project.

This translation has been adopted by:
House of the Lord Church
Shanan Christian School

No. people praying for this translation:

24

Sign up to pray



SIPHUTHI





Tucked in the mountains of Lesotho are the Siphuthi speaking people who have maintained their language and culture, despite the shifting cultures around them, and have been in desperate need of a Bible translation. Partnering with the Bible Society of Lesotho, translation work began in early 2019 and has been recognised and covered by national TV and radio stations. The Bible translation process has also given the language status with the government; it will be named the second national language of Lesotho.

Language: Siphuthi
People Group: Baphuthi
People Group Size: 43,000
Location: Lesotho and South Africa
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming

Translation Time-frame: October 2022 – September 2025
Completed in Phase 1: Oral Bible translation of 39 narratives from both the Old and New Testament
Translation Phase: 2
Translation Goals: Oral Bible translation and transcription of Genesis, Luke, Acts and Romans
Source Languages: Sesotho and English
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / Bible Society of Lesotho / Libhadla le baPhuthi

IMPACT

One of the translators, Mr Potsane Ndzuzo, said he was told it's not possible to translate God's Word in Siphuthi. After receiving an invitation to join the translation team, he said: 'So God can really hear Siphuthi and eBaphuthi? Isn't it great to observe that I have been heard?'

PRAYER

1. That God would bring unity and harmony among the team.
2. That the team would be excellent in their serving of the Lord.
3. For 2025 to be the year of reaping and restoration.

This translation has been adopted by:
NewLife Church Boksburg

No. people praying for this translation:

31

Sign up to pray

