XIRIMA



Languages: eXirima
People Group: aXirima
People Group Size: 729,000
Location: Mozambique
Lifestyle: Subsistence farming
Translation Phase: In transition (Phase 2 to 3)
Translation Time-frame: March 2026 - December 2028
Translation Goals: Translation of the whole New Testament
Completed in Phases 1&2: Genesis, Luke, Acts, and 65 narratives from the Old and New Testament
Source Languages: Central Makhuwa and Portuguese
Managing Partners: Wycliffe SA / Nampula Roman Catholic Church

IMPACT

"When I started listening to the audios, my life began to change. Before, I did not respect my husband. But with this program, my home has changed a lot. Now I respect my husband and take care of my children."

"They help me meditate and internalise the Word of God to the point of seeking to do God's will. Every day that I read the Bible and listen to the audios, there is a new discovery within me, which helps me find a new meaning in my life and in the lives of those around me.

Muanjuma Adriano, Xirima Community

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 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.





GET INVOLVED

Pray

Join the prayer mailing list to intercede for the Xirima community, the translation team, and the programme.

www.wycliffe.org.za/signup-makhuwa

Give

Become a partner and invest in God's transformative hope, planting seeds that will impact millions across Southern Africa.

www.wycliffe.org.za/give-now

Adopt

Journey with the Xirima by building relationships, encouraging, and supporting them in practical ways as they work.

www.wycliffe.org.za/contact/adopt-a-language

Visit

Get to know the Xirima people by visiting them and taking time to talk, pray, eat, and serve with them.

www.wycliffe.org.za/contact/visit-a-language