

Anglophone East Africa

“Anglophone” refers to countries where English is accepted as a main language or language of commerce. In Anglophone East Africa, English is frequently used to train Bible translation teams and coordinate projects.

More than 20 partners in this region work to reach every remaining person with God’s Word, including Bible translation organizations, local church networks, and mission agencies. Many of these groups have decades of experience and are taking more ownership and leadership in Bible translation. Praise God that this region is approaching Zero people without God’s Word in their heart language!

People Groups Waiting to Begin Bible Translation By Country

(source: Wycliffe Bible Translators)

ZERO	1 Remaining	2–5	6+
Burundi Rwanda Uganda	Kenya Seychelles	Ethiopia Somalia Tanzania	Ghana Mozambique South Sudan Sudan

Why Pray for Zero?

Pray for Zero Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Hck_RjBkCU

Regional Praise

Hajaat* Community Receives New Testament

With hearts filled with joy and gratitude, around 50–70 people recently gathered to celebrate the dedication of the Hajaat New Testament. Forty-six years of work had finally paid off!

The journey began in the late '70s, amidst challenges and a communist regime, but the team members persevered. Seed Company came alongside the community in the mid-2000s to see the work through to completion. Tears flowed as the community remembered and honored the struggles endured by many Hajaat people to see this day come to pass.

Today, a powerful radio program in the Hajaat language shares Scripture stories and continues to impact the community, in which 99% of people follow another major world religion. Let's pray for the Hajaat team as they work on the Old Testament and praise God for the completion of the Hajaat New Testament after 46 years!

[Listen to the Hajaat community sing a spiritual song in their own language.](#)

Monday

And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone."

— Mark 16:15 (NLT)

PRAY FOR A BIBLELESS PEOPLE GROUP **Hadzabe People of Tanzania**

The [Hadzabe](#) (population 1,000–1,300), a semi-nomadic group living around Lake Eyasi in northern Tanzania, have long been studied by anthropologists as one of the last true hunter-gatherer tribes in Africa. They often receive money from tourists in exchange for the opportunity to observe their unique way of life. Very few of them follow Christ.

What the local translation team is currently experiencing shows the importance of not only translating but also checking Scripture. While Scripture-based songs, New Testament portions, and Bible stories are now available on SD cards and [Proclaimers](#), sales have been slow, apparently because the text contains many Swahili words.

PRAY

For these translations to be thoroughly checked and revised soon so they can connect deeply with the hearts of Hadzabe people.



Answered Prayers for the Dekamo* People of East Africa

In May, [we celebrated how God is working through the Dekamo team](#) as they test and distribute Scripture. They report that testing Psalm 1–41 “went really well, and God is working mightily through these opportunities to share God’s Word in different villages.”

The team met with church leaders to introduce the Dekamo audio New Testament and the Luke [LUMO film](#), encouraging them to share these resources with the vast non-believing population around them. The evangelistic resources were well received, and many are excited to share them. Thank you for praying!

Pray Now

Excitement over the audio New Testament is raising interest in God’s Word in Dekamo. Please pray we find the right avenues to distribute these quickly to reach many people and encourage them to grow in God’s Word.

Tuesday

God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

— 1 Corinthians 1:9 (NLT)

PRAY FOR PARTNERS **Bible Society of Uganda Loses Great Leader**

On May 11, 2023, Dr. Simon Peter Mukhama passed away unexpectedly. He had worked at the [Bible Society of Uganda](#) for 25 years, the last 10 as CEO. He also worked with many other Bible translation organizations and churches to end Bible poverty in not only Uganda but the entire region.

Simon Peter was working toward his Ph.D., and he'd planned to graduate this month. He'd also planned to celebrate his 25th wedding anniversary on May 16. Instead, those who loved him gathered to honor his life and ministry. Because of his faithfulness, many people now have God's Word in their own language—a legacy that will impact eternity.

PRAY

- For interim CEO Peter Serumaga and others to continue the good work Simon Peter began.
- That God would comfort and provide for Simon Peter's wife Ruth, his four children, and all those who loved him as they grieve.

God Answers Prayers for Rain

[We prayed for rain for the Rewe* people of the Selous Cluster in February, and God answered!](#) The team reports, “Rain has come to many areas of our nation, and we are very thankful.” In addition, we praise God for sending rain to some parts of the Rendille area, which has had a prolonged drought—[another answered prayer from February.](#)

Pray Now

Pray for the people still suffering from hunger as they wait for their crops to grow, and for relief from power outages and internet connectivity issues that are disrupting the Rewe team’s progress. Ask God to continue to send rain to these lands, especially the Rendille area!

Wednesday

Jesus said, “This is how you should pray: ‘Father, may your name be kept holy. May your Kingdom come soon.’”

— Luke 11:2

Eijoo inyieja do hosie hijo, “Lijo itai limojo, itijoo hijo, “Monye, Hotokwata fure noboi, Isiere lôbie noboi owoŋ.

— Luka 11:2 (Lopit, a language in South Sudan)

PRAY FOR THE LOPIT PEOPLE OF SOUTH SUDAN

For too long, the Lopit community only had Scripture in other languages, which church leaders believed their people weren't truly understanding. Even Lopit pastors often struggled to comprehend the texts and feared that their teaching was inaccurate. While as many as 90% of Lopit speakers may claim to be Christians, project leaders estimate that less than 10% actively practice their faith.

[SIL South Sudan](#) and [Africa Inland Mission](#) are building strong relationships with local churches to increase local ownership as Lopit translators continue working on portions of the Old Testament, the Gospels, the “JESUS” film, and the [Magdalena film](#).

PRAY

That God will give wisdom to the translators to revise Matthew and Mark based on input from comprehension testing in the community.

PRAY FOR THE RUFUMBIRA TEAM IN UGANDA A Divine Appointment in a Nail Salon

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. — John 1:29

*Umunsi wakurikiyebo, Yohaana abona Yesu aje amusanga. Nuuko Yohaana aravuga ati, “Dore Umwana w’Intaama w’Imaana ukuraho ibyaha by’abari mu isi.
— John 1:29 (Rufumbira language of Uganda)*

One evening, a Rufumbira translator visited a nail salon and found Sunio*, whose family follows another religion, sitting with two friends reading the Rufumbira/English Gospel of John. After the translator asked Sunio more about his faith and lifestyle, Sunio stopped what he was doing to read John 1:29, then said, “I also want this Lamb of God to take away my sins so that I can have peace.” When she asked if he would like to join a group of believers, he said yes!

As she rose to leave, Sunio said, “I’m so grateful to whoever did this great work of translating this Gospel. We’ve made it a habit to read some verses before we go home each day.” Then she got to share that she was part of the Rufumbira translation team.

PRAY

That God will continue to provide divine appointments with people like Sunio as they encounter Rufumbira Scripture.

Thursday

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

— Ephesians 4:12 (NLT)

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

Simret Fekadu: Healing Through Stories

Scripture engagement is a key part of Bible translation. Faithful workers use translated Scripture to bring healing and transformation to their communities, ensuring that God's Word produces fruit and accomplishes its intended purpose (Isaiah 55:11).

Simret Fekadu, who is currently completing an internship in Scripture engagement with [SIL AIM Ethiopia](#), has been learning to facilitate trauma healing workshops through oral Bible stories. After leading one workshop for Eritrean refugees and seeing the impact in their lives, she trained church leaders in five other language communities. They formed 13 trauma healing groups as soon as they received the training!



PRAISE

God has been providing for Simret and blessing her family with his protection and peace.

PRAY

For open doors, provision, wisdom, and energy to continue the ministry, and for continued protection for Simret's children as she travels.

Praise God

Please join the Xamtanga community in praising God for bringing relative peace and stability after three long years of conflict where they live, near the Tigray border. This is an answered prayer from [February](#)! Pray for God's Shalom peace to pervade the whole region.

Friday

Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created.
— Psalm 119:90 (NLT)

IMPACT STORY

How God Changed the Course of an Utuki* Translator's Family

Most Utuki follow another major world religion, mixed with animistic practices. But in one family, God called out a man to help change eternity for members of both his family and his community.

Translator Moses'* grandfather was a priest of the local gods in their East African community; he had two wives and many sons and daughters. But when Moses learned about Jesus at school, he broke the family tradition of practicing animistic rituals and was baptized as a Christ follower.

After graduation, people sent messages to his father asking if Moses would like to learn Bible translation, but his father refused to relay the messages. Finally, local church leaders visited their home and personally invited Moses to join the effort. And today, Moses is faithfully working to translate Scripture for his people.

PRAISE

God made this wonderful generational shift from his grandfather being a priest of the local gods to Moses being a Bible translator.

PRAY

That God will equip Moses as he trains for a new role of helping other translation teams.

A Praise Report from the Chuka People Group

Between 2006 and 2008, when [Oral Bible Storytelling](#) began among the Chuka people in Kenya, local librarians remarked that if someone told a story from a book in the library, that book would be “off the shelf for the next month.”

“People will want to know more about the *source* of the story,” they said.

“Fast forward to our recent trip to Kenya, where we did an Oral Bible Storytelling project with the Chuka language group, and they will attest as to how storytelling has captivated audiences to want to know more about the source,” reports international orality consultant Jim Stahl. “They went from a group of only five to 40 or more people who are actively doing Oral Bible Storytelling in the Chuka community. Here’s a photo of most of them. And all of the Chuka Bible translators are also storytellers!”