

Congo Basin

The Congo Basin includes the nations of Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, and Republic of Congo.

Pray for Obstacles to Bible Translation

INFRASTRUCTURE	POLITICAL INSTABILITY	REBEL ACTIVITY
Translators in the Congo Basin must allow ample time for travel because roads can be hazardous and even completely cave in.	In Democratic Republic of Congo, an opposition candidate was killed in July. Central African Republic's president has moved to eliminate term limits. Both events have led to protests and unrest.	Due to rebel activity in two of the region's four countries, translation teams and even whole language communities have been displaced.

Pray With Scripture

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

— Acts 17:26-27

Many people in the Congo Basin have been through severe trauma, but God is not far from any of them. We praise God for the committed brothers and sisters who continue to invest their resources and expertise in this region until everyone in the Congo Basin has Scripture in their own language.

Regional Update

Upcoming Leadership Summit in Democratic Republic of Congo

Originally planned to occur in February 2023, this summit to help Bible translation partners collaborate and strategize had to be postponed and moved due to unrest in North Kivu (learn more from [Human Rights Watch](#)).

After many emails with our partners, it was decided to move the summit to Yaounde, Cameroon, in September 2023. We are in the process of getting transfers sent to partners so they can renew their passports, apply for visas, and purchase plane tickets in time.

PRAY

- That we manage our time and funds well
- Most importantly, that this leadership summit is a blessing and encouragement to all of our partners.

Monday

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

— Mark 16:15 (NLT)

PRAY FOR BIBLELESS PEOPLE GROUPS Akwa, Koyo, and Ngare of Republic of Congo

For too long, people who speak the Akwa, Koyo, and Ngare languages have struggled to understand Scripture in the regional languages of French and Lingala. Therefore, many have remained connected to animistic practices and ancestral religions despite professing Christ. Church leaders in each people group are taking initiative to change that in a brand new [cluster project](#) called the Cuvette Cluster. They're praying that as these communities receive their first portions of the New Testament, more people will truly come to know and follow Christ.

PRAY

That fear, confusion, and lies will be overcome by the love and truth of Jesus as his people receive his Word.

PRAISE

We thank God for the resources that he is gathering in order for this project to begin.

Praise God

For Ebal Eniang, who has recently joined Seed Company as the newest Field Project Manager for the Congo Basin. He and his wife will have a unique opportunity to deeply connect with field partners, as they currently live in their home country of Democratic Republic of Congo.

“I am truly delighted to join the team, especially being based directly in DR Congo. This is a unique opportunity to partake in the work of the kingdom of God, bring the Word of God to all flesh, in whichever language, for them to receive the gospel so that they might be saved.”

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 FOCOTBA in Democratic Republic of Congo

FOCOTBA, which translates to “Community Forum of Bible Translators and Literacy” in English, is partnering with Seed Company on three translation projects that include a total of seven languages. They’re training one intern, Pascal Kugana, and they plan to initiate four more [internships](#) in the future!

Field Project Manager Bijou recently visited our partners at FOCOTBA and reports, “Sharing my time with our partner in Kindu was enjoyable and unforgettable. May they be blessed with unwavering confidence, profound wisdom, and resounding success.”

PRAY

- For a safe return home to Kindu at the end of September for eight dedicated translators and their family members, who are preparing to begin work in four languages after completing three years of study.

Pray Now

For complete healing for Pastor Makita, a [Tsaangji](#) translator who had to be hospitalized after his feet got swollen from an infection.

Wednesday

This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God.[a] It began 2 just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

*“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
and he will prepare your way.*

*He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!
Clear the road for him!’”*

— Mark 1: 1-3 [NLT]

*Anu Boso Bwilɔngɔ Jaenda ja Yesu- Kilisito, Mwāna wa Bɔsɔmwa.
Imbe bwāchila katomangwa Isaya, atenda: «Lola, Meno Bɔsɔmwa nitomasene koboso naɔ
katomangwa kane, məkɔsɔna tɛ andene okalendekā njela yaɔ»
jōki jōla wākamoka mo Jāngwa* jatenda: lendeka njela ya Bɔsɔmwa” sengola boetelo*

— Mark 1:1-3 [Songola, a language in Democratic Republic of Congo]

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT Songola People, Democratic Republic of Congo

Among the Songola people, many identify as Christians, but when times get difficult, they may turn to amulets and charms for protection. Translators are praying that heart language Scripture will “clear the road” of obstacles to people knowing the all-sufficiency of Christ.

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Gbaya of Central African Republic

While most of the 160,000 Gbaya people identify as Christian, many of them also practice traditional animistic rituals. Many came to Christ through missionaries in the 1930s, but they didn't receive the full New Testament in their language until 2006. Now, our partner [ACATBA](#) is helping them complete the Bible. Praise God that this project officially began last month!

PRAY

- That as people receive crucial books like Genesis, Exodus, and Joshua, they will understand the nature and power of the one true creator God, who stands alone above all others.
- For God to bring the right translators to the team and smooth out challenging logistical issues
- For peace to return to the Central African Republic

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

Pray for Interns in Democratic Republic of Congo

Our partner [CET \(Fellowship of Labor Churches\)](#) is training several members of the local community in Bible storytelling, translation, finance, technology, and media—all vital roles in Scripture translation and engagement. Let's pray for three of them today!

Firmin Bokeli

Bible Story Facilitator & Translator

Leaders call Firmin “a great blessing.” Through CET, he’s been trained in how to start up new ministries through social networks, which he calls “the tools of evangelization in this century.”

Germain Ngondu Mpia

Technology & Media Specialist

Leaders report that Germain “puts his knowledge at the service of the community and always seeks to learn to do better.” At a recent workshop, he led a training on how to configure a messaging service.

Lambert Basepi Madjola

Bible Translator

At a recent training, Lambert learned about language development and basic Hebrew. He was grateful for the opportunity for personal and professional growth. His leaders remark on how independently he is now able to work.

Pray Now

For Alfred Siango, a translator who is also training to be a [consultant](#)—all while working 3 jobs! He works with the Banda-Linda team (who we prayed for [last November](#)) in the Central African Republic. Pray for God’s grace as he perseveres toward certification as a consultant while juggling his other responsibilities.

Pray Now

For Adelphe Dogue-syssa, the Survey and Church Relations leader at [ACATBA](#), as he seeks to convey the importance of heart language Scripture to churches and communities.

Friday

Rise up, O Lord, in all your power. With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts.
— Psalm 21:13 (NLT)

IMPACT STORY

Manianga People, Democratic Republic of Congo

The Manianga people of the Democratic Republic of Congo have not quite two gospels in their language: Luke and the first 13 chapters of Mark. Yet the rural churches already feel deep satisfaction preaching and singing songs to God in their own language using these Scriptures.

The translators have also observed an unforeseen impact of the translation process: increased unity in the church. After translations are drafted, they're reviewed by diverse committees that include representatives of different denominations. Working together to review the Scriptures and make suggestions on more clear and natural wordings is bringing about a fresh unity in the Manianga church that has never been seen before!

PRAY

That as each chapter is translated, unity, praise, and ultimately God's kingdom will continue to grow among the Manianga people.

Pray Now

For the Gisir team in Gabon, who recently lost a beloved and respected elderly translator they affectionately called “Papa Augustin.” He passed away shortly after the “JESUS” film was finally recorded in his language. Pray for the Lord to comfort the team members and to send the right person to carry on his work.