

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, including Bible translation organizations, local church networks, and mission agencies, work to reach every remaining person with God’s Word. Many of these leaders 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	Ethiopia Somalia Tanzania	South Sudan

Watch video: [Why Pray for Zero?](#)

Regional Praise

Four Ugandan Language Groups Receive Luke's Gospel

This July, four language groups in Uganda, including more than 290,000 people, received the Gospel of Luke. This [cluster project](#) with The Word For The World Uganda only began in June 2022—and the people already have a complete Gospel in their hands!

Sandra Tuhumwire, Director of The Word For The World Uganda, was overcome by the beauty of the Aliba, Gimara, Kuku, and Reli communities gathering for the celebration. She said, “Bible translation is bringing people together where politics, religion, cultural differences, and denominational divides have driven them apart.” Even people who follow another major world religion attended and took home their own copies of Luke!

Hear the festive music and shouts of joy:

[TWFTW Nile cluster dedication](#)

PRAISE

African regional leaders have been exploring ways to accelerate Bible translation, and God is blessing their efforts!

PRAY

For The Word For The World staff and local translators as they travel in regions of Uganda where political instability and cattle raids pose threats.

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 Gweno People of Tanzania

Roughly 3,600 Gweno speakers live in the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania, growing crops like coffee, bananas, maize, and rice. Many young people have moved to urban areas, leaving the elderly in the villages. While many young people speak Swahili, older community members long to pass on and preserve Gweno language and culture.

Most Gweno people are Christian, but they don't have any Scripture in their language. Rural churches must rely on interpreters during services. But for the elderly, the Gweno language is still how they receive and transmit truth and meaning. The community will immensely benefit from Bible translation, language development, and literacy initiatives.

PRAISE

[Bible Translation and Literacy of East Africa](#) discovered Gweno church leaders' interest in Bible translation and language development through a survey they conducted.

PRAY

For the Gweno community to receive adequate support and partnership to begin translation work soon.

Answered Prayer

In the last Anglophone East Africa prayer journal, [we prayed for the Rewe translation team's internet connectivity](#). Praise God that their internet connection has improved, and they've been able to make excellent progress! They've recently been testing the book of Job among the community and request prayer to make it as clear as possible.

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 DOOR International

DOOR International works to engage, equip, and empower the Deaf worldwide with God's Word. Learn more about their ministry:

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PRAISE

- For the Kenyan Sign Language Bible translation team—one of three sign language teams in the world that are close to having 25% of the Bible translated! [Watch “The Samaritan Woman” in Kenyan Sign Language.](#)
- The Kenyan Sign Language Bible will be a key source text for other sign language projects following in their footsteps, multiplying and accelerating access to God’s Word for Deaf people.

Pray Now

For Gawali* translators, some of whom follow another major world religion. Ask God to speak to them as they translate concepts like being “united with Christ.” May they hunger for the deep fellowship of being united with Christ and give him their whole lives.

Wednesday

If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.

—Luke 16:10 (NLT)

Lia leriamik bigem h̄irro kai ana lanyar, eriamik inyieja bigem h̄irro ilulun̄ ana lanyar daŋ, ojo lia lobe leriamik bigem h̄irro kai ana lanyar, obe inyieja leriamik bigem h̄irro ilulun̄ ana lanyar daŋ ...

—Luke 16:10 (Lopit, a language in South Sudan)

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

—Luke 16:10 (translated back into English from Lopit)

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT Lopit of South Sudan

While as many as 90% of Lopit speakers claim Christ, translation project leaders estimate that less than 10% actively practice their faith. Heart language Scripture is helping this community of roughly 80,000 people grow deeper in the faith they profess. [See July's Anglophone East Africa prayer journal for more information about the Lopit project and people.](#)

PRAISE

The team finished the script for the "JESUS" and *Magdalena* films and completed the consultant check for Matthew's Gospel!

PRAY

For peace in South Sudan and unity among the Lopit people.

PRAY FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSLATION PROJECT

Mpoto of Tanzania

Most of the roughly 200,000 Mpoto speakers identify as Christian, but before Bible translation began, they had difficulty understanding what was said in church because pastors were forced to preach from the Bible in a different language. As a result, syncretism was common, and people lived in fear of witchcraft rather than trusting the authority and sufficiency of Jesus.

Today, translators have completed the New Testament and are working on the Old Testament, and the true gospel is spreading and changing individuals and families.

One Mpoto man, Paul, had eight children with two different women. He also battled alcohol abuse and drug addiction. Then he encountered [1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#) in his language, and his life was transformed.

PRAISE

Paul is now walking with Jesus and learning how to love his family well.

PRAY

For Mpoto Scripture to reach and transform more people like Paul in the Mpoto community.

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

26 New People Trained in Trauma Healing in East Africa

The last few years have been difficult for people in many parts of Ethiopia because of civil unrest. At the same time, God has been raising up his church to bring healing.

Tizita Zenebe, a Scripture engagement intern with [SIL AIM Ethiopia](#), reports that 26 local leaders have recently been trained to help facilitate trauma healing workshops.

PRAY

For strength and wise time management to finish well in this last year of Tizita's internship.

PRAISE

- For a fruitful time at a recent conference, where Tizita gained great ideas for working with refugees.
- Tizita has received her visa to go to the US for a Bible translation conference in October!

Answered Prayer

In the last [Anglophone East Africa prayer journal](#), we prayed for open doors for another Scripture engagement intern with SIL AIM Ethiopia named Simret Fekadu. One of those doors has been opened; she got her visa to the US and will be able to attend the same Bible translation conference as Tizita!

Friday

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

IMPACT STORY

Kebbede* of the Karama* Team in East Africa: “A Modern-Day Paul”

Almost all Karama people follow another major world religion, and they generally persecute people who choose to follow Jesus. But many are hungry for the truth that will set them free.

Kebbede, the Karama team leader, was recently unjustly imprisoned for political reasons. But while there, he passed around his translated copy of Genesis for fellow prisoners to read. Sometimes, groups would gather to listen while he read out loud. He established a fellowship time with other Christians for regular prayer, Bible study, and singing. As a result of his faithfulness, five people accepted Christ as Savior, including one woman who had been wondering how to be saved for a long time.

PRAISE

- Kebbede has been released from prison!

PRAY

- For the local churches that are closed due to ongoing unrest.
- For the whole Karama community to be touched by the Word of God like these prisoners were.
- For protection from persecution for the translators, especially after distributing Genesis.

Pray Now

For the Arbore team in Ethiopia, who are experiencing conflict with a neighboring tribe as well as persistent drought in the area.