



Languages: Bamui, Nweh, Nkwen, Nyongnepa, Oshie

Speakers: 145,500



Dates: 2019-2022

Project Goals: New Testament portions, oral Bible stories

BAMENDA CLUSTER (bah-MEN-dah)

AFRICA — CAMEROON

THE PEOPLE

The Bamenda Cluster includes the Bamui, Nweh, Nkwen, Nyongnepa and Oshie people groups of Cameroon.

Most people are farmers and employ an agricultural system called shifting cultivation. Plots of land are temporarily cultivated and then left to fallow before workers return to use them again.

While these five groups aren't close neighbors, they share similar cultural practices. They also face common social issues like poverty, alcoholism and deadly diseases.

About 70% of the population identify with Christianity. But for many people, daily life remains heavily influenced by traditional religion, often causing fear and anxiety.

Those who abandon traditional beliefs to follow Jesus sometimes find it challenging to pray to God, whom they can't see. Another obstacle is that Scripture is only available in another language.

To fully know God and his love for them, the people of the Bamenda Cluster need his Word in languages they clearly understand.

THE PLAN

We're partnering with local translators to produce the very first Scripture in the languages of the Bamenda Cluster!

Bamui, Nweh, Nkwen, Nyongnepa and Oshie church leaders have requested Scripture in the form of oral Bible stories. "In Cameroon, more attention and value is given to stories recounted in the mother tongue," a project adviser said.

Each people group has selected their best candidates to undergo translation and storytelling training.

During oral Bible storytelling workshops, staff members will work alongside local participants to craft 30 narratives in each language. The translation teams will also produce audio recordings of the finished Scripture-based stories.

Translators will also draft the Gospels of Matthew and Luke in the Bamenda Cluster languages. When Luke is completed, it will be published in print and audio formats.

In addition, to help address public issues, health booklets will be published.

THE IMPACT

"We believe that many people will be brought close to God through the work of oral Bible storytelling and Bible translation," the adviser said.

There is a common belief among those in the Bamenda Cluster that the Bible and Christianity represent a foreign culture and don't pertain to their own way of life. "Church leaders are convinced that having the Scriptures in the local languages will help to dispel this belief," the adviser said.

By establishing storytelling clubs and listening groups, people will have opportunities to engage with God's Word in meaningful ways within their cultural context.

"They will be challenged through the oral Bible stories to live a Christ-like lifestyle and abandon practices that are contrary to Scripture," the adviser said.

Your prayers and gifts will help make God's Word accessible to the people of the Bamenda Cluster in languages that speak to their hearts!