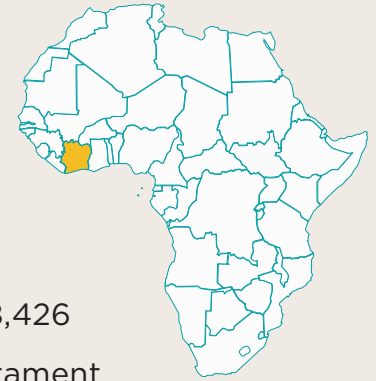




**Languages:** Abouré, Avikam

**Speakers:** 85,000



**Dates:** 2017-2018

**Total Project Cost:** \$188,426

**Project Goals:** New Testament portions in print and audio

# LAGOON CLUSTER

AFRICA – CÔTE D'IVOIRE

## THE PEOPLE

It is said that one day in the 19th century, an Avikam man went fishing at sea, got lost and ended up in the coastal lagoon near where the Avikam people live today.

Originally from the neighboring country of Ghana, both language groups of the Lagoon Cluster — the Avikam and Abouré — migrated to Côte d'Ivoire many years ago.

At home in a coastal rainforest, these language groups live peacefully alongside other people groups, and share a mutual respect for one another's cultures and traditions.

The people of the Lagoon Cluster work mainly as farmers, growing pineapples, yams, bananas, coffee, cocoa and more recently, rubber. Although the Avikam once fished at sea, they now fish only in rivers and the nearby lagoon.

Many people practice traditional religions and beliefs, although there are some who follow Christianity.

To grow their faith, local believers in the Lagoon Cluster need God's Word in their own language.

## THE PLAN

We are partnering with local translators to produce the very first Scripture in the languages of the Lagoon Cluster!

The Gospel of Luke is already drafted in both Abouré and Avikam. Each team is now working to revise and then publish it in written and audio formats. The Avikam team has also drafted Acts and will work on revision.

Translations of additional Gospels — Matthew for the Abouré and Mark for the Avikam — are included in this two-year project. Like the Gospel of Luke, they will be printed and made available as audio recordings.

Recorded Scripture will help meet the needs of these language communities that largely prefer oral communication. And the recordings can be shared on cellphones which are prominent in the area. Even so, the Abouré team is excited to encourage a grass-roots literacy movement that's underway in their community.

Local churches are engaged in the work, helping to give direction to the project.

## THE IMPACT

"The Abouré and Avikam teams are eager to have God's Word in their own languages, so that the churches can grow spiritually and do evangelism more effectively," said a project adviser. "They also feel that this project will give more value to their language."

Translated Scripture will help motivate local believers in the Lagoon Cluster to learn to read their own language. And through literacy training, church leaders will be equipped to teach people to read.

Local pastors want to share the gospel message in their communities. They see Bible translation as necessary for evangelizing their people. Scripture materials produced in the project will be used in a variety of church ministries, including discipleship activities.

As soon as translated Scripture is approved for publication, local churches will be encouraged to use it.

**Your prayers and investment** will help the people of the Lagoon Cluster access God's Word for the very first time!