



**Language:** Dinka Cam

**Speakers:** 1 million



**Dates:** 2019-2022

**Project Goal:** Complete Bible

# DINKA CAM 2 (DING-kah CHAHM)

AFRICA — SOUTH SUDAN

## THE PEOPLE

The Dinka Cam of South Sudan place a high value on personal grooming and ornamentation. Traditionally men will dye their hair red, while women sport shaved heads with a knot of hair at the top.

To provide for their families, most people engage in herding, farming and fishing. Others earn income through metalworking, or by weaving and selling grass baskets and papyrus mats.

The Dinka preserve their history and social identity through song and oral histories and stories. They even have certain types of songs for different activities, such as festive occasions and field work. Songs are also used ritually in competition to resolve quarrels.

More than half the population follow traditional beliefs. When they encounter problems, some seek help from mediums and when the medium cannot help, from the high God.

Dinka Christians are eager to have Scripture in their language so they can grow spiritually and reach out to others.

## THE PLAN

We're working with a local team to produce the entire Bible in the Dinka Cam language!

This three-year project will bring two decades of work to a close. Team members recently finished translating the Old Testament, and now they're revising an older translation of the New Testament.

Before typesetting and publication in 2023, they'll finalize key biblical terms and harmonize the Old and New Testaments.

Children's Bible stories, a hymnbook and other materials will also be translated and printed.

In light of the harsh realities of life in South Sudan, another aspect of the project is addressing the prevalent issue of trauma.

The team will host workshops that use biblically based resources to bring about hope and healing in the community. They'll also update the "Kande's Story" curriculum, which teaches about HIV and AIDS prevention and care. "These materials are highly valued by the churches," a project adviser said.

## THE IMPACT

"Knowledge of both the Old and New Testaments will give Dinka Cam Christians a better understanding of the Bible," the adviser said. "This will lead to stronger faith."

Currently, translated Scripture portions are being used by local church leaders as they teach and counsel their congregations. In addition, students attending Bible schools in the area are using the available books in their studies.

But Christian leaders are looking forward to having all of God's Word in their language. They believe they'll be able to communicate biblical truths more clearly, and be better equipped to tackle societal issues such as theft and fighting.

Moreover, the complete Bible — in both print and audio formats — will be invaluable as they share the Good News with those who don't yet follow Jesus.

**Your prayers and gifts** will help to make God's Word available to the Dinka Cam people in a language and form that speaks to their hearts!