



**Languages:** Bende, Konongo, Pimbwe, Ruwila

**Speakers:** 161,600



**Dates:** 2018-2021

**Project Goal:** Old and New Testament portions

# KATAVI CLUSTER 2 (kah-TAH-vee)

AFRICA — TANZANIA

## THE PEOPLE

The Katavi Cluster includes four people groups — the Bende, Konongo, Pimbwe and Ruwila.

Their homeland, Tanzania's remote Katavi Region, features mountains, forests and savannah. A portion of it borders Lake Tanganyika, the world's longest freshwater lake.

Primarily subsistence farmers, people grow corn, rice, beans and other crops. Some groups also engage in animal husbandry and keep bees.

Although a large number of the Konongo, Pimbwe and Ruwila identify as Christians, the Katavi Region is known as a center of traditional religion. Some people seek help from traditional doctors when faced with sickness, poverty and other problems. Even among the Bende, most of whom follow another major world religion, traditional beliefs hold influence.

To deepen the faith of those who follow Christ and also impact the greater community, God's Word is needed in the Katavi Cluster languages.

## THE PLAN

We're working with local teams to make God's Word available in four Katavi Cluster languages!

In a previous project, the Bende and Pimbwe communities received the Gospel of Luke and Old Testament portions in their languages.

During this three-year project, the Bende team will publish over a dozen New Testament books. The Pimbwe team will translate eight books, as well as Old Testament portions from Genesis and Psalms.

Each book will be uploaded immediately after completion onto a Scripture app so God's Word can be shared widely via cellphones.

Meanwhile the Konongo and Ruwila groups — new additions to the project — will gain access to the first Scripture in their languages! Using cutting-edge translation software, team members will produce the Gospel of Luke in audio format.

A project adviser explained: "[In this way] the Scriptures will reach the ears and hearts of listeners even before a writing system or printed materials are developed."

## THE IMPACT

Mathias, a Bende translator and former pastor, understands why having Scripture in his language is such an exciting prospect for his people.

"Although I was a pastor, it wasn't easy to read the Bible every day [since it wasn't in my language]," Mathias said. "But now, I can understand the Bende translated portions very well. I can preach easily and convey the message to the church more simply because the Bible is in the language that I understand."

Mathias' involvement with the project has also elevated his attitude toward his own language.

"Now I value my language. I feel proud to use it everywhere in my daily activities," he said. "For sure, Bible translation is redemption for the Bende language and for the community at large."

**Your prayers and gifts** will help to make Scripture available to the people of the Katavi Cluster — in languages they clearly understand!

Amended 12/2020