



**Languages:** Ikizu-Sizaki, Ikoma-Nata-Isenye, Jita, Kabwa, Kwaya, Suba-Simbiti, Zanki

**Speakers:** About 1 million



**Dates:** 2018-2021

**Project Goals:** New Testament completion, Scripture engagement

## MARA BANTU CLUSTER 2

(MAH-rah BAHN-too)

AFRICA — TANZANIA

### THE PEOPLE

The people of the Mara Bantu Cluster live near the shores of Lake Victoria and the diverse wildlife of Serengeti National Park.

Seven languages are part of this project. They are primarily spoken in the Mara Region — one of Tanzania’s most densely populated areas.

To meet their daily needs, people fish the tropical waters of the lake, or grow millet, beans and other crops. Their local languages are central to their lives, and can be heard in markets, community gatherings and homes.

A wide variety of churches are present in the area, and many people identify with Christianity. But the influence of traditional religion remains strong, and its practices are sometimes mixed with Christian beliefs.

To overcome syncretism and grow spiritually, the people groups of the Mara Bantu Cluster need more of God’s Word in their own languages.

### THE PLAN

We are partnering with local teams to complete the New Testament in the languages of the Mara Bantu Cluster!

Translators in each of the seven language groups have already made great progress on the translation of New Testament books.

In this three-year project, they will finish their remaining books and begin the typesetting process.

An advisory committee of local church leaders continues to give input and provide helpful feedback to the translators.

Working closely with each people group, teams will implement plans to distribute finished Scripture.

As portions of God’s Word are checked and approved for publication, they are made available on websites. In addition, teams are making audio recordings of translated Scripture.

### THE IMPACT

When Musa, an Ikoma translator, met with people in a local community to test newly translated portions of the Gospel of Mark, it led to a lively discussion.

“So far the Bible has only been available in Swahili, and it always felt like it was something foreign, brought to us from the outside,” one participant said. “But with the Ikoma translation, we realize it’s a message for us too.”

As they listened to Scripture, the group was encouraged. “I believe the New Testament in Ikoma will change people’s lives,” another person said. “Especially those who still worship local gods and ancestors.”

By completing the New Testament in seven languages, this cluster project will significantly increase people’s understanding of God and his redemptive plan for their lives.

**Your prayers and gifts** will help make God’s Word available to the people of the Mara Bantu Cluster in languages that speak to their hearts!

Updated 4/2020