

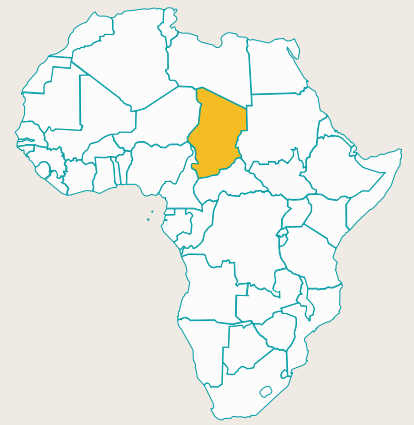


**Language:** Niellim

**Speakers:** 6,500

**Dates:** 2017-2020

**Project Goal:** New Testament portions



# NIELLIM (nee-AY-lim)

## AFRICA — CHAD

### THE PEOPLE

The Niellim people of Chad live in communities along rivers, surrounded by mountains. The climate is hot in the dry season but colder during the rainy months of the year.

In Niellim culture, the family structure is extended, and a Niellim child belongs to the entire society. The child's father is the only one with naming rights, though.

Most people follow traditional religion, believing in a creator god who remains unknown to them.

The Niellim are considered to be one of the least-evangelized groups in Chad. But in recent years, more people are becoming interested in following Christ. There are now more than 20 Christians who gather every Sunday.

"We have the desire to see the salvation of the Niellim community," said the leaders among the Niellim Christian community. "We are convinced that only the Word of God can help this people come out from their spiritual, moral and material misery."

### THE PLAN

We are working in partnership with a team of local translators to continue the translation of the New Testament into the Niellim language!

In this three-year project, the translation team will complete the work they've already started on 21 New Testament books. Of these, 18 will be published — Romans, Acts, 1-2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 2 Thessalonians, 1-2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James, 1-2 Peter and 1-3 John.

Throughout the translation process, the Christian community will be involved in testing the drafts to see how well they are understood by Niellim speakers.

Team members will also devote time to creating oral Bible stories as part of a separate project. Believers want to use these stories to reach out to others.

Literacy classes will be held for those who want to learn to read and write in their mother tongue. A Scripture engagement workshop is planned, as well as meetings focused on women and youth.

### THE IMPACT

"I am very satisfied," said a Niellim woman, after attending a Bible study in her community.

Before she knew Christ, this woman had a broken relationship with her husband and found married life to be miserable.

But after she and her husband started following Jesus, their lives were transformed, and their attitudes changed. They learned to communicate and share ideas with each other. And they started managing their finances better, enhancing the well-being of their whole family.

This couple is overjoyed at what Christ has done in their lives!

The church among the Niellim is small but continues to grow. For many years now, the believers have longed for the New Testament in their language.

As the translation team nears the finish line, the believers are doing whatever they can to encourage and pray for them.

**Your prayers and investment** will help the Niellim people gain access to God's Word in their language!