



**Language:** Southern Nuni

**Speakers:** 250,000



**Dates:** 2020-2022

**Project Goals:** Old Testament completion;  
publish full Bible

## SOUTHERN NUNI 2 (NOO-nee)

AFRICA — BURKINA FASO

### THE PEOPLE

The Nuna people of Burkina Faso live in a flat territory crisscrossed by rural paths and rivers.

Most are farmers, growing millet, corn, cassava and peanuts. Cash crops, including cotton and sesame, are commonly planted as well.

Drawn by employment possibilities, some Nuna reside in neighboring countries such as Côte d'Ivoire or Ghana. However they don't cut ties with their family.

Elders and ancestors are revered in society, and traditional religion teaches that ancestors act in favor of their living descendants. Many people also believe they must participate in ceremonies and rituals to appease evil spirits.

About one-fourth of the Nuna population follow Christ. Although portions of Scripture are available in their language, believers are eager for the full Bible to be completed in Southern Nuni.

Having access to the entirety of God's Word will help people to grow in faith and reach out to others.

### THE PLAN

When the Southern Nuni New Testament was printed in 2000, many Nuna people gained a clearer picture of God's love and plan of redemption.

"Attitudes toward Christianity have changed," a project coordinator said. "People no longer consider it a foreign religion because they know God speaks Nuni too."

Now, your help is needed as translators work toward the next milestone — the completion of the Old Testament. Over the course of this three-year project, staff will finish the remaining two books — Ecclesiastes and Ezekiel.

Once those are done, the team plans to review the New Testament and harmonize it with the Old Testament. A glossary, as well as an introduction for each Old Testament book, will be produced. Then the entire Bible will be typeset and published.

In addition, the books of Job and Ecclesiastes will be recorded in audio format. Nuni speakers will also receive training on facilitating community listening groups.

### THE IMPACT

Fatimata, a Nuna Christian, loved to read from the book of Psalms.

There was just one problem — she only had access to a French Bible. While she had an adequate grasp of the language, she often struggled to fully understand the teachings of Scripture.

Then one day Fatimata tuned in to a local Christian radio station. Her ears perked up as she realized Psalm 37 was being read on the air. And it was being shared in her language.

"The words were so sweet to my ears and tender to my heart," Fatimata said later. "I felt like I was being personally called to surrender everything to the Lord."

Soon after, Fatimata obtained the audio recording of the book of Psalms in Southern Nuni. "Now I can enjoy listening to it anytime," she said.

**Your prayers and gifts** will help make more of God's Word available to the Nuna people in their own language!

Amended 12/2020