



BALI-MBA

Democratic Republic of the Congo

SPRING 2022 UPDATE

Volunteer literacy teacher training for Mba speakers.

STORIES OF IMPACT

Local churches celebrate Bible translation

A local Bali Catholic church welcomes the work of Bible translation, because every Sunday the Gospel is read in Bali during mass. This church is ready to support the project. One Sunday after mass, a Catholic mother named Jeannette told us: **“This translation work will revive our language among us Bali. Thanks to listening to the language programs that translators and literacy teachers host on the radio and the lessons they give, my children know how to count in Bali, something that even I do not know.”**

Bali speakers are eager about literacy classes

In Kisangani, the community of Bali speakers regularly asks project team members for reading materials that are already published in the Bali language. Their pride in their linguistic heritage is growing as they gain access to written content in Bali. **Many Bali speakers are especially eager to have literacy classes—because they do not all know how to read their language!** Believers especially want to be ready for the day the New Testament is available in their mother tongue!

The project is building partnerships

This year, at the closing of the general assembly of the project, the Director of the Bible Society of Congo, the Reverend Waka

declared, **“We, the church of Kisangani, including me, must mobilize ourselves to support the translation of the Bible in Mba. [We need this] local contribution.”** This statement demonstrated the good collaboration that exists between the Bible Society of Congo and the translation of the Bible, given that the churches often make contributions to the Bible Society. Praise God that we can work collaboratively in this mission!



Consultant-checking with the Bali team.



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed the verification of the book of Matthew in Mba. It is ready for printing!
- Continued the translation of Acts in Mba.
- Mobilized over 300 local Mba speakers to participate and support literacy activities, thanks to the language committee!
- Published and began distributing the Pastoral Letters in Bali.
- Held a literacy class in Bali, and continued revising and printing Bali copies of literacy materials for educators.
- Used local funds from the cultivation of cocoa, corn, mandarins and palm oil to support the project.
- The project has succeeded in uniting different churches which, in the past, did not collaborate. Through the translation project—especially the language committee—churches are overcoming denominational and theological differences, and are coming together through translated Scripture!



UPCOMING GOALS

- Publish and distribute a Bali translation of Luke and Acts.
- Continue the translation of Hebrews and Romans, and draft 1 & 2 Peter, Revelation, and James in Bali.
- Complete the review and consultant-checking of Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians in Bali.
- Print and distribute a book of Bali Christian hymns.
- Publish the Mba translation of Matthew.
- Record translated portions of Luke that Mba speakers could listen to on audio players.
- Complete the verification and revision process of the book of Acts in Mba.
- Record the “JESUS” film in Mba. Pandemic restrictions prevented the arrival of the recording crew in the previous quarter, so it was rescheduled to 2022.
- Continue mobilization and fundraising efforts among church groups in affected regions.
- Train Mba literacy teachers and host Bali literacy classes (to train at least 100 people to read and write fluently).
- Continue developing the Bali dictionary, which has over 2,000 entries!
- Hold Bali literacy courses, including a class for children.



Pray with us

- For sustained peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Conflict has subsided in many regions, but continues in the East. May God bring relief, reconciliation and protection.
- For a new translation for the Mba team. This will help foster great progress!
- For good weather and safe travelling conditions for literacy classes.
- For God’s Word to continue bringing unity amongst churches, despite denominational boundaries!

Bhɛ kahuni manyɛ ti buchei bhembachigi, bhɛ kadhu minga ma ndjwazu kinini, bhɛ kazɔnɔ minga, bhɛ kamo nyasi minga.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. (Acts 2:42)