



Languages: Gwandara, Eloyi, Numana, Alago, Arumu-Tesu

Speakers: 134,000



Dates: 2019-2022

Project Goals: New Testament portions, Scripture stories

GENAAT CLUSTER

AFRICA — NIGERIA

THE PEOPLE

The acronym “GENAAT” represents five Nigerian people groups — Gwandara, Eloyi, Numana, Alago and Arumu-Tesu.

Most people in these groups live in rural communities deeply rooted in agriculture. In their societies, farming is reserved for men, while business is primarily an economic venture for women. Some people also earn a living through weaving, fabric dyeing or carving.

Known to get along well with neighbors, these groups often use languages such as Hausa and English to bridge communication barriers. However this practice has adversely impacted their own languages, some of which are now declining in use.

Because of the strong influence of traditional beliefs, many people seek protection through religious rituals. With little or no Scripture available in the GENAAT languages, the message of the Bible isn’t widely understood, even among professing Christians.

To grow in their faith, local believers need access to God’s Word in languages they clearly understand.

THE PLAN

We’re working with local teams to translate Scripture into the GENAAT Cluster languages!

In this three-year project, two Gospel accounts will be completed by each team. The first will be the book of Matthew, which traces Jesus’ lineage starting with Abraham — the patriarch of three major world religions. Once complete, it will be made available in audio format.

Second, the Gospel of Luke will be translated into Gwandara, Eloyi, Numana and Arumu-Tesu. Because this book has already been translated by the Alago team, they will instead work on the Gospel of John.

Eleven other New Testament books, including Acts and several epistles, will be produced by each team.

Staff members also plan to craft Scripture stories about Creation, the Fall of man and Jonah.

Additionally, four of the five teams will translate the script of the “JESUS” film, which introduces viewers to the person and work of Christ.

THE IMPACT

“When Gwandara, Eloyi, Numana, Alago and Arumu-Tesu communities have Scripture in their own languages,” a project adviser said, “they’ll better understand the Bible as God intended it to be understood.”

Besides building up the spiritual maturity of Christians, a change of worldview is anticipated among those who follow another belief system. “This project will help transform the lives of those who attend church as well as those who come in contact with the Christian community.”

The translated Bible stories and the “JESUS” film will also open doors for many to hear and respond to the gospel message.

“The availability of God’s Word in the people’s heart languages will be one of the indispensable factors that will bring many to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ,” the adviser said.

Your prayers and gifts will help the people of the GENAAT Cluster gain access to Scripture in languages that speak to their hearts!