



**United Bible
Societies**

UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES Global Scripture Access Report



2014 Annual Progress

2014 - A Record Year

In 2014 Bible Societies assisted in the completion of translations in 51 languages with the potential to impact over 1.371 billion people - 1.225 billion Chinese speakers and 146 million speakers of other languages. It was a remarkable year for Bible translation - possibly setting a new record for the highest number of new Scriptures published in one year.

2014 was 'a first' for no fewer than 30 languages, spoken by nearly 10 million people. **18 communities now have their very first full Bible**, 10 have a New Testament and two communities have first portions of Scripture.

Bible Societies are also committed to helping make God's Word more accessible to people who already have Scripture in their language. We do this through revisions of highly cherished traditional translations and through completely new translations to help as many people as possible engage with the message of the Bible today. **In 2014, 21 new translations and revisions** were published with the potential to reach 1.361 billion people - 1.225 billion Chinese speakers and 136 million speakers of other languages.

2014 Number of Languages Published¹



¹ Source: United Bible Societies

The 100 Bibles in 1000 Days campaign certainly had a noticeable impact on the figures this year, contributing no fewer than 21 of the Bibles published – 14 of which were first Bibles.

Of the 51 languages completed in 2014, 12 are spoken by more than 1 million speakers: Bulgarian, Chinese, Dutch, Ebira (Nigeria), Emakhuwa-Makhuwa (Mozambique), Georgian, Hungarian, Khmer (Cambodia), Moore (Burkina Faso), Yao (Malawi), Simalungun (Indonesia) & Urdu (India).

Alexander M. Schweitzer, United Bible Societies Head of Global Bible Translation, commented:

“We are excited by what has been accomplished in Bible translation in 2014. It is a testimony to the hard work and dedication of the translation teams and the commitment of Bible Societies. Many of these translations have only been made possible by the generosity of supporters around the world – for which we are truly grateful.

Please continue to pray for the translation teams, from all Bible translation agencies, working to bring God’s Word to the communities they serve.”

For full details of the languages published in 2014 see the Appendix.



100 Bibles in 1000 Days

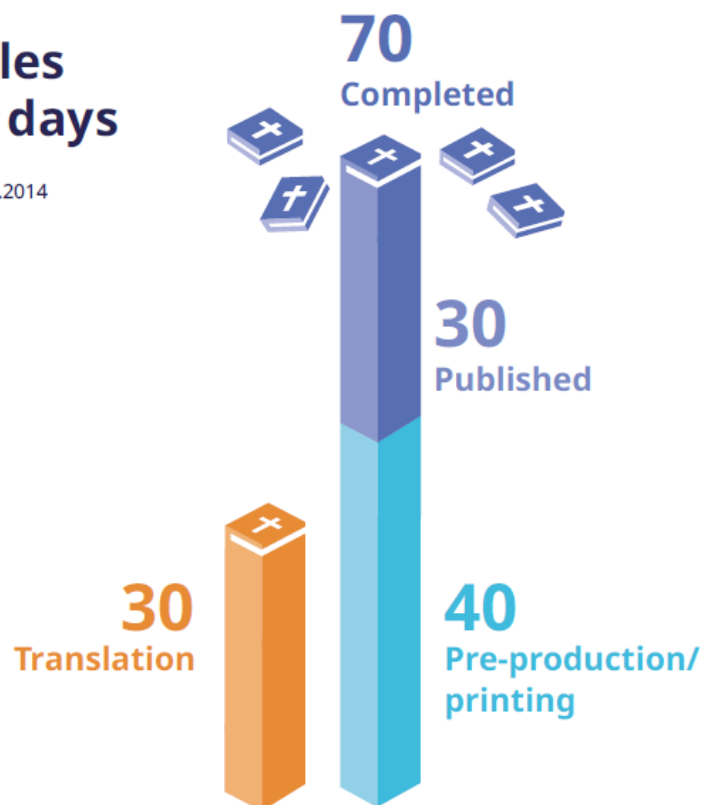
In 2013 United Bible Societies identified **100 full Bibles that could be completed by the end of 2015**. These included 43 First Translations, 27 New Translations and 30 Revisions.

By the end of 2014, **70% had completed the translation stage** with **30 published** and enriching their communities and 40 in pre-production or printing.

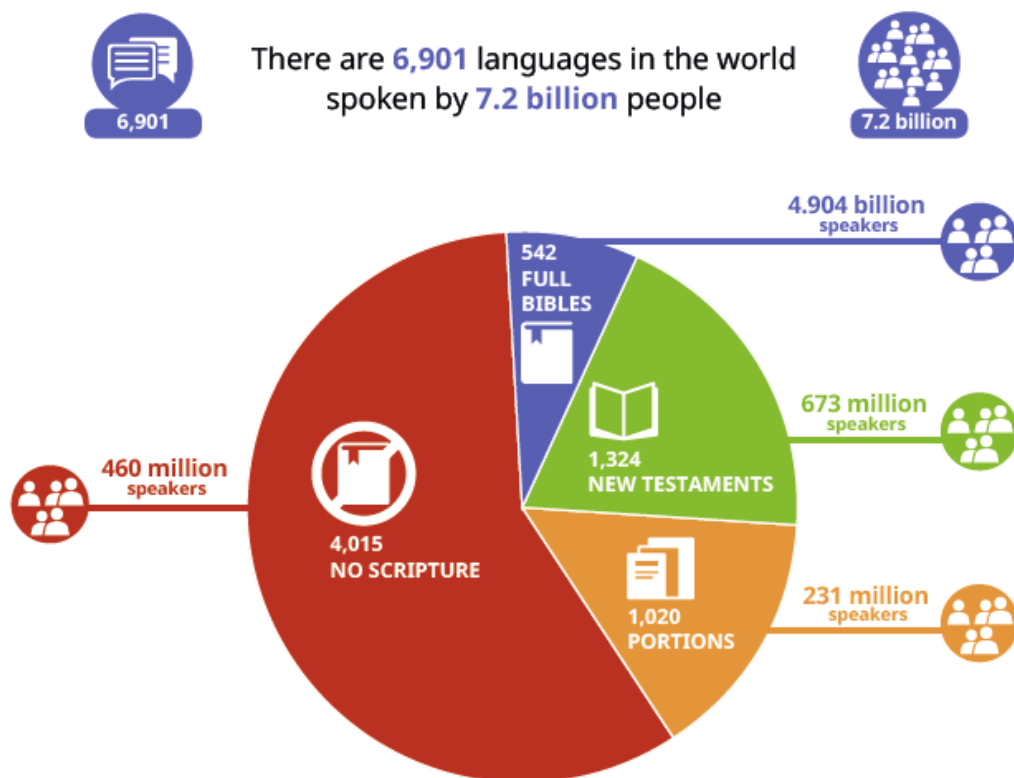
Translation teams are working hard to complete as many as possible of the remaining 30 by the end of 2015.

100 Bibles in 1000 days

Figures as at 31.12.2014



Scripture Access Today²



There are 6,901 languages in the world spoken by over 7.2 billion people. **542 languages**, spoken by **almost 80% of the world's population**, now have a complete Bible. However, this still leaves over 6,359 languages, spoken by 1.3 billion people, with no Scripture in their language at all, just a few books of the Bible or only the New Testament.

United Bible Societies are committed to working towards the day when everyone can access the full Bible. Languages are never static but are developing, so we are also committed to ensuring that existing translations are revised and new translations undertaken to meet the needs of the communities that use them. Thankfully the number of full Bibles is increasing and digital technology is helping accelerate both the speed of translation and access to Scripture.

While much has been achieved, a lot of work still remains to be done. Bible Societies are working on over 400 translation projects around the world.

²Figures as of 31.12.2014. We thank Bible Societies, Wycliffe Global Alliance and other translation agencies for their help in compiling these statistics. The figures for the number of language speakers is based on the best available data which currently totals 6.2 billion, less than the actual world population.

Scripture Access & Engagement

The increasing use of the internet offers people greater choice in how and where they connect with the Bible.

The Digital Bible Library®

The Digital Bible Library® (DBL) is central to our strategy to make the Bible as widely and easily accessible as possible. In 2014 it passed a significant milestone and ended the year with **1,014** Bibles, Testaments and portions in **816** languages. These languages are spoken by over 4 billion people.

The DBL is owned and maintained by United Bible Societies in partnership with other Bible agencies and with the support of the Every Tribe Every Nation alliance. It makes the Bible accessible by providing Scripture texts to the public through partners such as BibleSearch and YouVersion.



For further information please contact:

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United Bible Societies, April 2015

Photos: Cover - Joyce van de Veen / Nederlands Bijbelgenootschap; page 3 - Will Swanson / United Bible Societies

The fellowship is incorporated as United Bible Societies, a corporation registered in the state of Delaware, USA, in 1946. The affairs of the fellowship are administered on its behalf by the United Bible Societies Association (UBSA) from its registered office at UBS UK Hub, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7PJ, England. UBSA is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales no. 2264875. Registered charity no. 800058



Appendix

In 2014 United Bible Societies assisted in the completion of Scriptures in **51 languages** with the potential to reach **1.371 billion people** - 1.225 billion Chinese speakers and 146 million speakers of other languages.

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	LANGUAGE	SCOPE	TYPE	SPEAKERS
Democratic Republic of Congo	Mbandja ¹	Bible	First	362,460
Kenya	Lukakamega (Lwisukha-Lwitakho-Lutirichi)	Bible	First	325,000
Liberia	Kpelle ¹	Bible	First	760,000
Liberia	Kisi, Southern ¹	Bible	First	200,000
India	Maring Naga ¹	Bible	First	22,300
India	Pochury Naga ¹	Bible	First	18,951
Malawi	Yao ¹	Bible	First	3,116,000
Malaysia	Biatah	Bible	First	72,380
Malaysia	Rungus	Bible	First	55,000
Mexico	Mixe Quezaltepec	Bible	First	8,090
Myanmar	Hawa Naga ¹	Bible	First	100,100
Nigeria	Igede	Bible	First	250,000
Nigeria	Ebira ¹	Bible	First	1,000,000
Nigeria	Bura ¹	Bible	First	250,000
Nigeria	Idoma ¹	Bible	First	600,000
Panama	Kuna ¹	Bible	First	57,100
Togo	Mina ¹	Bible	First	327,000
Uganda	Kumam ¹	Bible	First	174,000
Canada	Atikamekw	New Testament	First	5,910
Congo	Beembe	New Testament	First	40,000
Ghana	Dagaare, Southern	New Testament	First	700,000
India	Chothe Naga	New Testament	First	3,600
Malawi	Elhomwe	New Testament	First	850,000
Mexico	Mazateco, Ixcatlán	New Testament	First	8,590
Namibia	Dhimba	New Testament	First	30,000
Taiwan	Cou (Tsou)	New Testament	First	2,130
Tanzania	Lambya	New Testament	First	102,000
Vanuatu	Ambae, East / Havai	New Testament	First	5,000
Botswana	Kalanga	Portions – Genesis & Leviticus ²	First ²	150,000
Kenya	Ateso (Kenyan)	Portion (Luke)	First	339,000



Appendix / continued

COUNTRY/TERRITORY	LANGUAGE	SCOPE	TYPE	SPEAKERS
Bulgaria	Bulgarian ¹	Bible	New	8,157,770
India	Urdu (Devanagari script) ¹	Bible	New	64,035,800
Myanmar	Achang / Ngochang	Bible	New	62,700
Netherlands	Dutch – Plain Dutch	Bible	New	21,944,690
Mozambique	Emakhuwa-Makhuwa	New Testament	New	3,090,000
Russia	Mari, Hill (Mari High)	New Testament	New	23,000
Hong Kong	Chinese (Mandarin traditional script)	Portion – Deuterocanon	New	1,225,000,000
New Zealand	Māori	Portion (Luke) x2	New	148,660
Burkina Faso	Moore ¹	Bible	Revision	5,061,700
Hungary	Hungarian ¹	Bible	Revision	12,606,130
Georgia	Georgian ¹	Bible	Revision	4,237,710
Guatemala	Kanjopal	Bible	Revision	77,700
Guatemala	Mam	Bible	Revision	537,980
India	Liangmai Naga ¹	Bible	Revision	34,082
Namibia	(Oshi)kwanyama	Bible	Revision	668,000
Namibia	Khoekhoegowab	Bible	Revision	251,100
Netherlands Antilles & Aruba	Papiamentu ¹	Bible	Revision	263,200
Indonesia	Simalungun	Bible	Revision	1,200,000
Cambodia	Khmer (Old Version)	New Testament	Revision	14,224,500
Cook Islands	Maori	New Testament (e-version)	Revision	33,220
New Caledonia	Ajie	New Testament	Revision	5,360
			Total³	146,597,913
	Study Editions			
Hong Kong	Chinese (Mandarin Revised Chinese Union Version simplified script)	Study Edition – New Testament		1,225,000,000

¹ Part of the 100 Bibles in 1000 Days Campaign

² First translations of these portions – other books of the Bible have been translated in these languages

³ Total excluding 1.225 billion Chinese speakers