



United Bible
Societies

Translation Statistics Report 2025



Global Bible Translation Progress in 2025: 100 languages receive Bible translations

Introduction

In 2025, the United Bible Societies (UBS) continued to expand global access to Scripture through a combination of first and new translations, as well as revisions. During the year, translations were published in 100 languages used by approximately 566 million people, reflecting sustained activity across diverse linguistic contexts.

This output demonstrates a dual focus: extending access to Scripture in languages receiving their first translations, while also revising existing translations or doing new translations in order to ensure clarity, relevance and accuracy as languages and audience groups evolve.

Dirk Gevers, UBS Secretary General, states the importance of advancing the global translation efforts: "Ensuring that people can engage with Scripture in a language they understand remains a central priority. Bible translation is both a linguistic and contextual process, requiring attention to clarity, cultural relevance, and accessibility. While significant progress continues to be made every year, sustained collaboration, long-term commitment and funding are essential to address the remaining gaps."

Bible Translations Published in 2025¹

In 2025, United Bible Societies published translations in

 **100**
languages

used by

 **566 million**
people²

FIRST TRANSLATIONS IN

 **66** languages³

USED BY

 **32 million** people

 **13**
Bibles

 **3**
New Testaments

 **50**
Portions

NEW AND REVISED TRANSLATIONS IN

 **34** languages⁴

USED BY


 **534 million** people

 **6**
Bibles

 **1**
Old Testament

 **3**
New Testaments

 **20**
Portions

 **4**
Study Editions

¹ Bible Societies often partner with other translation agencies in completing these translations.

² Users - the number of first language users of each language or dialect. The primary source of this data is ProgressBible™ (January 2026).

³ First translations report the first publication of this portion or amount of Scripture; other portions in these languages may also have been published.

⁴ A new translation or revision is undertaken when an existing translation no longer meets the needs of the community.

First Translations: Extending Access to Underserved Communities

The publication of first translations remains a critical component of global Bible translation efforts, particularly for communities that previously had limited or no access to Scripture in their primary language. This means that for the first time, specific portions or full books of the Bible were published in these languages.

In 2025, first translations were completed in 66 languages spoken by approximately 32 million people. These included 13 full Bibles, 3 New Testaments, and 50 portions of Scripture.

First translations mark a significant milestone by extending access to Scripture in languages where no translation of the respective Biblical text existed. They establish a foundation for engagement by making biblical texts available in familiar linguistic forms. These translations open the door to worship, teaching, discipleship, and personal engagement with biblical texts in ways that are more meaningful and accessible to local speakers.

In 2025, these translations expanded both the range and depth of available content for many language communities. While some groups may have had limited portions of Scripture prior to this, the publication of first translations represents a substantial increase in accessibility and usability for local speakers.



Milestones in First-Time Translations

The year was marked by several landmark first translations.

- **Full Bible Completions:** Major milestones were reached for languages with large user bases, including East Oromo in Ethiopia (10.8 million users) and Modern Hebrew in Israel (6.1 million users), both of which received their first full Bible.
- **Regional Focus (Latin America and Africa):** There was a heavy concentration of work in Latin America. More specifically, Mexico saw the publication of various portions (individual books like Matthew or Romans) in indigenous languages such as Zapoteco (4 dialects with around 45,000 users), Mixe (6,100 users), and Mazateco (over 52,000 users). Another four languages from Guatemala received first translations of various portions, as well as two other languages from Argentina. In Africa, languages like Dagaare (in Ghana with 924,000 speakers) and Njebi (in Gabon with 147,000 speakers) received their first Bibles.

Global Expansion of Sign Languages

A significant portion of output in 2025 was dedicated to deaf communities, with first translations appearing in numerous sign languages globally.

- **Latin America:** Substantial progress was made in Brazilian Sign Language (Libras), reaching 630,000 users, as well as in Argentina (60,000 users), Chile (21,000 users), and Ecuador (50,000).
- **Asia & Africa:** Projects were completed for Indonesian Sign Language (810,000 users) and Nigerian Sign Language (800,000 users), focusing largely on Gospel stories and specific New Testament books.

New and Revised Translations: Maintaining Relevance and Usability

Translation is an evolving process. In addition to first translations, ongoing revision work ensures that existing texts remain accurate and understandable as languages evolve over time. New translations, together with revised editions, ensure clarity for modern speakers.

In 2025, UBS published new and revised translations in 34 languages used by approximately 534 million people. These included 6 full Bibles, 1 Old Testament and 3 New Testaments, 20 portions, and 4 study editions.

Revision efforts are particularly significant in widely spoken languages, where updates can affect large populations. Study editions further support interpretation by providing additional context and explanatory material.

Together, first translations and revised editions show a balanced strategy: extending access where none exists, while strengthening the understanding of the Bible where it is already present.



Milestones in New Translations and Revisions

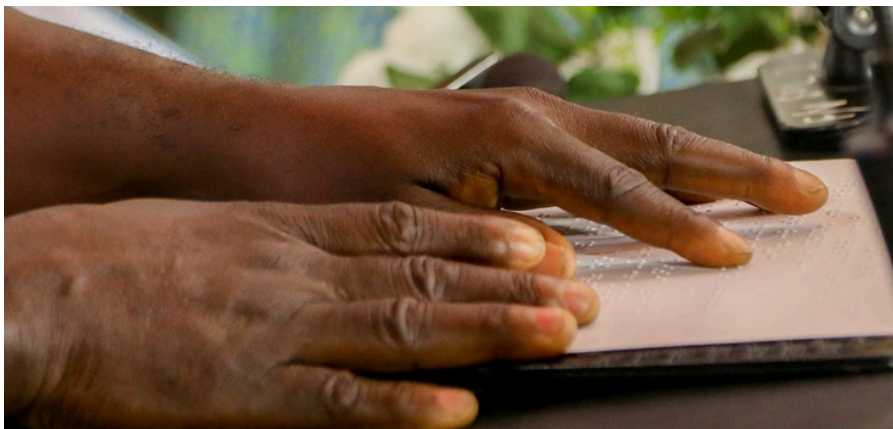
2025 saw the release of new translations and revised editions to ensure clarity for modern speakers.

- **Major Modern Languages:** New translations were completed for Italian (New Testament - Ecumenical Literary Translation), Punjabi (Genesis), and Urdu (Jonah), impacting tens of millions of speakers.
- **Revisions:** Significant revisions were finalised for the Vietnamese Bible (reaching 86.2 million users) and the Afrikaans Bible (7.8 million users). Also, the full Bible was revised in Kabyle, used by over 8 million speakers in Algeria.

Specialised Editions: Braille and Study Tools

To deepen engagement and accessibility, the Bible Societies produced specialised formats:

- **Braille:** First-time Braille Bibles or portions were published for languages including Akan (Asante-Twi) in Ghana, Sogo (Lusoga) in Uganda and Ndebele in Zimbabwe.
- **Study Editions:** New Study Editions, which include additional context and educational tools, were released for the Lao Bible and the Western Armenian New Testament.



Global Translation Landscape: Progress with Persistent Gaps

To understand the significance of 2025 outputs, it is necessary to consider the broader global context of Scripture availability.

As of January 1, 2026, approximately 7.6 billion people have access to some Scripture in their language, while 123 million people still have none. Out of 7,393 total languages, 4,121 have some Scripture, representing 55.7% of all languages. At the same time, 3,272 languages still have no Scripture.

These figures reveal a mixed picture. In terms of population, Bible access is already very extensive, but in terms of language diversity, work remains unfinished. Large language groups are more likely to have access, while smaller and more remote language communities often remain underserved.

However, access varies in completeness. Around 6.2 billion people have access to the full Bible in their language, 927 million have the New Testament, and 454 million have only portions. On the language side, 795 languages have a full Bible, 1,815 have a New Testament, and 1,511 have portions only.

One especially noteworthy aspect is that 1.5 billion people still do not have the full Bible in their language. This means that although many people have some access to Scripture, full access remains incomplete for a significant share of the global population. The numbers point to the need not only for initial translation efforts but also for continued work toward complete Bible publication in languages with only partial coverage.

Bible Translation Landscape | January 1, 2026¹

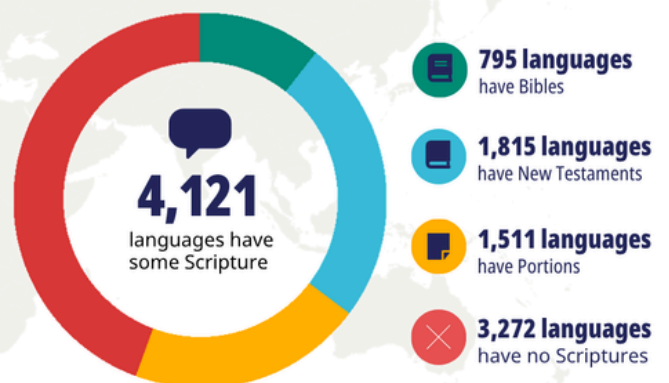
How many people have Scripture in their language?



Total language users 7.7 billion²

1.5 billion people do not have the full Bible in their language

How many languages have Scripture?



Total languages 7,393

55.7% of the world's languages have some Scripture

¹ Source: ProgressBible™ (January 2026). ² Figures for the number of language users are based on the best available data, which when rounded totals 7.7 billion - less than the world population of over 8.2 billion people.

Digital and Accessible Formats: Broadening Reach

Digital distribution continues to play an increasingly important role in expanding Bible access across regions and formats.

The Digital Bible Library® contained 4,130 texts in 2,444 languages, used by over 6.4 billion people as of January 1, 2026. In addition, 3,291 audio Scriptures were available in 1,800 languages used by over 6.2 billion people.

These figures show the increasing importance of making the Bible available in multiple formats. Digital and audio formats have become central to Bible engagement, especially for mobile users, oral communities, and people in areas where printed materials are harder to distribute.

The inclusion of 59 sign language entries in 39 languages and 69 Braille entries in 54 languages further demonstrates an expanding commitment to accessibility for Deaf and blind communities. This reflects a wider understanding of translation ministry, one that includes not only linguistic reach but also format, usability, and inclusion.



Digital Bible Library® | January 1, 2026

 **4,130** texts

IN

 **2,444** languages

USED BY OVER

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 **3,291** audio Scriptures

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Endangered Languages: Inclusion Beyond Scale

Translation work in endangered languages represents a targeted effort to reach smaller and linguistically vulnerable communities.

In 2025, 10 translations were completed in languages classified as endangered, with speaker populations ranging from approximately 123,000 using Duri (Indonesia) to 1,570 using Pinuyumaayn in Taiwan. These included two endangered languages from Congo: Teke Tsaayi (used by 95,900 users) and Teke Wuuumu (Teke Fumu) used by 14,000 users, and languages such as Penan (Malaysia) used by over 10,000 people and Tokelauan (New Zealand) used by 3,570.

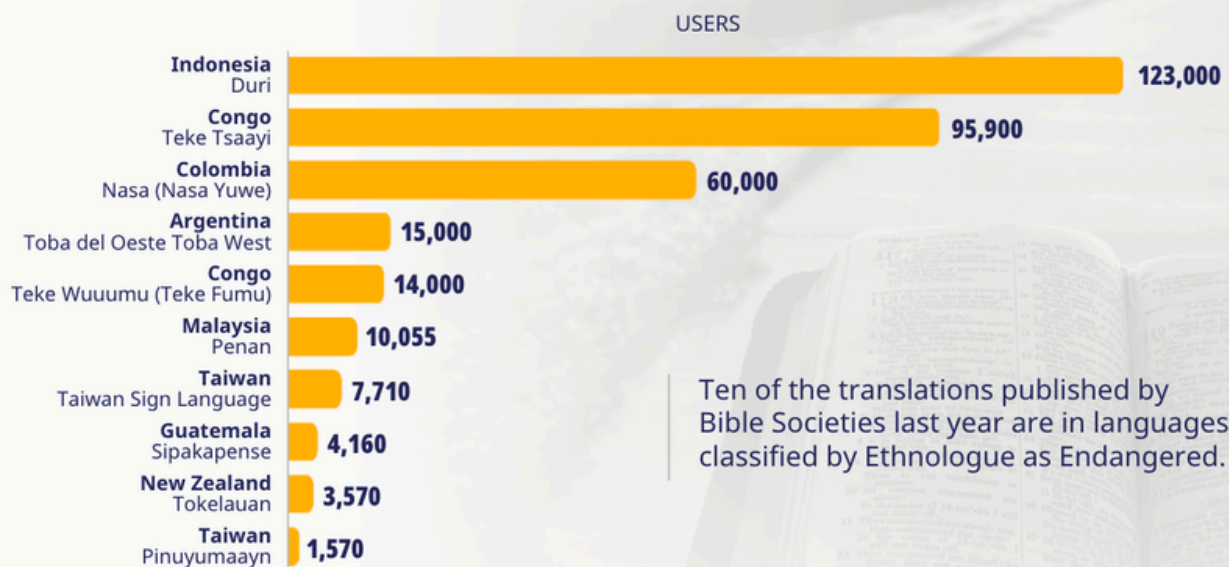
This progress is significant because translation in endangered languages does more than provide access to Scripture; it can also affirm identity, preserve heritage, and strengthen the visibility of communities whose languages are under pressure. The data shows that Bible translation can play an important role in faith formation, language preservation, and cultural dignity.



Milestones in Endangered Languages

- **Pinuyumaayn (Taiwan):** First-time portions of Psalms and Proverbs for 1,570 users.
- **Duri (Indonesia):** New portions of Psalms and Proverbs for 123,000 users.
- **Nasa (Colombia):** First translation of full Bible with Deuterocanon for 60,000 users.
- **Tokelauan (New Zealand):** First translation of full Bible for 3,570 users.

Bible Translations in Endangered Languages in 2025



Regional Highlights

Central and South America: The Portion Powerhouse

This region saw the highest volume of individual translation projects, with a heavy focus on providing specific books of the Bible to indigenous communities for the first time.

- **Mexico's Dialect Diversity:** A significant effort was directed at the Zapoteco, Mixe, and Mazateco language families. Most of these were first translations of specific portions, such as the Gospels or New Testament letters like Romans and 1 & 2 Corinthians.
- **Guatemala's Broad Reach:** Translation work in Guatemala spanned a wide range. It included first-time portions for K'iche' and Kaqchikel, and major new translations for the Mam and Ixil languages, which combined reached over 700,000 users.
- **Sign Language Leadership:** The region is a leader in Scripture for the Deaf. Brazilian Sign Language (Libras) published portions of Genesis, Ruth, and Jonah for 630,000 users, while Chile, Argentina, and Bolivia also saw significant first-time sign language portions.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Complete Bibles and Revisions

While the Americas focused on portions, Africa saw more full Bible completions and critical revisions for established Christian communities.

- **Milestone Bibles:** The first full Bible was published in the East Oromo language in Ethiopia, serving a large population of 10.8 million. Other first Bibles were completed for Dagaare in Ghana and Lambya in Malawi.
- **Modernising Text:** Significant Revised Bibles were released for the Afrikaans (South Africa) and Acholi (Uganda) languages to ensure the text remains clear for modern speakers.
- **Accessible Formats:** Africa led the way in Braille production, with first-time Braille Bibles or New Testaments published in Akan (Asante-Twi), Soga, and Ndebele.

Asia and the Middle East: High-Impact Reach

The work in this region was characterised by its ability to reach incredibly large populations, even with single-book portions.

- **Large Language Communities:** In Pakistan, a new translation of the Gospels was released for the Saraiki language, reaching 29.1 million people. Meanwhile, new translation portions were published for Punjabi and Urdu, reaching a combined total of over 168 million users.
- **Sign Language Expansion:** High-population countries like Indonesia and the Philippines published dozens of first-time sign language Bible stories, reaching 810,000 and 540,000 users, respectively.
- **Modern Hebrew:** A notable milestone was the first full Bible translation for Modern Hebrew in Israel, reaching over 6 million users.

Europe: Revisions and New Translations for Modernity

In Europe, the focus was almost entirely on new translations or portions, re-translating the text into contemporary styles for well-established languages.

- **Major Languages:** The list includes a New Testament for Italian (62.9 million users) and portions for Danish, Finnish, and Serbian.
- **Accessibility:** New translations into Italian and Serbian, and an easy-to-read Spanish edition, demonstrate a focus on making the text more accessible and contemporary for over 79 million European users.
- **Sign Language Progress:** Eastern and Northern Europe also expanded their sign language offerings, with projects completed for Hungarian, Macedonian, Slovakian, and Swedish sign languages.

Conclusion

Overall, 2025 was a year of measurable progress in Bible translation, revision, and digital accessibility. Millions of people received newly published or revised Scriptures, and many language communities moved closer to fuller access. At the same time, the data makes clear that the mission is not yet complete. Thousands of languages still have no Scripture, many more have only partial translations, and over a billion people still do not have the full Bible in their language. The data, therefore, tells a story of encouragement and an unfinished task: encouraging because of the remarkable global reach already achieved, and challenging because of the scale of the work still ahead.





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