

Project Goal:

Christians from every language community in Ethiopia maturing in Christ as they reach out to their communities and to the wider world

Location:

Ethiopia, Africa

Population:

85 million

Funds Requested:

\$38 million

Timeline:

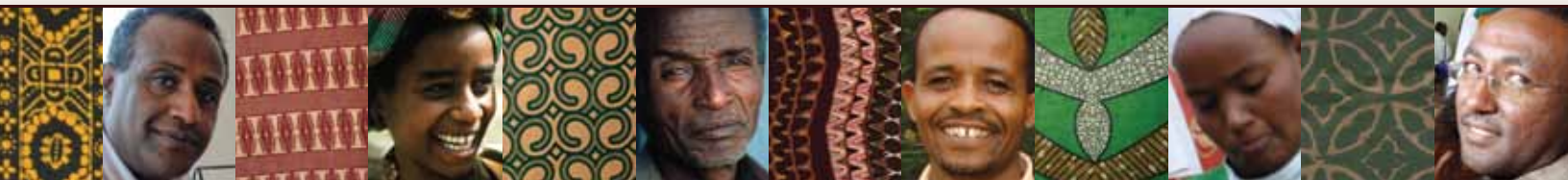
15 years



Wycliffe[®]
Last Languages
Campaign

ETHIOPIA

ACCELERATING MINISTRY IN THE HORN OF AFRICA



PROJECT SUMMARY

“Before we received the audio New Testament in the Gumuz language, sermons had always been preached in Oromo and Amharic. At that time we didn’t really understand the deep message of the Bible. Since we got this Proclaimer, there is a visible change in our lives. Thanks to God! Now our children, too, are motivated to sing and preach in their heart language.”

—Denega Abeje,
Faith Comes By Hearing
listening group leader

“When we look at strategies for reaching out to 32 unreached people groups in Ethiopia, we see that the main obstacle to our evangelism is the language barrier.”

—Reverend Yonas Yigezu,
Evangelical Churches
Fellowship of Ethiopia

Bible translation came to Ethiopia in the fifth century, but lost momentum for many years. Today, over a third of Ethiopia’s 80-plus language communities still don’t have a single verse of Scripture, keeping many Ethiopians from an intimate knowledge of the God of the Bible.

However, the tides are changing. Many church leaders, and even whole denominations, recognize the necessity of translated Scripture in each community’s language—and those leaders are working together like never before to make this happen.



Marked by its unique partnerships and commitment to community involvement and sustainability, *Ethiopia: Accelerating Ministry in the Horn of Africa* aims not only for quality language development and translation, but also to see Ethiopian churches using translated Scripture in every aspect of ministry.

CURRENT SITUATION

At the end of the first decade of the 21st century, Ethiopia is poised to play a key role in the language development and Bible translation activities in the Horn of Africa, a region that encompasses Kenya, Eritrea, Sudan, Djibouti and Somalia. Strategically located in the middle of the region, Ethiopia shares a large number of cross-border languages with these other countries and benefits from relative peace and stability that make working

conditions ideal compared with the other countries.

Ethiopian government policy, which gives all people groups the right to develop their language and use it for education, also serves as a benchmark for minority language development in the Horn of Africa. Because of this, a window of opportunity is now open for a major advance in language development and Bible translation.

THE PLAN: Partnership and Creative Strategies

For this project, six organizations—Bible Society of Ethiopia, Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church, Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia, SIL Ethiopia, and Word for the World—have joined in partnership.

Strengthened by these partnerships, *Ethiopia: Accelerating Ministry in the Horn of Africa* will involve community members and leaders in the planning stages, equip communities to lead the work for their own language, and build capacity for projects to continue after staff is gone.

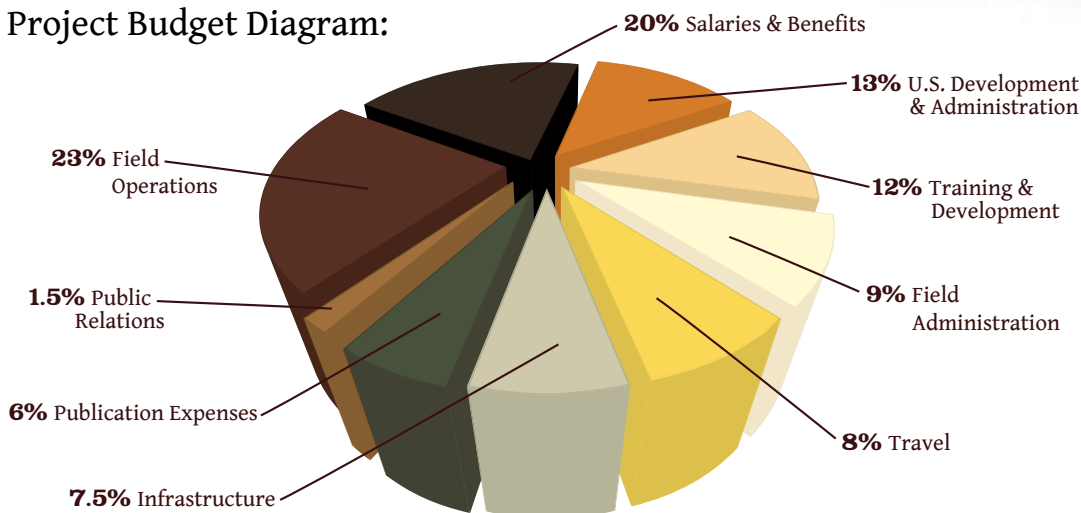
The project will produce quality translations to equip Christians for spiritual growth—accomplishing this by providing training for nationals, organizing events to raise awareness, and using the established educational systems. Staff will engage local churches and Christians to decide which portions of Scripture they desire, and in what formats.

TEN-YEAR BUDGET: 2010-2020

Comprehensive Project Ten-Year Budget: \$61,685,928
Funds Secured: \$23,713,302

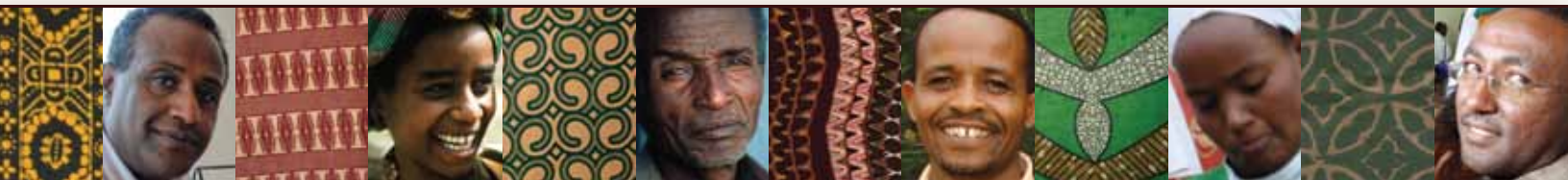
Total Grant Request: \$37,972,626

Project Budget Diagram:

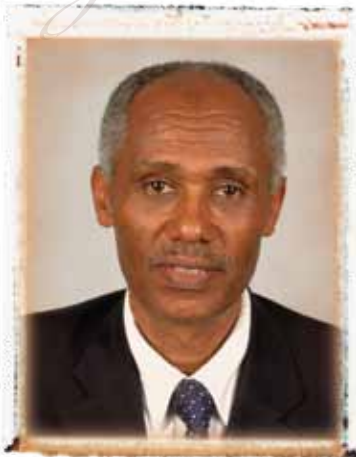


EXPECTED RESULTS

- * Participating communities are cultivating their own languages so that they can use the translated Scripture effectively
- * Equipped with quality translated Scriptures and Scripture-based resources, Christians throughout Ethiopia are growing in their faith
- * Churches throughout Ethiopia are integrating translated Scriptures and Scripture-based resources into the oral and written aspects of their ministries



PROJECT MANAGER



Dr. Tesfaye Yacob

Dr. Tesfaye Yacob leads a team of project managers from each of the six organizations committed to this project. As the former General Secretary of Ethiopian Kale Heywet (Word of Life) Church, the largest evangelical denomination in Ethiopia, Dr. Yacob has been closely involved in the development of the project and places a strong emphasis on strategic partnerships. His 25 years of leadership experience, combined with the project team's formal endorsement, indicates that Dr. Yacob possesses the skill and innovation to lead the diverse project team.

“The marrow is now in the Word of God.”

This new Guji saying expresses the people's fresh understanding of the Word of God. Guji translator Tsegaye Hailemichael reports that they can now understand what they hear or read and can dig deeper into God's Word, because it is in their heart language.

HOW TO FUND THIS PROJECT

To partner with us in accelerating ministry in the Horn of Africa, please contact:

Paul Edwards

Executive Director
Last Languages Campaign
Phone: 303-638-9573

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Wycliffe Bible Translators
P.O. Box 628200
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