



Bible Translation & Literacy (E.A.)

Reaching the unreached with
God's Word in their language

THE Year 2024 Highlights





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Reaching the unreached communities
with God's Word in their language

God's Word to the People





Word from the Executive Director

Rev. Peter Munguti

The start of a new year always presents an opportunity to reflect and think through what you need to do differently to accomplish greater milestones in that current year. This was no different for us as we started the year 2024. We gathered at the departmental level to reflect and strategize, fully driven by our vision of wanting to see people in communities transformed by the grace of God when they use God's Word in the language they best understand.

At that point, some of the accomplishments highlighted in this report seemed impossible given the uncertainties that we were going to face in the new territories that we were venturing into; beyond our borders! Specifically, inadequate resources, regional conflicts, unpredictable weather patterns and rough terrain stood on our way. Nevertheless, we witnessed the power of God, turning what seemed impossible in our eyes into reality. In the presence of our fears about these challenges, we knew very well that we had to fully depend on God as the Scripture reminds us in Proverbs 16:9 that we can make our plans, but it is only Him who determines our steps.

“ *During the year, we were officially registered in South Sudan in the month of March and translation work began in three languages soon after.* ”

As the year comes to an end, I gladly rejoice in the LORD who has done great things for us and we are filled with joy. This year has been unique, a year of expansion of our work in Kenya and the East African Region. You will be pleased to know that during the year, we were officially registered in South Sudan in the month of March and translation work began in three languages soon after. We also started work in four additional projects in Tanzania in partnership with churches in the region.

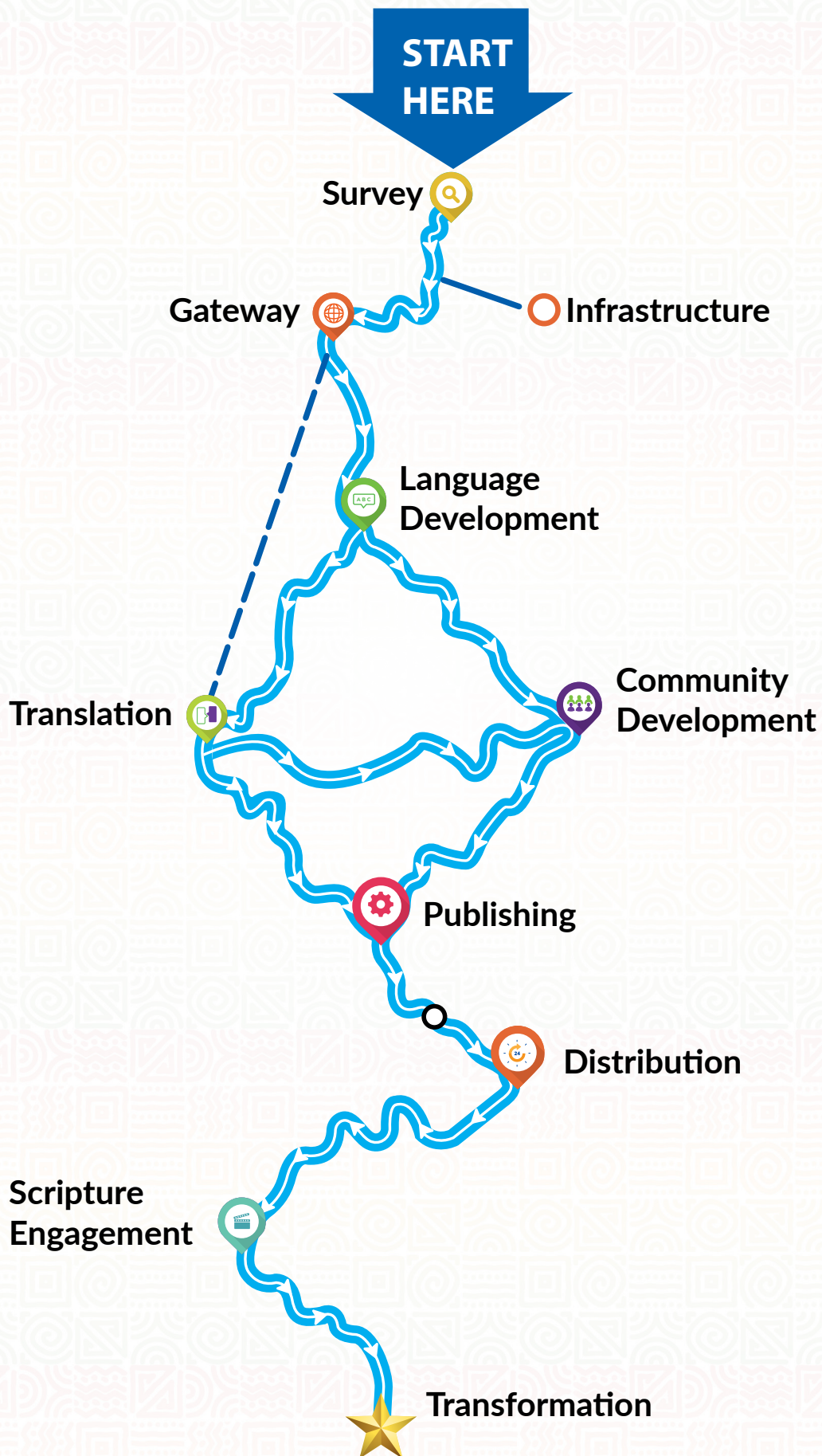
In Kenya, we continued to implement the 'Mkondo Wa Mwisho' (last lap) Cluster languages involving 10 new language communities. This means that at the close of this year, BTL is working with a total of 47 language projects in Kenya, Tanzania and South Sudan. It is very clear in our minds that these accomplishments have only been possible because of our partners like you. We greatly recognise the support that you sacrificially offer to us and by extension to the communities that we serve. May the Lord never forget your labour of love.

In this report, kindly find additional highlights on the progress of our Translation, Literacy and Scripture Engagement initiatives which we carried out during the year.

Rev. Peter Munguti

Executive Director, Bible Translation & Literacy (E.A).

THE JOURNEY



About Us



Bible Translation & Literacy is a Christian organization that was established in 1981 to facilitate sustainable Bible translation, literacy, and language development programmes among indigenous language groups in Kenya and beyond.

These language groups are isolated by harsh climates and rough terrain; many of them are limited in the areas of education and development.

BTL is a member of the Wycliffe Global Alliance.



Our Vision

Transformed lives, by the grace of God, when people use God's Word in the language, they understand best.



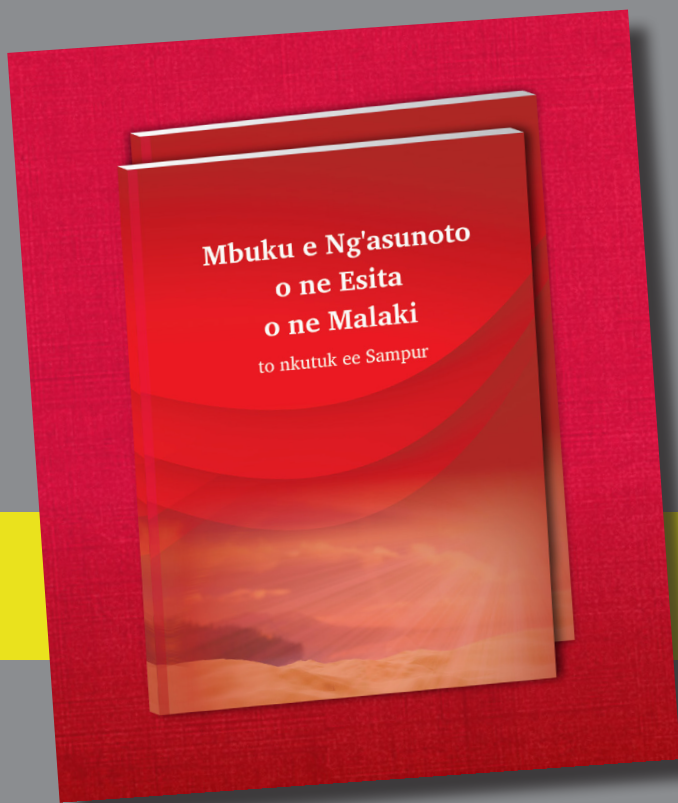
Our Mission

To facilitate sustainable Bible translation, literacy, and language development programmes among indigenous language groups, partnering with the Church and others to fulfil the Great Commission



Our Core Values

- Christ-centeredness
- Resilience
- Integrity
- Passion for the Unreached
- Innovation
- Prudence
- Excellence in service.



*A copy of the Samburu Scripture portions.
Below: Samburu church leaders praying over
the Walking with Jesus Discipleship Film.*





Completed Translation Work

Samburu Project

On 18th May 2024, the first Old Testament Scripture portions of; Genesis, Esther, and Malachi were completed and presented to the Samburu community. In addition to these portions, the Walking with Jesus Discipleship Film and Children's Bible stories based on the Book of Genesis were also launched. Additionally, around the same time the community received 2,000 reprinted copies of the New Testament.

This was the third reprint since the dedication and launch of the New Testament in December 2019. A clear indication of the encouraging use of the Scriptures in this community.

"We have never kept our Bible in stores because they are being used and the word of God is getting into the lives of the Samburu people." The Rt. Rev. David Lebarleyia, Bishop of the ACK Diocese of Maralal.

"We have never kept our Bible in stores because they are being used and the word of God is getting into the lives of the Samburu people."

Rendille Project Advisory Committee Chairman, Rev. David Gargule displays the Rendille audio Bible(NT), during the dedication and launch of the Scripture portions and the Scripture Use materials.





Rendille Project

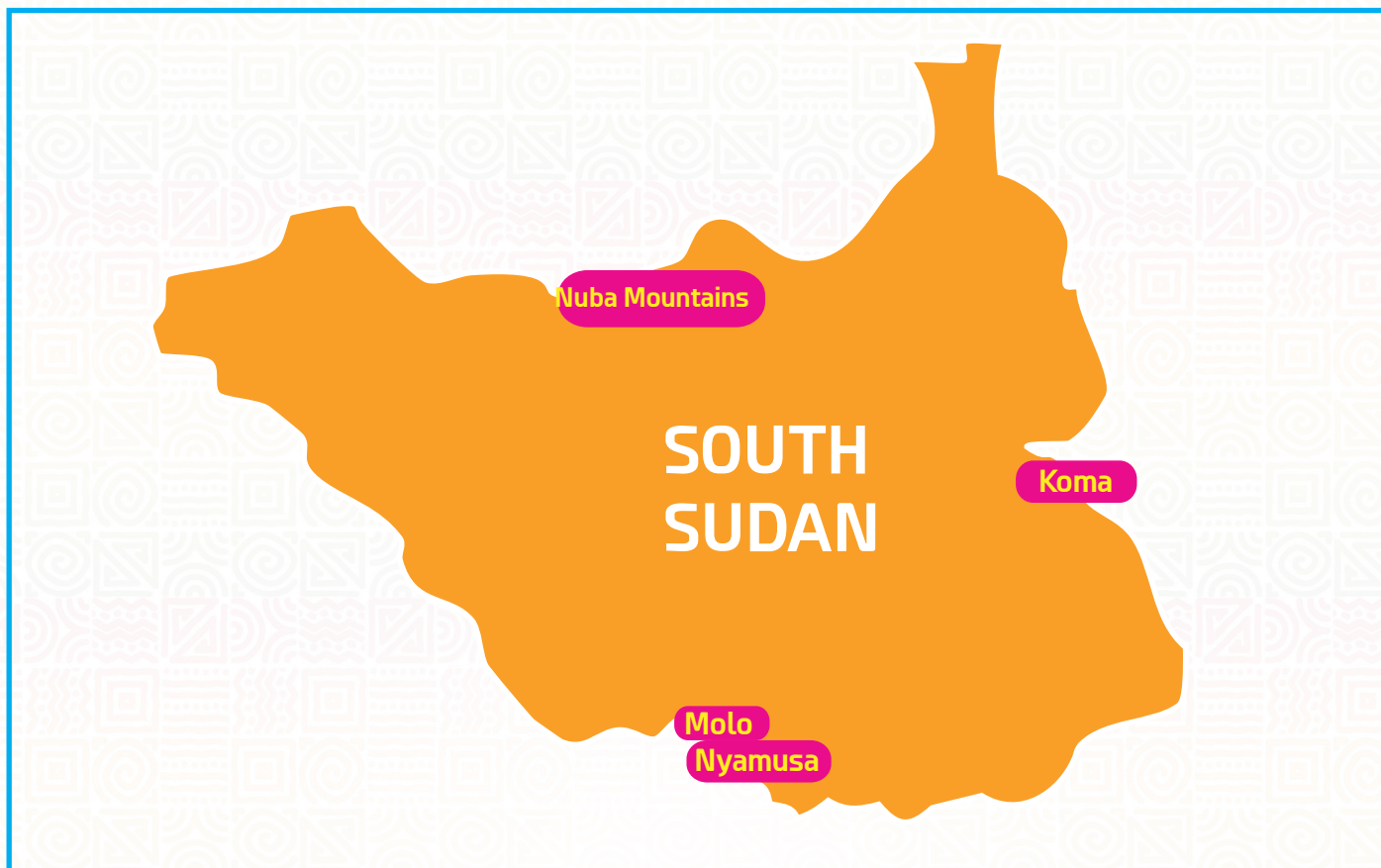
In the month of April, the Rendille project Dedicated the Old Testament Scripture portions for Ruth, Nehemiah and Jonah. A Bible Study Guide based on the Book of Ruth was also launched.

Additionally, within the year, the Rendille translation team drafted and completed 10 books of the Old Testament including Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Judges, Ruth, Nehemiah, Esther, Psalms, and Proverbs. These translations are both in audio and written formats.

The launch of these Scripture portions came in handy for the Rendille Church which now conducts Bible study groups based on the translated Old Testament portions. The Bible Study Guide of Ruth in particular has been an instrumental Scripture Use material especially for women. The Study guide helps the groups to go deeper into the word of God in the language that resonates with them as attested by one of the women; “We now have a taste of the Old Testament besides the Rendille New Testament.”

Top: A BTL staff demonstrates to a Rendille elderly man how to operate a Rendille New Testament audio Bible (Proclaimer)

The Bible Study Guide of Ruth in particular has been an instrumental Scripture Use material especially for women.



BTL's South Sudan staff

Across the Borders



South Sudan

The registration of BTL South Sudan in March 2024 signified an important milestone for BTL's work in the region. It also signalled the beginning of work in three communities where BTL had carried out socio-linguistic surveys in 2022. Following this registration, the recruitment of 6 staff for the three language projects; Molo, Nyamusa & Koma was carried out mid this year and the staff immediately embarked on the foundational language work of gathering words in their languages. It is worth noting that the staff managed to collect 5000 words which was far beyond the required number of words assigned. An indication of the great desire to see their languages written.

Peter Waken, a Language Development Assistant with the Koma community expressed gratitude for the significant work that BTL is doing for the Koma community. He stated, "It's a big thing that BTL is doing for us. You have lifted us from the dust. We were uneducated people, and our forefathers even worshipped idol gods in our place."

Waken related this great work with the redemption of the Israelites from bondage. This milestone he believes will help their communities to regain their lost hope.

Top: The Molo community, one of BTL's projects in South Sudan engaging in a language development process.

"It's a big thing that BTL is doing for us. You have lifted us from the dust."

The ushering in of the Chonyi New Testament during its dedication and launch on 17th August 2024





Chonyi Project

On Saturday August 17, 2024, the Chonyi New Testament was launched in Kilifi County. This was BTL's 9th New Testament to be completed.

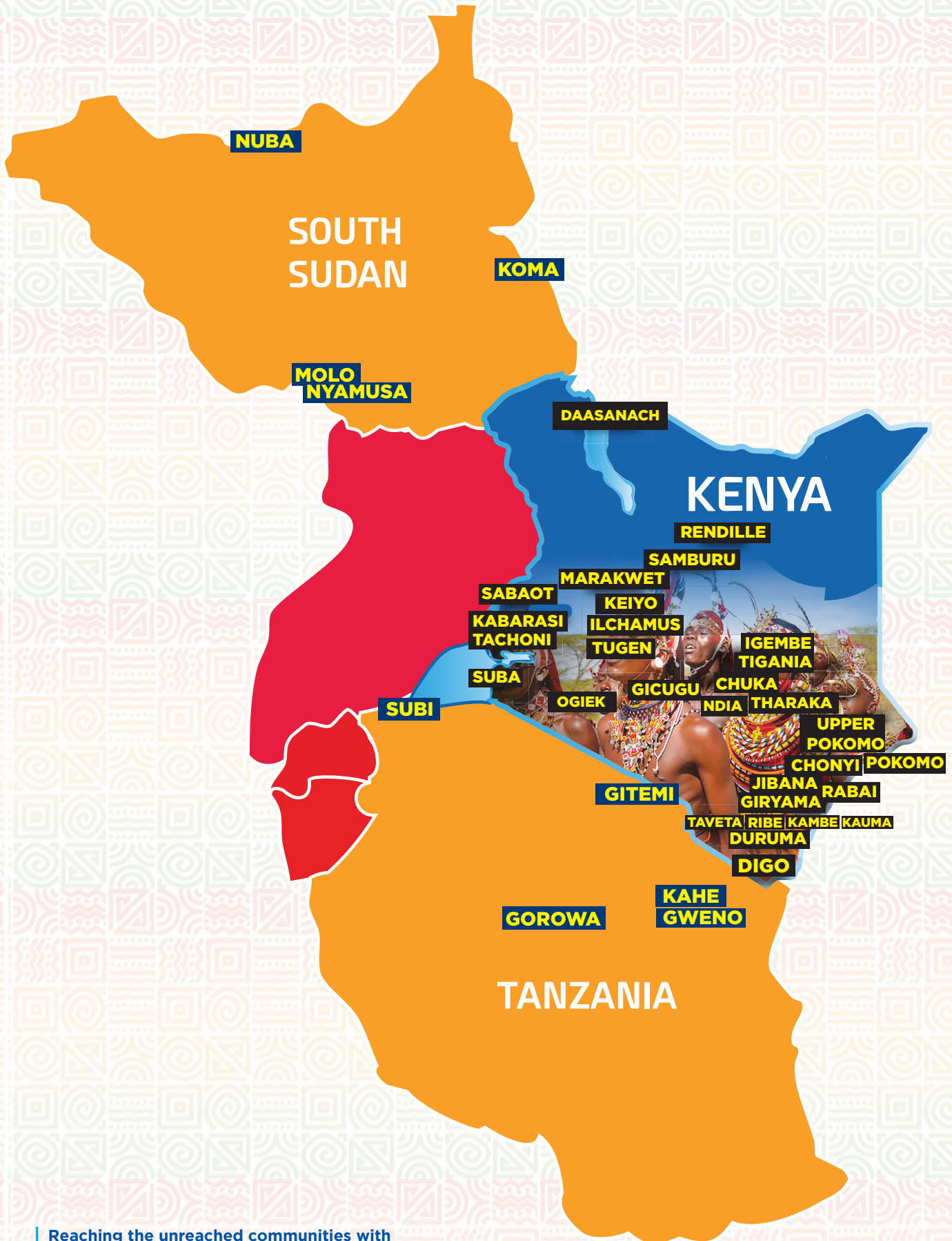
Prior to dedication a total of 3,000 copies of the New Testament were printed and three months after the dedication, a total of 2,040 copies had been distributed to the Chonyi people. These Scriptures are being read in homes and churches.

The completion of the Chonyi New Testament has presented a unique relationship among the Chonyi church leaders. Through a pastors meeting held in October 2024, the church leaders agreed to plan and hold joint meetings and an evangelistic crusade from 18th – 22nd December 2024. Additionally, they agreed to financially support the translation of the Old Testament every month so that they can receive the full Bible as soon as possible.

Top: Chonyi women reading from their newly dedicated New Testament

The completion of the Chonyi New Testament has presented a unique relationship among the Chonyi church leaders.

WHO WE SERVE



Reaching the unreached communities with
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BTL E.A. WORK

OVERALL STATISTICS

- 45 translation projects; 37 in Kenya, 6 in Tanzania and 3 in South Sudan.
 - 6 complete Bibles
 - 9 New Testaments
 - 30 New Testament translations ongoing

1

Translation Work



BTL works with 45 projects in the East Africa Region;

- 1 NT dedication and launch
- 2 Scripture portion dedication and launches
- 19 start-ups (11 in Kenya, 5 in Tanzania and 3 in South Sudan)
- 3rd New Testament reprints for the Samburu project

2

Mother Tongue Education



- 4 projects implemented under the Foundation For a Brighter Future (FBF) program.



3

Literacy



- Literacy classes are ongoing in Tachoni (2), and Ogiek (2).
- Kabarasi had a successful graduation of 39 students on September 30th 2024
- Had a successful FLEx Training at BTL Center on 13th -17th Jan.
- Graduation ceremonies lined up in Waata (58 students), Ogiek, Sengwer & Tachoni.
- Dasaanach team had a successful training for 2 Literacy teachers in December and were able to train 2 teachers in the community in January and classes are set to start in February.
- Development of materials -primers by Kabarasi, Tugen.

4

Scripture Engagement



- Training - 6 projects
- Material development - 11 projects
- Scripture Listening / Watching Program - 11 projects
- Recording / Use (Audio & Visual) - 5 projects
- Oral Bible Stories (OBS) - 2 projects
- Church Engagement - 19 projects
- Community Engagement - 5 projects
- Over 1,000 people gave their lives to Christ.

5

Language Development



- 17 languages developed (11 in Kenya, 3 in Tanzania, 3 in South Sudan)
- 11 alphabet charts
- 17 languages collected 5,000 words each for dictionary development

Left: The setting-up of the BTL office for the Gweno project in Tanzania





Tanzania

Four additional projects were started in Tanzania within this year. These include: the Kahe, Gweno, Subi and Gorowa projects. This brings to five the total number of projects in Tanzania. Staff members were recruited for these projects and three of the language projects have since completed the process of word collection. They have also gone through orthography workshops and word validation exercises with their target communities.

The Gorowa staff who recently came on board also began the word collection process. The teams are now beginning to draft the Scriptures.

Top: Orthography Workshop in Tanzania

Staff members were recruited for these projects and three of the language projects have since completed the process of word collection.

BTL's Executive Director Rev. Peter Munguti awards one of the graduands during the Rendille Adult Literacy graduation ceremony. Onlooking is BTL's Language Programmes Director, Mr. Sabila Ngania





Literacy

Literacy is a key component of our work. It enables the communities to read and write in their language. In April 2024, Korr African Inland Church (AIC), in partnership with BTL, graduated 102 students, mainly women,

from their Adult Literacy class. Each student was awarded with a certificate of completion, a sheep, and a printed copy of Rendille's books of Ruth, Nehemiah, and Esther.

Mother Tongue Education *Foundation For Brighter Future (FBF) Initiative*

BTL is continuing to implement the Early Childhood Development Mother Tongue Education program dubbed the Foundation For a Brighter Future (FBF) Initiative in four communities, the Pokomo, Digo, Duruma, and Orma situated in Kwale and Tana River Counties. It is a four-year program that aims at promoting the use of mother tongue as the medium of instruction for the pre-school learners and undertaken in partnership with the target County Education offices.

Additionally, the Project aims to develop language materials which are submitted to the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development for assessment and approval for use in lower primary grades 1 to 3 in line with the Kenya government curriculum.

In the month of September, FBF hosted a productive joint evaluation between the BTL leadership team, staff and funding partners of the program.



The outcome of the evaluation showed very good learning outcomes among children who are in the programme.



Pre-school children playing at one of BTL's partner schools in Kwale County.



Language Development

The Kambe, Kauma, Ribe, Rabai, and Jibana communities are part of the Coastal “Mkondo wa Mwisho Cluster Projects”.

These projects were launched towards the end of the year 2023 and the staff began with collection of words as part of the language development process. The teams are currently drafting the books of Matthew and Luke.

Additionally, the ‘Mkondo Wa Mwisho Cluster Projects’ in the Central Region comprising the Ndia, Gicugu, Tigania, and Igembe began with their word collection within this fiscal year in order to develop their dictionaries and alphabet charts. Official launches of these projects were carried out at the beginning of December 2024.

The Keiyo Project, also part of the “Mkondo Wa Mwisho” cluster projects based in the Western Region of Kenya. The staff are continuing with word collection and the development of written materials in the language including Keiyo folk stories.

Top: The Orthography Development Workshop of the Mkondo Wa Mwisho coast projects

These projects were launched towards the end of the year 2023 and the staff began with collection of words as part of the language development process.





New frontiers

Within the year, in addition to the established projects in South Sudan and Tanzania, a team of our linguists and language assistants went on a mission to undertake surveys and find out the viability of the languages at the Nuba Mountains.

The Nuba Mountains is a region located in South Kordofan, Sudan.

From this mission, our teams successfully carried out socio-linguistics in six languages. We trust God to officially begin language development processes in these languages in the coming year.

Scripture Engagement

A number of Scripture Engagement activities were carried out across various language projects in the year. These activities incorporated the development of Scripture Use materials including; Jesus Film, Bible Apps, and Magdalena Film as a means of sharing the Gospel. The outcome of these initiatives yielded about 1,000 souls giving their lives to Christ in 12 of our projects.

Top: Tachoni Jesus Film Display

The outcome of these initiatives yielded about 1,000 souls giving their lives to Christ in 12 of our projects.

Nearing Completion

Translations of the Waata and the Upper Pokomo New Testaments were completed within the year. These New Testaments have since been dispatched abroad for final publication. We plan to have

them launched and dedicated in the coming year. There is also ongoing work to finalise and typeset the Chuka, Tugen, Taveta New Testaments and the Marakwet Full Bible among others.

Key Events

Registration of BTL South Sudan

On March 15, 2024 Bible Translation & Literacy gained registration as an International Organization in South Sudan. As the year ends, we are grateful to God for the three projects that were launched and work already started.

Run for the Bibleless

On March 16th, BTL hosted Run for the Bibleless events in the three regions of Nairobi, Nakuru and Eldoret and in Mombasa on 13th July. This was the 17th edition in Nairobi, the 3rd edition in Nakuru and Mombasa, and 4th edition in Eldoret.

Run for the Bibleless scheduled for 15th March in Nairobi, Nakuru and Eldoret and later in Mombasa on 12th July 2025



Flagging off of the Nairobi Run for the Bibleless.

Partners Appreciation events

BTL took time to organise partners Thanksgiving and appreciation events in recognition of the great support that the ministry continues to receive from learning institutions, churches, corporate companies and individuals. These events provided a platform to interact and share our progress in translation, language development and literacy.



Partners during the Thanksgiving and appreciation event in Mombasa

Thanksgiving Service



BTL's Board Chairperson Mrs. Kendi Ogamba, the Executive Director Rev. Peter Munguti, and the staff during the Thanksgiving service

In September, BTL Board and staff members held a Thanksgiving service where they took time to reflect and thank God in recognition of His grace, faithfulness and provision within the 23/24 financial year. The theme of the event was, Anchored by Faith: Guided by Vision drawn from Joshua 1:3a. "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon, I have given to you...." (ESV). It also became a moment to pray for the unwavering providence of God for our work and those of our partners so that at all times we are equipped for His service.



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WELCOME TO THE RFTB 2025 EDITION

RUN *For the* BIBLELESS

10KM RUN
5KM WALK



15TH MAR, 2025
FROM 7:30 AM

NAIROBI

Venue:
Carnivore
Grounds

ELDORET

Venue:
Potter's House
Academy

NAKURU

Venue:
Nakuru High
School

REGISTRATION

ADULTS:
Kshs. 1,500

CHILDREN:
Kshs. 1,200

PAYBILL: 898301
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SERVING
45
COMMUNITIES

BEYOND KENYA

Tanzania

Gitemi
Kahe
Subi
Gorowa
Gweno

South sudan

Nyamusa
Molo
Koma



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