



## PROJECT PROFILE

# Logo

### THE PEOPLE

The Logo people are located primarily in the northeastern corner of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), formerly known as Zaire. Logo people support themselves through subsistence farming and hunting, as well as raising goats and chickens. Houses are made of mud and thatch. Protestant and Catholic churches operate the few hospitals and schools that exist. Civil war has taken its toll on the daily life of the Logo people, who face daily challenges including inadequate food supplies, poor living conditions and spiritual needs.

### THE BACKGROUND

About 40% of the Logo people are nominal Catholics. Another 40% are Protestant—perhaps 20% evangelical believers. The remaining 20% practice a traditional religion and sorcery. It is estimated that well over half of the nominal Christians continue these ancestral practices as well.

Protestant missions had their beginnings among the Logo people in 1913 with Africa Inland Mission (AIM) whose focus was on evangelism and church planting using the trade language, Bangala. In later years AIM branched out to include pastoral training, general education and medical care.

AIM missionaries translated Matthew and Mark into Logoti in the 1920's but these were not used extensively due to an inadequate writing system and limited participation of nationals in the project. AIM founded the Protestant denomination known as "CECA-20" (The Evangelistic Community in the Center of Africa). CECA-20 assumed administration of the church after independence in the 1960's. In spite of the two civil wars since 1996, the CECA-20 church in the Logo area is alive and growing. The Catholic Church is also well established in this region for decades.

### LOCAL SUPPORT

In the late 1970's, CECA-20 leaders organized a committee to oversee the translation of hymns into Logoti. In 1986 they invited SIL to help develop a writing system, translate hymns and subsequently to help translate the entire Bible into Logoti. SIL linguists began working with a Logoti speaker in 1992. Other Logo nationals joined the team and through a literacy workshop and translated materials, they taught the initial 500 workshop participants to read and write Logoti in less than two weeks.

Civil wars have made it impossible for expatriates to live in DRC, so the Logo people continued the project on their own. The Logoti team members have demonstrated spiritual maturity and deep commitment to the project even through severe trials. They translated part of the Gospel of Luke while hiding in the bush during the first war. During this time, one translator lost his wife and son. At least ten times they have left their families and bicycled 170 miles round-trip for project meetings held in Arua, Uganda because it was unsafe to meet in DRC.

The Gospel of Luke in Logoti was published in 2000 other portions soon followed. They produced the *JESUS* film in 2007.



- **Location:** Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Population:** 200,000
- **Project Goal:** New Testament plus Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2000
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2014



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### THE PLAN

The team is making steady progress on translating the New Testament. Other activities include teacher training, literacy and Scripture-use seminars for pastors, literacy and transition classes in local Bible schools and major towns and villages, preparing Christian tracts, hygiene and other community development booklets, and reprinting a hymn book and a transition primer.

SIL is providing technical support, training and consultant help. The Logo team is using a computer program to create a reference text based on the completed Avokaya New Testament, a language closely related to Logoti.

The translators come together with other teams in workshop settings to compare their drafts and learn from one another. Then they return to their own communities, working independently to prepare the translation for community reviews and consultant checks. CECA-20 continues to oversee the project and provides highly qualified personnel for translation work. It also supports the project financially and is committed to promoting the distribution of scripture portions, hymns and other materials as they are produced.

### THE RESULT

The Bible in Logoti will strengthen the Congolese church through evangelism and discipleship. Scriptures in the mother tongue speak more clearly and powerfully than those in Bangala or French. It is important that the Logo people receive the full message of God's Word, especially in light of the common practices of ancestor veneration and sorcery.

### JOINING THE TEAM

The Logo translators cannot complete their goals alone. They need your help. Your financial gifts will support national Bible translators by providing computers and training workshops, supplementing travel expenses for consultants and buying project supplies. Prayerfully consider how God might use your investment to bring his Word to the Logo people.

The translators also depend on faithful prayer partners who will commit to pray regularly for every aspect of the project. They and their families rely on your intercession as they sacrifice to see the Scriptures in their language. Commit today to pray for the translation work in Africa and for the Logo speakers who are waiting to hear about the love of Christ. Call The Seed Company at 1-817-557-2121 to let us know of your commitment.

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