



PROJECT PROFILE

Manjaku New Testament

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Translation efforts began in the 1960s, to translate Scriptures into the Manjaku mother tongue. There's a growing community of believers in the coastal West African nations of Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and The Gambia. But until 2002, with those efforts divided across three countries, only the Gospel of Luke was produced.

That year, representatives from all these groups joined The Seed Company's Luke Partnership workshops, to produce the "JESUS" film, based on the Gospel of Luke. Building on that success, this joint project combines efforts of all partners, to complete the New Testament and large portions of the Old Testament more quickly than any of team could do on their own.

Manjaku Language



- **Location:** Guinea-Bissau
- **Number of Speakers:** 285,000
- **Project Goal:** Complete New Testament and large portions of the Old Testament
- **Year Project Began:** 2008
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2015

THE PEOPLE

The Manjaku are primarily subsistence farmers, living in Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and The Gambia. All three nations are equatorial, with alternately intensely wet then intensely dry tropical climates. Rice thrives in coastal areas and river-flooded lowlands. Other crops include vegetables, peanuts, cashews, beans, potatoes and palm oil.

The dominant religions are traditional animist, ancestral beliefs and another major world religion. In most areas Christians are a small — but growing — minority.

Government and social turmoil has hit the Manjaku community in Guinea-Bissau particularly hard. Believers in the other two nations find themselves the minority, often in troubled regions. In that political climate, many have found real, lasting peace through Jesus Christ, and the church is growing.

THE NEED

Only access to God's Word in their heart language can bring the spiritual rest these people in troubled regions need.

Christians responded to a sermon from the Manjaku translation of Matthew 11:28-30. After hearing that Jesus invites the weary to come to Him for spiritual rest, one new believer said, "People are now beginning to understand the message of God. It has touched us, and now we want this rest ourselves."

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Believers are excited about completion of the New Testament and large portions of the Old Testament, and how those will influence their people, as they discover true spiritual rest in the midst of turmoil.

BACKGROUND AND LOCAL INTEREST

The Manjaku community is actively pursuing their heart language Bible translation. Leaders in all three countries recognize how Old and New Testament books address current, critical topics, like covenant relationships, land as identity, social cohesiveness, and the processes of national and personal reconciliation and healing. Their felt need for more of God's Word drives this project.

The Seed Company is facilitating this joint partnership of team members around the world, including the Manjaku Evangelical Association, SIL, United Bible Societies and New Tribes Mission.

THE TEAM

Pierre Mendy Nassadiou played a significant part in publishing Luke's gospel and the "JESUS" film. He pastored a Manjaku immigrant church in France and is the team's linguist-exegete.

Assisting him are translators João and Junior. João is from a district that is close to the target area for the dialect used in the translation. Junior is from the target dialect area itself. Both men are well-educated and are eager to serve.

JOIN THE TEAM

The Manjaku NT team cannot complete their goals without your financial investment and prayer. Your investment makes translation possible, providing training, adequate computer equipment, transportation supplies and living expenses for the translator's families.

Your prayer helps translators and their families face problems like sickness, conflict and spiritual opposition that can threaten their work.

Call The Seed Company toll-free at 1-877-593-7333, to commit to invest and pray for the Manjaku team, or visit www.theseedcompany.org/projects.