



PROJECT PROFILE

Nyarafolo

PROJECT SUMMARY:

As those who strive for peace, Nyarafolo people are weary of political unrest and outbreaks of violence, which started in 2002 and continue in Côte d'Ivoire. As they quietly toil, thoughts turn toward the future, and they take steps toward maybe “reinforcing,” “defending,” or “saving” a strong cultural identity, by translating songs and improving literacy and schooling. The Nyarafolo yearn to see their children stand tall, even in a tough social climate, when larger neighboring groups wield more power.

Plans are to translate the New Testament, Exodus through Deuteronomy and selected Psalms, between 2010 and 2017. The “JESUS” film will be a key tool after the Gospel of Luke is completed.



- **Location:** Côte d'Ivoire, Africa
- **Number of Speakers:** 60,000
- **Project Goal:** New Testament and Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2010
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2017

THE NEED

Nyarafolo people, who number more than 60,000, tend to live quiet lives as farmers or merchants in and around the town of Ferkessedougou. Yet in the wake of political unrest in their country, they hurt in tangible ways. They need better living conditions, better education and more job opportunities, which all go hand-in-hand. And because of constant unrest in their society, they desperately need inner healing from past traumas.

They also need peace and security from knowing Christ and His plan of salvation. But without the Scriptures in their language, they have a shallow understanding of the gospel and continue to worship spirits in nature and ancestors, hoping to please them and avoid retaliation. Their society remains controlled unhealthily by sorcerers, shamans, diviners and leaders of the traditional religion. Many Nyarafolo feel helpless, reacting with fear and shame. They need to know that the gospel delivers them true freedom, protection and a life of joy-filled purpose!

And still more, the Scriptures need to come to life for those who already believe in Christ, though perhaps as few as a half percent of the population. Christians here live isolated lives, suffering rejection and sometimes physical abuse, because they do not participate in traditional religion. But they find solace in prayer and eagerly await God's Word in their heart language. Then they can grow in understanding and continue to stand strong.



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THE IMPACT

Once people get translated portions of Scripture, true impact will be measured by vibrant indigenous churches and transformed lives. People will abandon rituals and fetishes of their traditional religion. They'll learn to have peace and emotional healing from war traumas and thrive in better living conditions—for starters. Great hope awaits the Nyarafolo people.

Both Protestant and Catholic denominations eagerly support this project and are helping in many practical ways.

THE PLAN

Two Nyarafolo translators will complete the New Testament, as well as Moses' life story in Exodus, followed by the rest of the Pentateuch, through Deuteronomy. Finally, selected Psalms will be translated, all in the span from 2010 to 2017.

Luke's gospel is a key first step, so the "JESUS" film production, based on Luke, can be shown to the people as soon as possible. And because of the pressing need for healing within the community, the team will also translate materials for an upcoming trauma healing workshop.

Nyarafolo people will have a chance to receive God's Word in print and on audio, as translated portions become available in intervals. Twice monthly, Nyarafolo can already hear God's Word broadcast on local radio, as well as songs based on Scripture. CDs and cassettes will be produced later.

The long-range plan beyond 2017 is to complete the entire Bible.

JOIN THE TEAM

Nyarafolo translators cannot complete their goals without your financial investment and prayer. Your investment makes translation possible, providing training, adequate computer equipment, translation supplies and living expenses for the translators' 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 or visit theseedcompany.org/projects to commit to invest and pray for the Nyarafolo team.

3030 Matlock Road, Suite 104
Arlington, Texas 76015
Toll Free: (877) 593-7333
www.theseedcompany.org
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