



PROJECT PROFILE

Sena New Testament

THE PEOPLE

The 1.9 million Sena people are located in central Mozambique where the Zambezi River runs through a varying terrain of swamps, woodlands and savannah. The Sena people are nearly all subsistence farmers, growing mainly rice and corn. They supplement this with millet, cassava, sweet potatoes and fruit. The country emerged from 30 decades of civil war in 1995, but living conditions in rural areas have not changed measurably. Homes are constructed of sticks and mud. The lack of good food storage facilities causes severe food shortages during February and March. This is especially hard on newly weaned infants. Infant mortality is one in five births.

THE BACKGROUND

Mozambique has religious freedom for the first time in its history. Intense suffering from persecution and natural disasters has produced a spiritual hunger which has seen the church double in size between 1988 and 2000. Among the Sena, numerous denominations are working and it is estimated that 40 percent of the population calls itself Christian. The remaining population participates in traditional religious practices.

THE NEED

The church continues to grow rapidly; believers in every denomination mix Christianity with their traditional religion. This is understandable, since the Bible is not available in the local language, and many pastors can misunderstand the true meaning of some cultural issues and biblical doctrines when using the Portuguese translation. In addition, relatively few pastors have a solid basis of theological training. Yet, there is a yearning for more training.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The Sena people have a high regard for their own language and desire to see it written and developed. In 2000 the Christian community organized a translation committee that is still active. This council manages the translation effort and office. Pastor Luis Nyazeze leads the three mother-tongue translators. He has always had a heart for providing the Scriptures to his own people. He is a teacher at a local Bible institute and a well-respected community leader.

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- **Location:** Mozambique, Africa
- **Population:** 1,900,000
Project Goal: New Testament plus Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2005
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2011



Sena New Testament

The local church warmly welcomed a recently printed translation of the Gospel of Matthew. Believers enthusiastically participated in a Scripture Use workshop last year which enables them to promote the reading of Scriptures in the home, church and community.

THE PLAN

The Sena team has drafted forty-eight percent of the New Testament, but they are requesting help to improve the quality through exegetical and linguistic help. This help can be provided by experienced consultants from SIL. The translation has set an ambitious but attainable goal of completing the New Testament and two Old Testament books in six years. With the top-notch team of mother-tongue translators and church support it is well within their reach.

JOINING THE TEAM

The Sena people are organized and working hard towards completing the New Testament. Church leaders have strongly expressed their desire to have a completed New Testament as soon as possible. With an organized and energized local translation team combined with church support almost all of the right ingredients are in place for successful completion. The one ingredient missing is funds for salaries, consultant travel, training workshops and office supplies. Your investment in this project will speed it to completion. The team will also depend on people who pray as they continue their difficult task. Please prayerfully consider your role in seeing the goals of the Sena translation team accomplished. Call The Seed Company at 1-817-557-2121 to affirm your commitment.