



Mono

THE PEOPLE

The Mono people live in villages scattered across savannas that border rainforests. They build their homes of materials from the forest or savanna, including palm fronds, vines and thatch. The people rely primarily on subsistence farming to provide for their families, but they also grow cash crops like peanuts, coffee and corn. Their staple food is cassava (a starchy root) served with rice. They keep chickens for special meals, and some raise goats and pigs to generate income.

Civil unrest and war have taken a toll on the people. Their education system, roads and healthcare facilities are all in poor condition. The Mono people have few representatives in local and national governments, and they often feel isolated and threatened by the surrounding larger people groups. This increases their motivation to use their own language, which they esteem and want to develop.

THE BACKGROUND

Since 1998, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been at the center of one of the largest interstate wars in African history. The war has claimed an estimated 3 million lives and has directly affected more than 50 million Congolese people. In the midst of this terrible war, the Ngbandi-Ngiri, Mono and Pagabete people have responded enthusiastically to Bible translation efforts. The political situation has made it difficult for outsiders to enter the country, but Ngbandi-Ngiri, Mono and Pagabete translators are stepping up to take on the task of Bible translation so that the work can continue. Congolese bishops are showing support for translation work and have released educated people from their congregations to help translate the Scriptures.

THE NEED

After decades of Christian activity among the Mono, about 50 percent of the people practice various versions of Christianity. However, many of these people are attracted to sects and other non-standard churches that blend elements of traditional religion with Christian beliefs. Because most Christian teaching is in the trade language Lingala, many people are unable to apply Christian beliefs to real-life problems and challenges.

Some villages do not have any churches at all, and the civil war seems to have stimulated a resurgence of African traditional religion in some areas. Many people remain deeply animistic and resistant to the Gospel, believing instead in good and bad spirits and a supreme God who is very far away. They need to hear the message of a God who loves them and wants to deliver them from their sins and fears.



- **Location:** Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Population:** 104,000

- **Project Goal:** New Testament plus Old Testament portions
- **Year Project Began:** 2005
- **Expected Completion Date:** 2013



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THE PLAN

Well-educated Ngbandi-Ngiri, Mono and Pagabete translators will work together to produce first drafts, check each other's drafts and plan and evaluate their projects. Sharing an office will allow them to learn from each other and work in a more focused environment. They will also spend time with their respective people groups, working with review committees, running Scripture-use courses and conducting local testing. Translators will attend a workshop each year to build upon their initial training and qualifications.

THE RESULTS

The Mono translators aim to complete the New Testament and Old Testament portions by July 2013. The translation of Genesis and the first part of Exodus will help establish a better understanding of God's plan of salvation. The translators will also translate Amos for its teaching on social justice, Ruth and Esther to show the part of women in God's plan, and selections from Isaiah and Jeremiah to provide prophecies of the Messiah. They will translate Psalms to strengthen and comfort suffering Christians. The translation of the Scriptures into the Mono language will result in a deepening of Christians' faith and a renewal of enthusiasm to reach out to nonbelievers.

JOINING THE TEAM

The translators in the Democratic Republic of the Congo cannot complete their goals alone. They need you. Your financial gift will support Congolese Bible translators by providing quality linguistic training, equipment, salaries and travel expenses. Prayerfully consider how God might use your financial gift to translate His precious Word.

The work of Bible translation is also in great need of your prayers. Translators and their families will depend on your prayer support as they sacrifice to see the Scriptures in their language. Commit today to pray for the translation work in the DRC and the Mono people who are waiting to hear about the love of Christ. Call The Seed Company at 1-817-557-2121 to express your commitment.

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