

COUNTRY PROFILE

Democratic Republic of Congo

FALL 2024

BY THE NUMBERS

There are 183 languages in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



RELIGIOUS ENVIRONMENT

- The majority of people profess Christianity. However, many hold traditional religious beliefs as well. Islam is growing in influence in some regions.
- Local churches have been increasingly supportive of Bible translation efforts in recent years. Field staff have seen a wave of new projects start!

A TRANSFORMATIVE READING

As Nsaku* glanced at his wife's reading one evening, something caught his attention. He knew she was studying a religious text from her Christian faith, but this one was unusual. The book she was looking at was in their own language!

Nsaku had never been interested in church. But seeing verses in such a familiar script and style intrigued him. His wife explained that Bible translators in the Democratic Republic of Congo were producing Scripture in their language. They wanted community feedback on the clarity and naturalness of their work, so they had given her a draft.

He borrowed the book, which turned out to be 1 Corinthians. The words tugged at his heart. When he read chapter seven's teachings on marriage, he recognized how poorly he had been treating his wife. He also acknowledged he was living a sinful life outside of God's will.

"I was living without God, and yet there are young translators who serve God," Nsaku said. "Why am I not serving God?"

Convicted, he asked his wife for forgiveness and accompanied her at church that Sunday. He soon developed a relationship with Christ. The couple thank the Lord for bringing His Word to them through Scripture translation, and for redeeming both their marriage and their lives.

**Name has been changed.*

TIMELINE

OF BIBLE TRANSLATION IN DRC

DRC is embroiled in civil unrest. Many ministry workers flee for safety.

Ministry workers return to DRC, rejoining organizations such as SIL-ECG (Eastern Congo Group).

Local churches attend a national Bible translation conference in Kinshasa, galvanizing translation efforts.

1990s

2010s

2016