

PROJECT NO: 102850

TAX | NON-TAX

# South Pacific



## Vanuatu Translation

### Overview

This project seeks to reach all the peoples of Vanuatu with God's word, through the translation and provision of the Bible. The project is undertaking four new translations of the New Testament, a revision of two Scriptures and the digitisation of three Bible translations.

### The Need

Between 80 and 90 percent of the residents of Vanuatu (approx. 234,000 people), belong to the Christian faith, but many do not have Scriptures in their own language and find it hard to read other languages. The Republic of Vanuatu has the world's highest linguistic density per capita — that is, it has the most number of languages with the smallest population. For a population of about 300,000 people, Vanuatu is home to 138 indigenous Oceanic languages, with 70 spoken languages. There are over one hundred local languages spread over the archipelago. It currently shows an average of about 1,760 speakers for each indigenous language.

Although English, French, and local trade languages are generally understood, they are not fully adequate for many people's spiritual and worship experiences. Research and proven testimonies from communities have confirmed that the reading of Scriptures in one's own dialect or language during church worship and gatherings contributes immensely to people's understanding of the Scriptures.

The need to communicate God's word through the various languages/dialects of this country is great although the number of speakers of each language may be relatively small.



# 303k

people in Vanuatu.

# 80-90%

belong to the Christian faith.

# 138

indigenous Oceanic languages.

# 80%

literacy rate in Vanuatu as from 2018.

## Goals

The heart of Bible Society's mission is to reach every community with God's word, and help people read the Scriptures in their mother tongues. The goal of this project is to support the development of Scripture products — Bibles, Scripture portions, comics, selections, Bible concordances, Bible engagement materials, etc. — all with the aim of deepening and strengthening the spiritual lives of the people, in partnership with the local body of Christ. Training

workshops to educate people on the new Scripture products will also be a critical part of this project.

This project aims to produce four new translations of the New Testament and the revision and digitisation of existing Scripture translations in other languages. The languages of the project are Mele, Ahamb, Aneityum, Lelepa, Nguna, Erromango and Futuna.

In 2023, the specific goals of the project are:

- Printing four Gospels (in print and electronic format) of the Mele New Testament.

- The final publication of the Nguna revised Bible in electronic and print formats.

- The publication of original texts of the Aneityum Bible and the Erromango New Testament in digital form.

## Impact

The total number of people this project aims to impact with these Bible translations is 300,000 — the population of Vanuatu.

As a result of this Bible translation project, the people of Vanuatu who speak these languages will understand the Scriptures better and be more able to apply God's word to their lives.

## Prayer Needs

- Pray for ongoing recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Pray for the staff on the ground and the translation teams working on each project.

