

PROJECT NO: 100525

TAX | NON-TAX

# South Sudan



## Literacy for Shilluks



### Overview

This literacy project aims to bring growth and reconciliation to people in South Sudan — one of the world's most troubled nations. By providing Bibles to Shilluk Christians in their native language and offering literacy classes, this project will give Christians the ability to read and put into practice the word of God.

### The Need

Since they received their independence in mid-2011, social unrest, armed conflicts, tribal disputes and other challenges continue to impact the daily lives of the South Sudanese. Only 34.5% of South Sudanese are literate (according to a 2018 Global Report on Literacy). With 70 major ethnic groups — each with its own language — only 1 out of 10 women and 3 out of 10 men are able to read in any language. The Shilluk people in particular (of whom about 45% are Christian) were badly affected by the conflict of the civil war. Illiteracy concerns mostly women above the age of 15.

It is in this context that the Bible Society considers this literacy project a priority. A focus on adult literacy is crucial for many areas of life: reading the Bible, learning basic rules of sanitation for their homes, selling or buying in a marketplace, and helping children with schooling at home.

65.5%

of South Sudanese people are non-literate.

1 in 10

women are able to read.

3 in 10

men are able to read.

45%

of Shilluk people are Christian.

574k

Collo speakers in South Sudan.

<h1>Goals</h1>	
<p>The goal of this project is to enable Shilluk churches to help the non-literate communities around them to read and understand the word of God and thereby empower them to receive the message of love, hope and reconciliation in the context of a troubled world.</p>	<p>Overall, the project aims to reach 5,000 learners, with each graduate reaching 10 non-literate fellow family members, friends and neighbours.</p> <p>In 2023, the goal is to teach 1,000 students (500 women, 200 men and 300 children). The team will</p>
	<p>print 315 literacy primers, 100 supplementary reading materials and 305 Scripture materials to share. It is hoped that in imparting literacy skills, they will be able to improve their family health, be able to read the Bible for themselves and participate in both church and social activities.</p>
<h2>Impact</h2>	<h2>Testimonies</h2>
<p>It is hoped across the life of this project the whole Shilluk people group, 1.5 million people, will be impacted.</p> <p>It is anticipated that literacy will have a great impact on the Shilluk people, including helping people to learn how to build better relationships and minimize conflicts between communities.</p> <p>Being able to access the Bible themselves will help Christians to become an example to others when it comes to reconciliation and living in harmony, for the rebuilding of their nation. The word of God has power to bring healing for the many who have lost loved ones in the conflict, who may be living with bitterness and hatred.</p>	<p>“Before I was not confident enough to participate in singing and reading of the Bibles, because I could not read and write. But now after joining literacy class, I have gained confidence in serving my Lord by joining the choir and reading of the Bible to the congregation. I can read the Bible to my family and pray to God with full understanding of his word.”</p> <p><i>Monique*, just one of the many who has benefited from the literacy class by the Bible Society in South Sudan</i></p> <p><i>*Name has been changed to protect identity.</i></p>
<h2>Prayer Needs</h2>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray for those who will take the step to begin literacy classes.</li> <li>• Pray for the volunteers — that volunteer numbers would increase and that these people would be equipped to teach effectively.</li> <li>• Pray for peace and reconciliation in South Sudan.</li> </ul>	

