

# South Sudan

TAX

Project No: 100525



## Literacy for Shilluks

### Overview

This literacy project aims to bring growth and reconciliation to people in South Sudan. This project works with churches in South Sudan in offering literacy classes, to contribute to the community's social progress, promote wellbeing, help break the cycles of poverty as well as empower communities to read and learn the word of God.



### The Need

Since South Sudan's 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 can read in any language. The Shilluk people in particular (of whom about 45% are Christians) 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: learning basic rules of sanitation for their homes, selling or buying in a marketplace, helping children with schooling at home, and reading the Bible.

# 65.5m

of South Sudanese people are non-literate (2018, World Bank data)

# 45%

of Shilluk people are Christian

# 574,000

Collo speakers in South Sudan

**"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit!"**

Psalms 34:18, NIV

# Goals

The goal of this project is to enable Shilluk churches to help their non-literate communities develop in their literacy skills for everyday living and learn about reconciliation in their troubled context. As well as this, the goal is that participants learn to read and understand the Bible in their language, empowering them to receive God's message of love, hope and reconciliation.

Overall, the project aims to reach 5,000 learners, with each graduate reaching 10 non-literate fellow family members, friends and neighbours.

In 2024, the goal is to teach 1,000 students (500 women, 200 men and 300 children) in Juba and Malakal including its surrounding towns. It is hoped that in imparting literacy skills, learners will be able to improve their family health and participate in community activities. They will be able to read the Bible for themselves and be an active part of their church communities.

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# Impact

It is hoped across the life of this project the whole Shilluk people group, 1.5 million people, will be impacted.

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 minimise conflicts between communities.

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.

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# Testimonies

"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." — Monique\*, one of the many who has benefited from the literacy class by the Bible Society in South Sudan

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# Prayer Needs

- Pray for those who will take the step to begin literacy classes.
- Pray for the volunteers — that volunteer numbers would increase and that these people would be equipped to teach effectively.
- Pray for peace and reconciliation in South Sudan.
- Pray for Bible Society to carry forth the program effectively and in the years to come.

\*Name has been changed to protect identity.