

Distribution Bilingual Children´s Bibles – Baoulé Tribe in Ivory Coast

Introduction

Evangelist pastor Abram Krol started lecturing Practical Theology (Church Growth) at a Theological Seminary in the Democratic Republic Congo in 1997. For learning purposes he started to organize regional conferences for pastors. Within two years this mission started to grow in Congo, Nepal and India. So he needed some part-time local workers to assist him. To do everything in good order it was decided to establish a local Foundation to run the daily work. They chose a neutral name: Facilite (Latin for: 'Make possible!') due to the closed nature of many countries.

Over the years the ministry work expanded to Ivory Coast (2010). Our outreach activities were so effective, that we also were called to start in Liberia (2020), Guinee (2022), Togo (2023) Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Bangladesh and Angola. (2024)

Ivory Coast

Ivory Coast is situated just south of the Sahel countries, which all have an (aggressive) expansionistic Islamic form of government or strong jihadi influences (Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and Nigeria).

It has a population of 31,0 million. (2023)

Its GDP is \$ 6,960 (ranking in the world: 142)

Christianity is about as important as Islam in Ivory Coast. Many of the poor people have no Bible at all, and their Bible knowledge is very limited. So that makes the members vulnerable for the aggressive Islamic propaganda campaigns from inside and from the Arab countries.

In 2019 we were able to ship and distribute some 15.000 children´s Bibles in the tribe Dan (over 3 million members). This brought an amazing revival of the Christian faith and a healthy hunger for the Word of God.



In 2023 we had a similar project with the distribution of 15.000 bilingual Children ´s Bible for the members of the Bété tribe. We still see also here the same results. Revival of the faith within the churches. Hundreds of new bible study groups are formed with thousands of enthusiastic participants.

Project Bilingual Children ´s Bible for the Baoulé tribe.

The Baoulé tribe is located in the rural area of the middle of Ivory Coast, with far over 3 million members. About 65 % is Christian, some 25 % animistic and some 10 % Islamic. French is the official language, but everybody

speaks their Baoulé 'dialect' at home and uses it for business purposes. In 2023, the Children's Bible has been translated (with the assistance of Wycliff translator specialists) in the Baoulé language.

A Christian Printing company in Egypt, we worked with during the two earlier projects for the Dan and Bété tribes, has the policy to use some 20 % of their printing capacity to print Christian evangelistic materials only at production cost. The concession they ask for is, that they can print these evangelistic materials during their off production season.

This Egyptian company had early 2024 the unique opportunity to buy the special paper needed for these Children's Bibles at rock bottom prize. Without noticing us, they just carried on and printed 15.000 Bilingual (French Baoulé) and 10.000 French Children's Bible, with the same format and quality we used earlier for the other two tribes.

So to our surprise we have the 'luxury' that within the next weeks we are in the possession of 25.000 Children's Bibles that we can distribute among the Baoulé tribe in Ivory Coast.

Distribution

Pastor Abram Krol has built good personal relations with many influential denominational leaders within the Baoulé communities over the last decade during the conferences and meeting they attended.

These pastors and selected elders have already participated in regional conferences in which they received information about how to distribute and how to use those Children's Bibles.

We expect to accomplish that some 25,000 Christian families in supporting churches have at least their own (Children's) Bible. A family at average consist of 6 persons. It is fascinating to realize that through this project some additional 150,000 persons have the opportunity to read for themselves daily the message of hope and eternal salvation.

PROJECTPLAN: CHILDREN'S BIBLE'S - BAOULÉ TRIBE, IVORY COAST

1. General Information

Country	Ivory Coast, Total population 31 million (2023), GDP ppp \$ 6,960 (ranking in the world: 142)
Region	Middle Region, Most rural areas, poverty high
Tribe	Baoulé Tribe, Population 3 million ,

2. Participants

Direct	Evangelist/Rev Abram Krol, Facilite The Netherlands, Initiator, general supervision Team Fondation Facilite Cdi, Ivory Coast, Regional and local strategic implementation Committees of Evangelical and Protestant Pastors in 7 Baoulé regions
Indirect	Evangelical and protestant churches Cultural organizations and schools Tribal leaders Sunday School leaders Local FM Radio stations
Program Phases	Translation Bible stories in Baoulé tribal language; 2023, Ready Printing bilingual (French, Baoul'é) Childrens Bible, 15,000, in Egypt, 2024, ready Printing French Children's Bible, 10.000, in Egypt, 2024, ready Training local distribution teams, 2024, in progress Training leaders for Bibles study groups; 2024, in progress Delivery from Egypt to Ivory Coast, July 2024 Official regional launch and presentation of the bilingual (French, Baoulé) children's Bibles

	<p>Local events to introduce the Children's Bibles in churches</p> <p>Sermons in local churches (900) in preparation for the distribution of the Children's Bibles</p> <p>Implementation of several hundred Bible Study Groups for adults</p>
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3. Budget Requested

Total Budget Requested	54.000 Euro
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4. Project Management

Local contact Ivory Coast	<p>Local Project Manager: Rev. Charles Bahi</p> <p>Fondacion Facilite, Ivory Coast</p> <p>Phone: 00225 0140494203 / 0709659533</p> <p>Email: charlesamosb@gmail.com</p>
Headquarters The Netherlands	<p>International Project manager: Rev. Abram, Krol</p> <p>Stichting Facilite, Gorinchem, The Netherlands</p> <p>0031 – 183627789</p> <p>Email: bramkrol@casema.nl</p>

5. Strategic Information

Program Rationale	<p>Ivory Coast is situated just below the Sahel countries at the West African coast. The economic situation has been improving slightly the last decennia. But people living in rural and remote areas are generally spoken still (very) poor. One can only buy Bibles in some major cities, but these Bibles have to be imported and are quite expensive. So only the rich can afford buying</p>
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	<p>them. Children’s Bibles are not available - unless in Abidjan - and extremely expensive. For a healthy, vibrant and resilient Christian life it is of the utmost importance that every family has at least one Bible at hand. For developing the faith of the children, and to get the believers acquainted with the Bible, Children’s Bibles play an important role.</p> <p>Since 2019 Fondation Facilite has distributed 15,000 bilingual Children’s Bibles in the Dan area. In 2023 we could distribute also 15.000 Children’s Bibles in the Bété area. It is a delight to see the spreading of the Gospel in these rural area’s.</p> <p>In 2023 the Children’s Bible has been translated in the Baoulé vernacular. Even 25,000 Children’s Bible are already printed and are waiting to be distributed among the Baoulé tribe (3 million people) in the Midwest of Ivory Coast. We are informing and training Church leaders, leaders of Sunday Schools how to bring the Good News through these Bible stories. People are eager to have their own Bible so they can read these Biblical Stories in their own language. Church leaders are highly motivated to participate in this project. We hope to start as soon as possible with the introduction of the Message of Hope and eternal salvation among the Baoulé tribe.</p>
<p>Program description</p>	<p>People in poor rural areas have a limited knowledge of the Bible due to a lack of Bibles They only know what they hear in the weekly church meetings. But even pastors have quite often limited knowledge of the Bible and Christian Theology. This is a big disadvantage for churches, personal faith, and even evangelism.</p> <p>So this special bilingual (French-Baoulé) Children’s Bible is a special gift for Teaching the Biblical message of eternal hope to the Baoulé tribe. People are fond of hearing and telling stories in their own language. This Children’s Bible will attract the attention and general interest to the Bible. Expectations are high we might be able to start some 1,000 new Bible Study groups.</p> <p>The growth of Jihadism and orthodox Islam is a constant threat in Ivory Coast. Uneducated Christians are an easy prey for the aggressive messaging tactics. Education is the most effective way of creating strong believers in Christ. They not only can easily withstand these tactics but are also able to counter their propaganda with the Salvation message of Christ.</p> <p>Local pastors, Christians are trained in distributing and using the Children’s Bible, for their own Bible studies in church, their own family and neighbors, pastoral care, and follow up programming. It will revive, increase their own spiritual life, dedication to Christ and willingness, eagerness to spread the Gospel to others.</p>

	<p>The regional and local communication programs will attract curiosity even among non-Christians. They also want to read and hear these stories in their own language. From experience we know that local radio stations will start Bible storytelling programs in their local Baoulé language,, reaching most of the 3 million members with the Word of God.</p>
Strategic Relevance	<p>We reached already a few hundred churches in the Baoulé region that are implementing our methods of personal evangelism and setting up Bible Study groups. The upcoming Children’s Bible project will increase the efforts of the churches spreading the Gospel all over the Baoulé region. There will be a public introduction meeting with Church leaders and local leaders of cultural, political and educational institutions. Press, radio and tv-stations will inform the general public (around 4 million people). Next we have set up a schedule to introduce and distribute the Children’s Bibles in the main towns of the Baoulé region. We expect that in the end about 900 churches will follow and implement the evangelistic programs. We foresee a revitalization of the church, with countless conversions.</p> <p>By educating the general public with the true Biblical message, they will be better armed to withstand the continuous pressure of Islamic pressure.</p>
Program Reach	<p>The aim of this third distribution project since 2019 is to distribute 25,000 Children’s Bibles (15,000 Bilingual – French/Baoulé; 10,000 French), among the regional Baoulé tribe (over 3 million people) in the Midwest of Ivory Coast. We do expect to reach some 150.000 people (25,000 families, with on average 6 members) directly.</p> <p>But indirectly one might see a huge impact on all the other churches and Christians in the country. It is to be expected that some 1,000 new Bible Study Groups (10,000 participants) also will be formed. And probably we will see indirectly also the implantation of a number of churches.</p> <p>We even may expect some growing interest from churches in Liberia, Benin, Togo, Sierra Leone, and Burkina Faso.</p>
Monitoring	<p>Reverend Abram Krol is daily available for/in reach by email with the project groups on location for assistance, practical advice out of the headquarters/his home in The Netherlands.</p>
Duration	<p>The distribution project is scheduled to run from August until November 2024.</p>
Evaluation	<p>Next to the possible daily monitoring by reverend Krol, we will have a monthly update of progress by the leaders in the field.</p> <p>In December 2024 we will make a Final Evaluation Report.</p> <p>We must be careful about public presentations of the activities of reverend Abram Krol, due to repercussions in other risky/hostile countries of operations.</p>

Budgetfunding	The total project budget is Euro 91,110. Facilite will provide 41 % (Euro 37,110). We need to fund 59 % Euro 54,000.
Risk Management	<p>Logistics- Due to the Christian nature of the cargo it is not always easy to find a company willing to ship this cargo and follow the right procedures and acquire the right shipping documents needed for customs.</p> <p>Recently we encountered some fierce resistance from special opposing groups towards Christian activities in other countries.</p> <p>We are/must be careful about public presentations of the activities of reverend Abram Krol, due to repercussions against his activities in other risky/hostile countries of operations</p> <p>.</p>
Team	<p>It is in the DNA of Fondacion Facilité to build and expand the local capacity of Church leaders, evangelists, lecturers, Sunday School teachers and leaders of Bible Study Groups. They want to reach always more local Warriors for Christ and equip them to effectively communicate the Message of Hope to lost people.</p> <p>The results in the two earlier projects in the Dan and the Bété tribes makes us convinced that this additional project will also be successful by God's grace.</p>

Project Budget: Baoulé childrens Bibles Ivoorkust

Activities	Status	Costs (euro)
Printing 25.000 Children´s Bibles		74,700
- 15.000 tweetalige kinderbijbels (Frans-Baoulé)	Printed	
- 10.000 Franstalige jongeren Bijbels	Printed	
Transport (Egypt, Abidjan/Ivory Coast)	Aug 2024	2,860
FOB and export documents	aug 2024	1,800
Transport within Ivory Coast	aug 2024	4,500
Container	aug 2024	3,700
Communication/Training/Promotion	aug 2024	4,000
Local Services	aug-nov 2024	1,250
Total project costs	Euro	91,110
Funds available through Facilite Euro	Euro	37,110
Funds needed/requested Euro	Euro	54,000