



101854 – Vietnam  
Project Fact Sheet 2022

# First Bible for Minority Language 1\* in Northern Vietnam

\*the name of the language kept confidential for safety

## Overview

This project aims to provide a first Bible for an ethnic minority in North Vietnam. It aims to have a spiritual impact on this community through making the Bible available in their native language.

## The Need

This ethnic minority typically gathers together with other similar groups, and so it is difficult to estimate the number of speakers. According to translators, it is estimated there are about 30,000 Christians amongst this ethnic minority in northern Vietnam, and about 5,000 in the south. Worship services in these communities use one of the Bibles translated into two other, similar languages, and pastors translate into ethnic Minority Language 1\*.

Although officially there is no persecution of Christians, authorities do put pressure on families. Formal church services are not allowed for 'security reasons'.

Christians in Vietnam have tried to reach out to these three ethnic groups with the gospel, however their efforts are limited by the lack of Scriptures available in the native languages. Church leaders have turned to the Bible Society asking for help.

## Project Goals

Vietnam Bible Society, together with the Vietnam Partnership, are working to coordinate the planning, translating, typesetting and publishing of the Bible into Minority Language 1\*. This is a very sensitive project, as the Vietnamese government does not support Bible translation in minority languages.

This project aims to provide the first complete Bible in Minority Language 1\* by 2024.

As most people in this ethnic group are not literate in their language, the project plans to provide audio of the New Testament, and also publish it in electronic formats. Literacy classes will be set up in the future to enable people to read the Scriptures for themselves.

Drafting of the New Testament in the language began in 2017 and was finished in 2020. In 2021, the project was found to be ahead of schedule, due to the similarities which were discovered between this translation and an existing published translation of another language.

Consequently, in 2022 the project plan has been revised and advanced. Drafting, Translation Consultant checking, community reviews and consultant checking will still take place on extra material such as the word lists, maps, Biblical terms, the glossary and the remaining Old Testament books. The end of 2022 will see typesetting and proof-reading take place, preparing for the publication of the Bible – ahead of schedule, if all goes according to plan.

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## Impact

The total number of people who will benefit from the publication of the first full Bible in this minority language is 30,000. There are around 30,000 – 40,000 speakers of this language who are Christians.

The Bible will become the main literature resource for this community, as very few books are available in their language. The translation is an answer to the faithful prayers of church leaders and will help Christians in these groups to make and grow disciples.

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## Testimonies

“We need a Bible in our own language because when we share the gospel using Vietnamese words, God feels very far away, like from another tribe. But in our own language, God becomes one of us.”

- Tony, Translator

## Prayer Needs

- Pray for the translators and their families. This ethnic minority are a group under a lot of political pressure.
- Thank God for the progress of this project, and for the distribution plans in 2022.
- Pray for the 30 000 Christians who will receive a Bible in their language in 2022.