



83949 - Pakistan
Project Fact Sheet 2022

Pakistan: Afghan Pashto Bible Translation

Overview

This project is translating the Bible into 'Afghan Pashto', a functional equivalent translation of the Old and New Testaments for Pashto speakers today and for generations to come.

The Need

Pashto is a widely spoken and understood language in two provinces of Pakistan and has many dialects. The people who speak one of these dialects expressed a special interest in the word of God. These Pashto speakers (even the non-Christians) have a high value for the Pentateuch, as they use the Book of Torah and believe it is the book of God.

Given the interest of the people, and the evangelists working in the area, Pakistan Bible Society together with another Christian organisation have begun work on the translation of the Bible into this dialect of Pashto, beginning with the Old Testament, since it is very relevant to the people's theological understanding.



Project Goals

This project aims to give the people who speak Afghan Pashto the freedom to read the Bible and decide for themselves what they believe; that they may know the truth, God's purpose and Jesus' life-saving work on the cross.

The translation of the Pentateuch was completed first in this project, which began in 2010, and built on previous translation work.

In 2022, the team will continue to work on the translation of the Old Testament, conducting team and external reviews on the draft translation of Isaiah, and conducting Translation Consultant checks on Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jonah. For the New Testament, Translation Consultant checks will be done on 1 & 2 Corinthians and Revelation. The New Testament will then be finalised with the intention to publish it at the end of the year.

Impact

This project aims to impact 50,000 people. The slowly growing group of Afghan Pashto believers will be impacted by having Scripture available in their heart language. Furthermore, Afghan Pashto Scripture recordings can be made and lead to Scripture use in radio programs, SMS messages and social media outlets, reaching many more speakers of the dialect.

Prayer Needs

- Pray for the translation team to work faithfully.
- Pray for the partners involved in this translation project.
- Pray for the native people, that they would own this translation, come to know its message with an attitude of understanding and acceptance.
- Pray for the Bible Society team as they distribute this translation among receptive audiences.
- Pray for the uncertainty caused by the COVID pandemic, that the work online would be effective, and progress would not be too badly impacted.