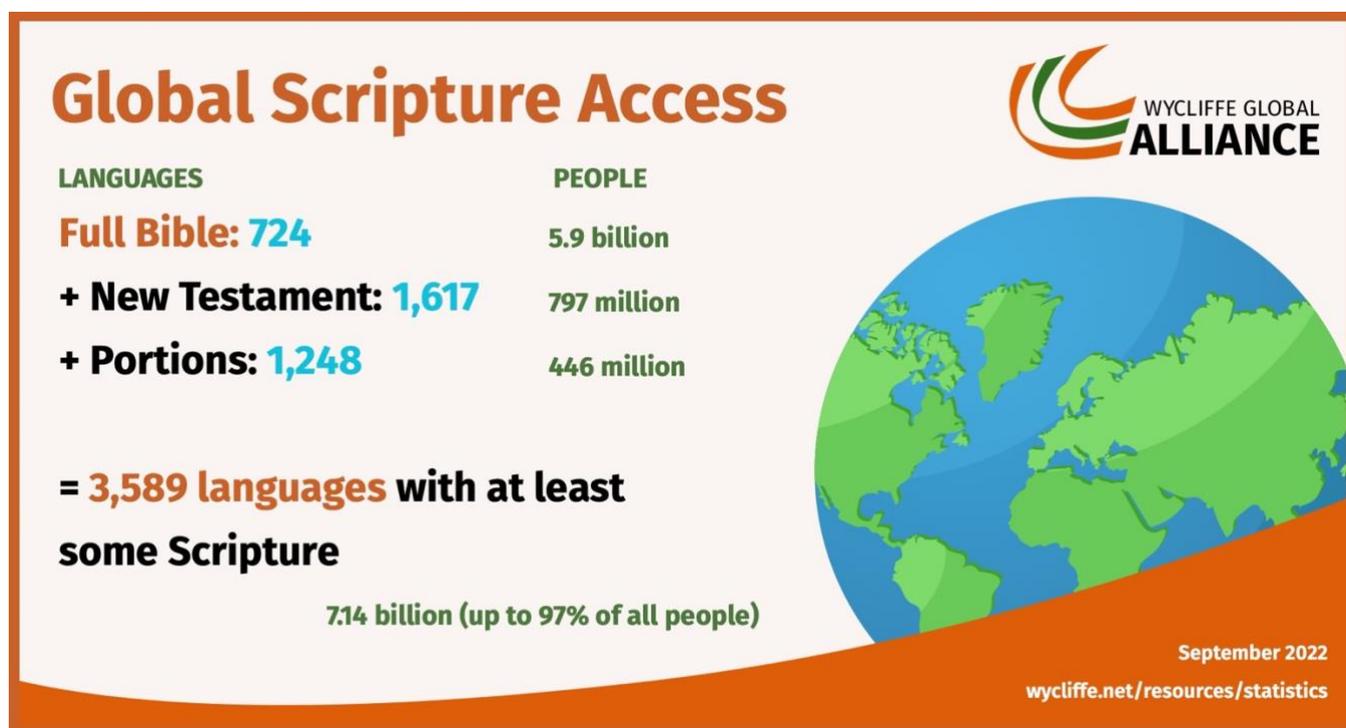


2022 Scripture Access Statistics



7,388 total languages in the world

Number of known users: 7.36 billion^[1]

Languages and people with Scripture

Completed Scripture	Languages	People
Full Bible	724 (9.7% of all languages)	5.9 billion (up to 80%* of people)
New Testament (and possibly Old Testament portions)	1,617 (21.4% of all languages)	797 million (up to 11%* of people)
Some translated portions but not a full Bible or New Testament	1,248 (16.2% of all languages)	446 million (up to 6%* of people)
Languages and people with at least some Scripture	3,589 (49% of all languages)	7.14 billion (up to 97%* of people)

*Using 7.36 billion as the global population.^[1]

Scripture access status

Status**	Languages	People
At least some Scripture	3,589	7.14 billion
Need Bible translation to start	1,680	128.8 million
Initial work in progress	964	74.2 million
No Scripture, likely no need	1,155	10.3 million
TOTALS	7,388	7.36 billion

**Bible translation is currently happening in 2,846 languages in 157 countries. Those languages and people numbers are embedded in the categories “At least some Scripture” and “Initial work in progress”. This current work impacts 1.11 billion people, or about 15 percent of all language users.

Need Bible translation to start

Geographic Area	Languages	People
Africa	525	13.7 million
Americas	98	1.2 million
Asia	668	112 million
Europe	50	1.6 million
Pacific	339	350,000
TOTALS	1,680 (22.7% of all languages)	128.8 million (1.7% of all language users)

No Scripture yet, but work in progress

Preparatory work or initial translation is active in 964 languages with 74.2 million users.

No Scripture yet, no likely need

1,155 languages, with 10.3 million users (about one-tenth of 1 percent), are considered not to need Bible translation. In most cases, the people use another language which already has at least some Scripture. Sometimes, their first language is disappearing from use altogether. The reality is often more complex.

Bible translation in progress

Bible translation is currently happening in 2,846 languages in 157 countries. This work impacts 1.11 billion people, or about 15 percent of all language users, who have (or will soon have) new access to at least some portions of Scripture in their first language. This number does not include people who already have a full Bible but are updating their existing translations.

Languages without the full Bible

1.45 billion people, using 5,509 languages, do not have a *full Bible* in their first language. This includes people who have *some* Scripture as well as people who have none. It represents about 20 percent of the global population and 75 percent of the world’s languages.

For more information see [Q&A: 2022 Global Scripture Access](#).

Wycliffe Global Alliance involvement snapshot, 2022

- Alliance Organizations are working in at least 2,401 languages.
- Alliance Organizations are involved in work in at least 126 countries.

Wycliffe Global Alliance historical snapshot

- Over their history, Alliance organizations have been involved in the translation of New Testaments or Bibles in at least 1,603 languages.
- Over their history, Alliance organizations have been involved in translating Scripture portions in an additional 815 languages.

Statistics are rarely as simple as the numbers imply

Scripture access statistics are not as simple as they seem at first glance. We strive to give an accurate snapshot of the main numbers, but the data is actually a bit more complex than that. For example, translation need is not as simple as determining which languages do or do not have Scripture. Most of the languages with only “some Scripture” are in need of more, and even full Bibles undergo revisions from time to time. Also, comparisons with previous annual reports are challenging and sometimes not possible, due to ongoing changes and improvements in data definitions and collecting methods.

A new way of measuring Bible Translation Progress

Statistics provide one lens through which to measure progress in worldwide Bible translation. Progress involves not just publishing translations but changed lives as people encounter God through his Word and as the worldwide Bible translation movement moves toward greater unity in Christ.

Alliance leaders have begun to explore other important measurements of progress such as:

- How are language communities experiencing life-changing impact from Scripture?
- Are churches increasingly taking ownership over the work of Bible translation?
- Are churches, communities, and organizations partnering more effectively to carry out the work of translation together?

These are just a few examples of measurements being talked about. To read more, see: [A missiology of progress: Assessing advancement in the Bible translation movement](#) by Dr. Kirk Franklin.

Wycliffe Global Alliance presentations of Scripture Access Statistics are compiled from data provided through progress.Bible by Alliance Organisations, SIL International, United Bible Societies and many other partners. Data is current as of 1 September 2021. Population data is based on available information about first language speakers in SIL’s [Ethnologue](#). Further stories about people and projects are available at www.wycliffe.net and from your nearest [Alliance organisation](#).

[1] According to the most recently available information in SIL’s [Ethnologue](#), 7.36 billion people use the world’s 7,388 known languages. However, language user statistics tend to lag behind actual population statistics due to challenges in gathering and updating information. The global population is expected to reach [8 billion](#) by November 2022. For statistical agreement, numbers and percentages used here are based on the Ethnologue number.