Bible Translation Status

1. Overall Task
- Estimated total living languages in the world: 7,110
- Questionable translation need or dying languages: -2,217
- Estimated total languages needing translation: 4,893
- Translation complete or underway: 1,107
- Translation needed to start: 1,559

2. Current Status
About 677 languages have a complete Bible. Another 1,550 languages have a New Testament and about 1,107 additional languages have some Scripture portions or translation has recently started.

There is known active translation and/or linguistic development happening in 2,639 languages across more than 170 countries involving more than 100 translation organizations.

3. The Need
Over 110 million people, speaking 1,559 languages still need Bible translation to begin in their language. These individuals have no access to the Word of God in their primary language.

At least 1.5 billion people do not have a full Bible available in their first language.

4. Availability
Never before has the Bible been more available to more people.

Faith Comes By Hearing (www.bible.is) now has the New Testament available in audio format in over 1,800 languages online and totally free.

YouVersion (www.youversion.com) has more than 1,740 Bible versions in 1,135 languages available at no cost. The YouVersion Bible App has been installed on more than 330 million mobile devices.

5. Acceleration
Vision 2025 is a goal set by translation ministries to start Bible translation in all needed languages by the year 2025. Better technology, improved use and training of national translators, and crowd-sourcing have brought the timeframe down to about 2032. Bible translators are still hoping to reach the 2025 goal.

6. In This Generation?
A full Bible translation takes anywhere from 10 to 20 years or more. If Vision 2025 succeeds in starting translation in all languages by 2025, then possibly the task of Bible translation could be completed by around 2035-2045. Of course, there will always be need for ongoing revisions.

August 2018. Sources: Wycliffe Global Alliance, Faith Comes By Hearing, YouVersion, Joshua Project