

## GILLBT

# 58 years of Bible Translation & Literacy in Ghana



**G**hana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation (GILLBT) is a Ghanaian Christian non-governmental and mission organization contributing to the “Great Commission” by means of Language development, Literacy and Bible translation.

We believe mother tongue literacy and the word of God in our mother tongue brings freedom and life to Ghanaians and our communities.

Through a competent workforce, we create local partnerships to make the word of God in our mother tongues accessible to various language groups in Ghana.

We partner with our communities to develop and monitor projects to:

- Translate the Bible into various Ghanaian languages
- Distribute translated scriptures via multiple mediums
- Promote literacy education in Ghana

### Our History

In the early 1960's while studying in Britain, a young Ghanaian Christian, John Agamah, learned of the work of Wycliffe Bible Translators and entreated them to send Bible translators to his country.

Not long afterwards, Dr. John Bendor-Samuel was sent to Ghana by a partner organisation of Wycliffe, SIL International to assess the situation. Among others, he met with the newly-formed Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana which was charged with developing Ghanaian languages and culture. It was agreed that SIL would work primarily in the largely undeveloped languages of northern Ghana, while the Institute for African Studies would continue language development elsewhere in the

country. The first SIL staff arrived in 1962. The first complete New Testament was published in the Kusaal language in 1976.

In July 1980, the Ghana Institute of Linguistics, Literacy and Bible Translation (GILLBT) took responsibility for the work SIL had begun. Like SIL, GILLBT became an affiliate of the University of Ghana.

### Vision and Mission

Transformed lives for God's glory through the effective use of the Word of God in the mother tongue.

In obedience to the Great Commission, GILLBT exists to provide access to the word of God in the Mother tongue of language groups in Ghana and beyond, in partnership with others, through academic research, Bible Translation, Scripture-in-Use, Literacy development and training.

### Our Work

#### A. Bible Translation

We believe mother tongue literacy and the word of God in our mother tongue is the most effective way to transform our society and build vibrant churches.

Through a competent workforce, we create local partnerships to make the word of God in our mother tongues accessible to various language groups in Ghana.

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FULL BIBLES

Konkomba	1997	Deg	2015
Tampulma	1999	Kasem	2015
Bimoba	2004	Kusaal	2015
Farefare	2008	Nafaanra	2015
Chumburung	2010	Gonja	2015
Sisaali	2014	Buli	2017
Lelemi	2014	Vagla	2017

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NEW TESTAMENT

Hanga	1983	Ahanta	2008
Adele	1996	Selee	2008
Mampruli	2001	Sekpele	2008
Paasaal	2002	Siwu	2008
Koma	2005	Tuwuli	2008
Anufo	2006	Nkonya	2010
Birifor	2006	Nawuri	2012
Delo	2006	Avatime	2018
Gikyode	2006		

By the grace of God and financial support from our partners, we have impacted lives since 1962. We have studied the sound and grammatical systems, established an orthography (writing system) and developed literacy materials, grammars, primers, readers, word lists and produced and published mother tongue Scriptures in about 40 Ghanaian languages.

Of these:

- 14 complete Bibles have been published
- 17 New Testaments have been published

Over our 58 years of existence, we have built strong national and international links.

In Ghana, we are popular in the localities whose languages our personnel have worked in. Our reputation is also well established in Ghana’s educational and religious circles. Internationally, GILLBT is a highly-esteemed partner among organizations pursuing the Bible translation cause.

## B. Literacy, Education and Development (LEAD)

GILLBT’s Literacy, Education and Development (LEAD) Directorate promotes mother tongue and English reading and writing – as well as numeracy – among all people and faiths in Ghana. We also promote mother tongue education in formal schools. GILLBT LEAD has also been one of the Implementing Partners (IP) of the government’s Complementary Basic Education (CBE) programme for the past three years. Additionally, LEAD is involved in advocacy for quality basic education and is a member of a number of networks, e.g. Northern Network for Education Development (NNED), Complementary Basic Education Alliance (CBEA) and Alliance for Strengthening Education in Ghana (ASEG).

The LEAD Directorate is comprised of the following departments: Material Development, Literacy & Education, Gender & Women Empowerment, Research & Management Information Systems, and Community Development.

GILLBT believes mother tongue literacy and edu-

cation because it is recognized as the easiest way to gain reading and writing skills applicable to learning any other language. Since 1972, we have been carrying out successful, community-based literacy programmes – now in 34 language groups. GILLBT LEAD has also published over 500 titles for litera-

cy in various Ghanaian languages. In recognition of this, GILLBT was awarded the Nesim Habif Prizes 1990-91 by UNESCO for distinguished work in the promotion of literature in African languages.

- 40** AUDIO NEW TESTAMENT
- 03** AUDIO OLD TESTAMENT
- 32** JESUS FILMS
- 35** MUSIC SCRIPTURE SONG SET
- 24** DISCIPLESHIP STORY SET

**GILLBT  
WORKS IN**

**40**

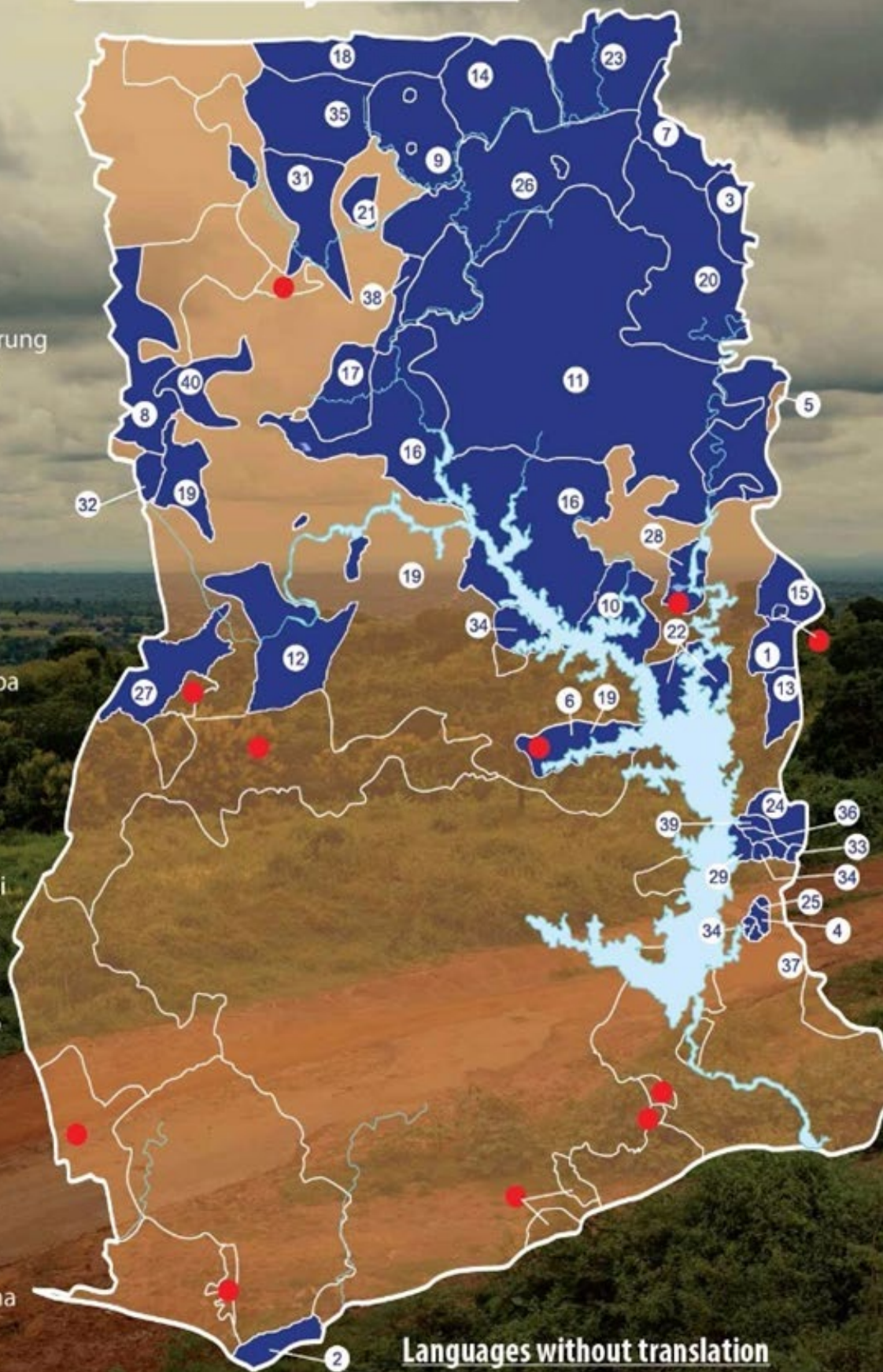
**LANGUAGES**

INCLUDING  
SIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION



# GILLBT Project Areas

1. Adele
2. Ahanta
3. Anufo
4. Avatime
5. Bassari
6. Bekye
7. Bimoba
8. Birifor
9. Buli
10. Chumburung
11. Dagbani
12. Deg
13. Delo
14. Farefare
15. Gikyode
16. Gonja
17. Hanga
18. Kasem
19. Kenyen
20. Konkomba
21. Konni
22. Krachi
23. Kusaal
24. Lelemi
25. Logba
26. Mampruli
27. Nafaanra
28. Nawuri
29. Nkonya
30. Nyangbo
31. Pasaal
32. Safaliba
33. Sekpele
34. Selee
35. Sisaala
36. Siwu
37. Tafi
38. Tampulma
39. Tuwuli
40. Vagla
41. Sign Language



## Languages without translation

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| ● Abron/Bono  | ● Anyii          |
| ● Awutu/Efutu | ● Chakali        |
| ● Chala       | ● Cherepon/Kere  |
| ● Dwang/Bekye | ● Jwira - Pepesa |
| ● Larteh      | ● Ligbi          |