



Project Profile

Darata 3

Project Summary

Darata communities have access to portions of the New Testament in their heart language. Translated Scripture is used in church services, Sunday school classes, and evangelism. Darata people can access and share Scripture using a mobile app and a website, and Oral Bible Storytelling is helping to transform many lives. Christian leaders in the Darata community rejoice that the Darata people are growing in their understanding of the Word of God and coming to Christ.

The Darata people use oral Bible stories and audio Scripture regularly as the team continues translating God's Word. They aim to publish and dedicate the full New Testament and translate large portions of the Old Testament. In addition, they will continue producing oral Bible stories, planning Easter and Christmas programs, printing wall calendars with Bible verses, and teaching women how to use local art forms to share the gospel. There are still very few believers among the Darata people, and their literacy rate is low, so Oral Bible Storytelling and audio Scriptures will continue to be key tools for outreach.

As Darata people receive more of God's Word, his kingdom will come among them. Social issues like high rates of suicide, broken families, and alcohol abuse will give way to eternal life and unshakable hope.



Quick Facts

Start Year: 2022

End Year: 2024

Population: 450,000

Location: Europe/Middle East

Summary of Goals: Publish and dedicate the New Testament; Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1-2 Samuel, Esther, and Jonah in print, audio, and on an app; Proverbs and 31 Psalms in print and on an app; draft Job 1-5; 36 oral Bible stories; 36 videos on various biblical topics



Background

The Darata people live in a desert area in the southern region of their country, where the climate is generally hot, with alternating seasons of dryness and monsoons. While warm weather allows crops to grow year-round, the area is susceptible to droughts and floods, both of which are devastating to the economy.

Most Darata people earn a living as laborers or farmers, working the land of a landlord in a sharecropping agreement. If the crop is not good, they must take out a loan from the landowner, with high interest. Farmers may also own goats or water buffalos but share the profits with the landowner. High unemployment rates and costs of living coupled with low wages make each day a challenge for many Darata people. Some young people have migrated to urban centers in search of employment.

Darata people are already marginalized in their country and often denied basic human rights. Restaurants may refuse to serve them and, where public education is available, Darata children are treated poorly and not expected to succeed. Any of them who choose to follow Christ face additional discrimination.

Almost all people in the country in which the Darata live adhere to the majority religion. Many people have a deeply ingrained fear of the spiritual world and believe they will either be rewarded or punished in the next life depending on their actions in this one. Many who identify as Christians continue practicing the majority religion, although their Christian faith is showing them that Jesus has power over the forces they fear. Among the Christian community, there is also less discrimination and less adherence to strict cultural rules, such as the separation of men and women.

Strategy and Partners

This project was formerly part of a cluster of nine regional languages that shared linguistic and cultural similarities, as well as the same majority religion. While these languages are now part of separate projects, the teams are working together. They share consultants and a Scripture-engagement specialist who assists with training oral Bible storytellers and checking translated Scripture. The teams use Scripture that has already been translated into the majority language as a source text.

A group of Darata pastors and community members have formed a committee to provide feedback on the Bible translation process. The team meets with this committee to discuss their needs and priorities, giving the Darata community and partner organizations the opportunity to request certain materials and books. For the Oral Bible Storytelling program, volunteers have agreed to hold weekly times of worship in their villages. Darata community members also volunteer their time by participating in writers workshops, creating literacy materials, and conducting linguistic research.



Project Goals

Translation Plan:

- 10 Old Testament books
- Job 1-5
- 31 Psalms
- 36 Bible stories

Distribution Plan

- Published New Testament
- Nine Old Testament books in print, audio, and on an app
- Proverbs and 31 Psalms in print and on an app
- Bible stories primarily retold orally with accompanying booklets
- 36 videos on various biblical topics

15,150

Verses in Project

Book	Verses in Book	Verses in This Project
New Testament	7,957	7,957
10 Old Testament Books	6,742	6,742
Job	1,070	109
Psalms	2,461	342

2022-2024

Project Years

Book	First Draft	Team Check	Comprehension Test	Back Translation	Consultant Check	Publishing
Genesis		x	x	x	x	x
Exodus		x	x	x	x	x
Joshua	x	x	x	x	x	x
Judges	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ruth		x	x	x	x	x
1-2 Samuel	x	x	x	x	x	x
Esther	x	x	x	x	x	x
Job 1-5	x					
Psalms 11, 15-16, 23-24, 30, 32, 34, 40, 62-63, 75, 91, 107, 116, 118, 120-134	x	x	x	x	x	x
Proverbs	x	x	x	x	x	x
Jonah	x	x	x	x	x	x
New Testament						x



Risks and Strengths

Bible translation is a highly technical process that often takes place in some of the world's most difficult environments. Therefore, Seed Company strives to mitigate risks while maximizing the strengths of our partners so that clear, accurate translations are completed on time.

The risks and strengths of the Darata 3 project are as follows:

Risks

- Because so many Darata people follow the majority religion, they are not interested in Christianity or Scripture. However, introducing God's Word in accessible, appealing forms can soften their hearts.
- Many Darata people have been resistant to the gospel, so Scriptures may not be widely used. Team members are building bridges into the community to reduce this risk.
- The project takes place in an area prone to droughts and floods, which may make visits to Darata villages difficult.

Strengths

- Oral Bible stories and videos will attract this largely oral culture.
- The small group of Darata believers is enthusiastic about translated Scripture.
- The project has an excellent manager who understands the culture, team, and translation process.
- The field partner organization contributes valuable experience, expertise, and resources.
- The team feels that the goals are realistic and that logistics and funds are in place for the team to operate effectively.