

## PROJECT PROFILE

# Chiconcuautla Language

[CHEE-KOHN-KWOWT'-LAH]

## PROJECT NAME

**Chiconcuautla 3**



## QUICK FACTS

**Start Year:** 2024

**End Year:** 2025

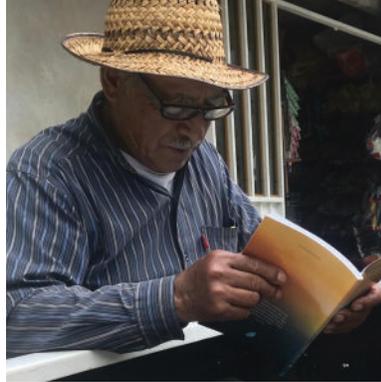
**Population:** 15,000

**Location:** Mexico

**Summary of Goals:** Translate 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Hebrews, and Revelation; consultant check Ephesians; publish New Testament in print, audio, and digital formats.

## KEY TERM

**Bloom**, a software program developed by SIL (an international linguistics and translation organization), simplifies the process of creating new booklets in local languages. The software provides a library of book templates called “shell books.”



## PROJECT SUMMARY

Around 1.5 million people in Mexico speak Náhuatl, a language with roots in ancient Aztec. In Chiconcuautla, a municipality in the state of Puebla, Náhuatl people speak a unique form of the language. An oral Bible story translation project first sparked interest in written Scriptures, and the local community requested the New Testament in their language.

Chiconcuautla Náhuatl translators completed 22 New Testament books in the first two phases of this project. In this third phase, they will translate the four remaining books and finish translating Ephesians. The team will then review and edit the full New Testament in preparation for publication in print, audio, and digital formats. They will also produce a glossary of key terms along with other materials, such as Bloom books, to help their people engage with God’s Word.

Local believers say that many aspects of Scripture are difficult to comprehend when reading the Scriptures in Spanish. They want a Bible in their own language so they can understand how God wants them to live and learn how to share their faith with others. Church leaders are eager to have translated material to strengthen their preaching, outreach, and discipleship ministries. They believe the message of Christ’s sacrificial love will draw people away from superstitious practices and the fear of evil spirits into a thriving relationship with their Heavenly Father.

## **BACKGROUND**

Most Chiconcuautila Náhuatl speakers live in their mountainous homeland. Spring-like temperatures create the perfect setting for sipping locally grown coffee or atole, a hot cornmeal drink. When sunshine heats the thin mountain air, gracious Chiconcuautila Náhuatl hosts serve ice-cold Pepsi and fruit amid the sounds of songbirds, mountain streams, and friendly greetings.

Agriculture shapes the economy, with people growing coffee, corn, chili peppers, beans, and tomatoes. On Wednesdays, locals sell their products at tianguis, or outdoor bazaars, while outsiders sell clothes, meat, and fruit. Most towns have electricity and running water, and the main streets are paved. Residents build wood houses with cement floors and asbestos sheet roofs.

Ancient stone altars give evidence that an Aztec ceremonial center once ruled Chiconcuautila. A 16th-century stone church marks the change introduced by the Spaniards. About 80 percent of Chiconcuautila Náhuatl speakers are Roman Catholic, but most combine Christian practices with animism. Many fear the “evil eye” and won’t step outdoors at midnight lest an evil spirit possess them.

About 25 percent of Chiconcuautila Náhuatl people identify as followers of Jesus. Scripture in their language helps them grow stronger in their faith, which in turn cultivates spiritual maturity in local churches. Many who become believers break free from alcoholism, idolatry, and superstition. One churchgoer who heard 1 Peter 1:8-9 read in his language responded by saying that he finally understood the verses’ meaning. He had read this passage in another language, but only now did he joyfully grasp the purpose of his faith: the salvation of his soul.

## **STRATEGY AND PARTNERS**

The translators look forward to completing the New Testament. They are eager to provide Náhuatl speakers with the four remaining books, including 2 Corinthians, which offers a message of comfort amid affliction, strength in weakness, and discernment between true and false teachers. They believe Galatians will prepare their people to avoid false teachers while Hebrews will help them understand the superiority of Christ. The book of Revelation will prepare readers for the Lord’s return.

Translated Scripture in print, audio, and digital formats will enable church and ministry leaders to proclaim the gospel more effectively. Printed New Testament copies will encourage mother tongue use in local church gatherings and affirm the Chiconcuautila Náhuatl language. Audio recordings will enable those who don’t read or have difficulty seeing to engage with God’s Word. A Scripture app will grant tech-savvy youth and adults easy access to translated material on their smart devices.

The partner organization, the National Union of Indigenous Translators (UNTI), manages project funds, submits quarterly narrative reports, and provides technical support. Local churches lend their facilities and provide food for the team during workshops. They also pray, fast, and give special offerings to offset expenses.

## PROJECT GOALS

### Translation Plan:

- 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Hebrews
- Revelation

### Distribution Plan:

- New Testament in print, audio, and digital

# 2024-2025

PROJECT YEARS

# 7,957

VERSES IN PROJECT

BOOK	VERSES IN BOOK	VERSES IN THIS PROJECT
2 Corinthians	257	257
Galatians	149	149
Ephesians	155	155
Hebrews	303	303
Revelation	404	404
Remainder of New Testament	6,689	6,689

BOOK	EXEGESIS & FIRST DRAFT	TEAM CHECK	COMMUNITY TEST	BACK TRANSLATION	CONSULTANT CHECK	PUBLISH
2 Corinthians	×	×	×	×	×	×
Galatians	×	×	×	×	×	×
Ephesians					×	×
Hebrews	×	×	×	×	×	×
Revelation	×	×	×	×	×	×
Remainder of New Testament						×

## **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 Chiconcuaula 3 project are as follows:

### **Risks**

- Some Náhuatl speakers resist using their own language in church services, prayer, and when reading Scripture. The lack of value placed on their language has led them to believe it “isn’t good enough” for God. They need encouragement to worship in their own language.
- If translated drafts are not available to the community in a timely manner, people may lose interest in the newly translated Bible books.
- A new translator has much to learn but is joining an experienced team.

### **Strengths**

- Church leaders and community members support the project and are eager to have the New Testament.
- Community members attend reading and writing workshops and are interested in further language development.
- The team is well-trained, with solid skills and dedication to the work.
- Managing partner UNTI has demonstrated a strong capacity to oversee translation projects well. They maintain a strategic commitment to local communities.