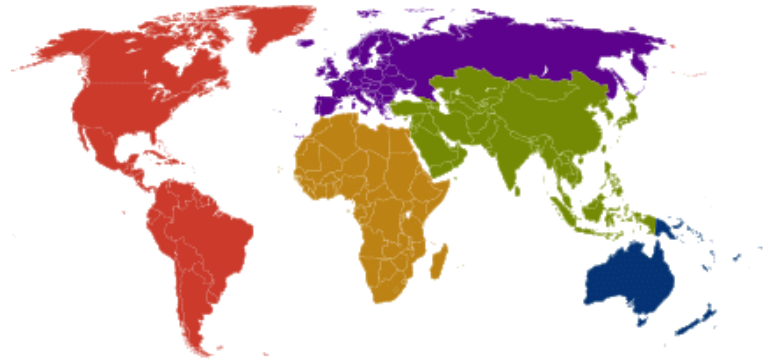


The United Nations estimates the **world population will be 6.9 billion people in 2010** (UN 2008, Revision of World Population Prospects) with **approximately 6,900 languages spoken amongst them** (SIL, 2009).

Research on behalf of Wycliffe International suggests that 4,331 of these languages currently have no Scripture or active translation program in their mother tongue, impacting approximately 547 million.

Not all of these language communities have been assessed on their need for translated Scriptures, but **estimates suggest 2,252 of these language communities may need Bible translation, affecting around 353 million people** (Wycliffe International Sept 2009).



The need for translated Scriptures among language communities varies across continents, partly due to demographic and geographic factors affecting both language distribution and access, and partly due to historical factors—where translation work started and how it spread.

	World	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Pacific
Number of known Living Languages*	6,848	2108	943	2319	235	1243
Languages with adequate Scripture	662	76	222	191	23	150
Languages which may need translated Scripture	2,252	805	81	879	73	414
Approximate population count for languages which may need translated Scripture	353 million	61 million	1.3 million	276 million	13 million	1.3 million
Number of active language programs in place with Wycliffe involvement	1363	458	199	418	23	265
Approximate number of people covered by active programs	937 million	187 million	6 million	725 million	17 million	1.5 million
Total number of Bibles completed with Wycliffe involvement	24	5	10	6	0	3
Total number of New Testaments completed with Wycliffe involvement	735	135	287	117	6	190

*Please note languages are assigned to their principle country e.g. all English speakers are counted within England

Table 1: Wycliffe related Bible Translation Statistics by Continent

September 30th 2009



Definitions and methods for collecting and presenting numbers regarding language and translation have changed over time along with improvements in cleaning up previously collected data. Direct comparison of numbers across different years may lead to wrong conclusions.

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Wycliffe International, 34 Craig Road #B1-07 Chinatown Plaza, 089673 Singapore, Singapore