

DATA NOTES and CHANGES

Global data reporting is a continual process of discovery. The uncovering of new information provides a better description of reality. Any shift in the total number of living languages, significant shifts in translation status, and new developments will be documented here.

❖ **SEPTEMBER 2025**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **AUGUST 2025**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** One ISO language was added to the inventory and two non-ISO languages were removed from the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages increased from 7,161 to 7,162 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,397 to 7,396.

❖ **JULY 2025**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **JUNE 2025**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** One non-ISO language was removed from the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages was unchanged at 7,161 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,398 to 7,397.

❖ **MAY 2025**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** Three ISO languages were added to the inventory and one ISO language was removed from the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages increased from 7,159 to 7,161 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,397 to 7,398.

❖ **APRIL 2025**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** Two non-ISO languages were added to the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages was unchanged at 7,159 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,395 to 7,397.

❖ **MARCH 2025**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** One ISO language was added to the inventory and four non-ISO languages were removed from the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages increased from 7,158 to 7,159 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,398 to 7,395.

❖ **FEBRUARY 2025**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** One ISO language was added to the inventory and one ISO language was removed from the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages was unchanged at 7,158 and the total number of living languages was unchanged at 7,398.

❖ **JANUARY 2025**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** Two ISO languages were added to the inventory, four ISO languages were removed from the inventory, and one non-ISO language was removed from the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages decreased from 7,160 to 7,158 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,401 to 7,398.

❖ **DECEMBER 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Six non-ISO languages were added to the inventory and one non-ISO language was removed from the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages was unchanged at 7,160 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,396 to 7,401.

❖ **NOVEMBER 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Two ISO languages were removed from the inventory. Two non-ISO languages were added to the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages decreased from 7,162 to 7,160 and the total number of living languages was unchanged at 7,396.

❖ **OCTOBER 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **SEPTEMBER 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO language was removed from the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages decreased from 7,163 to 7,162 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,397 to 7,396.

❖ **AUGUST 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **JULY 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO language was removed from the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages decreased from 7,164 to 7,163 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,398 to 7,397.

❖ **JUNE 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One non-ISO language was added to the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages was unchanged at 7,164 and the total number of living languages was increased from 7,397 to 7,398.

❖ **MAY 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One non-ISO language was added to the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages was unchanged at 7,164 and the total number of living languages was increased from 7,396 to 7,397.

❖ **APRIL 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO language was removed from the inventory and one ISO language was added to the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages unchanged at 7,164 and the total number of living languages was unchanged at 7,396.

❖ **MARCH 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO language was removed from the inventory and one non-ISO language was added to the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages decreased from 7,165 to 7,164 and the total number of living languages was unchanged at 7,396.

❖ **FEBRUARY 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO and one non-ISO language were removed from the inventory and one non-ISO language was added to the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages decreased from 7,166 to 7,165 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,397 to 7,396.

❖ **JANUARY 2024**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **DECEMBER 2023**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Two non-ISO sign languages were added to the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages remained at 7,166 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,395 to 7,397.
- ❖ **NOVEMBER 2023**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One non-ISO sign language was added to the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages remained at 7,166 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,394 to 7,395.
- ❖ **OCTOBER 2023**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.
- ❖ **SEPTEMBER 2023**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Three ISO languages moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality. The total number of living ISO languages decreased from 7,169 to 7,166 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,397 to 7,394.
- ❖ **AUGUST 2023**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO language moved back to living from the *extinct* level of language vitality. The total number of living ISO languages increased from 7,168 to 7,169 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,396 to 7,397.
- ❖ **JULY 2023**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.
- ❖ **JUNE 2023**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One non-ISO sign language was retired from the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages remained at 7,168 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,397 to 7,396.
- ❖ **MAY 2023**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One non-ISO sign language was added to the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages remained at 7,168 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,396 to 7,397.
- ❖ **APRIL 2023**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Two ISO languages moved back to *living* from the *extinct* level of language vitality, and one ISO language moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality. The total number of ISO languages increased from 7,167 to 7,168 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,395 to 7,396.
- ❖ **MARCH 2023**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: The ISO 639-3 changes released in January have been incorporated into the inventory of living languages. ISO language changes result in a net increase of 10, from 7,157 to 7,167 living languages, of which one is a sign language adopted by the ISO inventory and moved out of the non-ISO set of languages. Non-ISO languages therefore had a net decrease of one, from 229 to 228 languages. These ISO and Non-ISO language changes increase the total number of living languages by nine, from 7,386 to 7,395.
- ❖ **FEBRUARY 2023**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.
- ❖ **JANUARY 2023**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.
- ❖ **DECEMBER 2022**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Two ISO languages moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality. One non-ISO sign language was added to the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages decreased to 7,157 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,387 to 7,386.
- ❖ **NOVEMBER 2022**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO language moved back to *living* from the *extinct* level of language vitality. Three non-ISO sign languages were retired from the inventory. The total number of living ISO languages increased from 7,158 to 7,159 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,389 to 7,387.
- ❖ **OCTOBER 2022**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One non-ISO language was restored from the retired list. The total number of living ISO languages remained unchanged at 7,158 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,388 to 7,389.
- ❖ **SEPTEMBER 2022**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.
- ❖ **AUGUST 2022**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO language moved back to *living* from the *extinct* level of language vitality. The total number of living ISO languages increased from 7,157 to 7,158 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,387 to 7,388.
- ❖ **JULY 2022**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO language moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality. One ISO language moved back to *living* from the *extinct* level of language vitality. The total number of living ISO languages remained unchanged at 7,157 and the total number of living languages remained unchanged at 7,387.
- ❖ **JUNE 2022**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One non-ISO sign language was retired. Five ISO languages moved back to *living* from the *extinct* level of language vitality. The total number of living ISO languages increased from 7,152 to 7,157 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,383 to 7,387.
- ❖ **MAY 2022**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One non-ISO sign language was retired and one non-ISO sign language was restored from the retired list. One ISO language moved back to *living* from the *extinct* level of language vitality. The total number of living ISO languages increased from 7,151 to 7,152 and the total number of living languages increased from 7,382 to 7,383.
- ❖ **APRIL 2022**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO language moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality. One ISO language moved back to *living* from the *extinct* level of language vitality. There was no net change to the number of living languages.
- ❖ **MARCH 2022**
 - NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: The ISO 639-3 changes released in January have been incorporated into the inventory of living languages. ISO language changes result in a net increase of 16, from 7,135 to 7,151 living languages, of which seven are sign languages adopted by the ISO inventory and moved from the non-ISO set to the ISO set of languages. Editors of the additional sign languages inventory have also updated the non-ISO set of sign languages. Non-ISO language changes result in a net decrease of 10, from 241 to 231 languages. All of these language changes increase the total number of living languages by six, from 7,376 to 7,382.
 - DECREASE IN REMAINING TRANSLATION NEED: This is largely due to:

- A data contributor providing a large increment of Scripture.
- A data contributor providing a significant update showing additional current projects.

❖ **FEBRUARY 2022**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **JANUARY 2022**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **DECEMBER 2021**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **NOVEMBER 2021**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **OCTOBER 2021**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Two non-ISO languages were retired. The total number of living ISO languages remained at 7,135 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,378 to 7,376.

❖ **SEPTEMBER 2021**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO language moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality and eight non-ISO sign languages were retired. The total number of living ISO languages decreased from 7,136 to 7,135 and the total number of all living languages decreased from 7,387 to 7,378.

❖ **AUGUST 2021**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.
- DECREASED REMAINING TRANSLATION NEED: This is largely due to a significant data contributor reporting plans for near future projects.

❖ **JULY 2021**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **JUNE 2021**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Three ISO languages moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality. This decreased the total number of living ISO languages from 7,139 to 7,136 and the total number of living languages from 7,390 to 7,387.
- INCREASED REMAINING TRANSLATION NEED: Most of this increase is due to a significant data contributor ending current or near future projects.

❖ **MAY 2021**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **APRIL 2021**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: The ISO 639-3 changes released in January have been incorporated into the inventory of living languages. ISO language changes result in a net increase from 7,117 to 7,139 living languages, of which five are sign languages adopted by the ISO inventory and moved from the non-ISO set to the ISO set of languages. Editors of the additional sign languages inventory have also updated the non-ISO set of sign languages. Non-ISO language changes result in a net increase from 242 to 251 languages. All of these language changes increase the total number of living languages from 7,359 to 7,390.
- INCREASED REMAINING TRANSLATION NEED: Most of this increase is due to the change in the living language inventory as described above.

- **WORLD POPULATION DECREASE:** The total world population reported for first language users went down for the first time this month. This is due to downward adjustments of population figures based on ongoing research on sign languages. While the total population for spoken languages increased by 9 million, the total population for sign languages went down by 20 million, resulting in a net decrease of roughly 11 million.

❖ **MARCH 2021**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** There was no change to the number of living languages.
- **DECREASED REMAINING TRANSLATION NEED:** This is due to projects that are now planned for launch during 2021, which puts them in Work in Progress rather than Remaining Translation Needs.
- **INCREASED SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT AND DECREASED TRANSLATIONS:** A major data contributor shifted a large number of language projects from Text Translation to Orality/Storying, which shifted the Work in Progress from Translation to Scripture Engagement.

❖ **FEBRUARY 2021**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **JANUARY 2021**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** One ISO language moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality. This decreased the total number of living ISO languages from 7,118 to 7,117 and the total number of living languages from 7,360 to 7,359.

❖ **DECEMBER 2020**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** There was no change to the number of living languages.
- **CHANGE IN LIVING LANGUAGES WITH A BIBLE:** The reported number of living languages with a Bible increased beyond 700 after that threshold was reached in August and is now at 700 once again. We continue to correct earlier reporting and to record new publications.

❖ **NOVEMBER 2020**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** There was no change to the number of living languages.

❖ **OCTOBER 2020**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** There was no change to the number of living languages.
- **SCRIPTURE PRODUCT RESEARCH:** New research on Scripture products allowed assignment of dates to many existing products. This led to a significant increase in the number of languages with a Translation Status of “Recent Scripture”.

❖ **SEPTEMBER 2020**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** One new ISO language was added. This increased the total number of living ISO languages from 7,117 to 7,118 and the total number of living languages from 7,359 to 7,360.
- **INCREASED REMAINING TRANSLATION NEED:** The increase in languages counted as *Remaining Translation Needs* is in part due to projects that had been planned to launch during 2020, but plans have had to be put on indefinite hold. These project languages, which are vital and have no Scripture, now fit the criteria of *Remaining Translation Need* due to the withdrawal of planned work.

❖ **AUGUST 2020**

- **NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES:** One ISO language moved back to *living* from the *extinct* level of language vitality. This increased the total number of living ISO languages from 7,116 to 7,117 and the total number of living languages from 7,358 to 7,359.

❖ **JUNE 2020**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Two non-ISO languages were retired. The total number of living ISO languages remained unchanged at 7,116 and the total number of living languages decreased from 7,360 to 7,358.

❖ MAY 2020

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One ISO language was retired and two new ISO languages were added. The net increase changes the total number of living ISO languages from 7,115 to 7,116 and the total number of living languages from 7,359 to 7,360.

❖ MARCH 2020

- TRANSLATION STATUS: The Translation Status paradigm, with six categories, replaces the Translation Need Category paradigm, which had four categories.
- WORK IN PROGRESS: The total number of languages in this bar chart is one less than the Work in Progress number on the Translation Status chart, 2,679 instead of 2,680. This is caused by our handling of underlying complexities in the data in the new Translation Status paradigm and will be resolved next month.
- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Three ISO languages were retired, two ISO languages were retired and split into five new ISO languages, and seven new ISO languages were added. The net increase changes the total number of living ISO languages from 7,108 to 7,115 and the total number of living languages from 7,352 to 7,359.
- COMPLETED SCRIPTURES: The number of New Testaments went from 1,560 to 1,539 due to adjustments made in source systems related to reported Scripture products, a further review following adjustments noted in January.

❖ FEBRUARY 2020

- TOTAL NUMBER OF LANGUAGES: The Total Language Count and all charts and tables in SNAPSHOT now include the recognized Non-ISO Sign Languages. Previously, most charts and tables included only ISO languages. The ISO only language count is still shown under Total Language Count.

❖ JANUARY 2020

- COMPLETED SCRIPTURES: The number of Bibles listed in Completed Scripture went from 699 to 692 and New Testaments from 1557 to 1556 due to adjustments made in source systems related to reported Scripture products.

❖ DECEMBER 2019

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One language moved to the extinct level of language vitality, decreasing the total number of living languages from 7,109 to 7,108.

❖ NOVEMBER 2019

- SCRIPTURE COMPLETION - TOTAL POPULATION: A **new table** was added to show the population for each level of Scripture Completion. This complements the existing table that shows the number of languages with Scripture Completed.

❖ OCTOBER 2019

- REMAINING TRANSLATION NEED: A large number of engagements were brought up to date over the last two months. This produced a net decrease of 34 languages over that two month period.
- TRANSLATION NEED CATEGORIES: As engagements were brought up to date, many languages that were 'Work in Progress' moved to 'No Known Need' as projects changed status to Completed. In many cases, some amount of Scripture has been produced.

- TRANSLATION NEED CATEGORIES - POPULATION: The Total Population table was reinstated with language populations attributed to the continents where the language is used. Several languages have very large populations outside the home continent.
- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One language moved from the extinct level of language vitality back to a living language, increasing the total number of living languages from 7,108 to 7,109.

❖ **SEPTEMBER 2019**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One language moved from the extinct level of language vitality back to a living language, increasing the total number of living languages from 7,107 to 7,108.

❖ **JULY 2019**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One language moved to the extinct level of language vitality, decreasing the total number of living languages from 7,108 to 7,107.

❖ **JUNE 2019**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: No change to the number of living languages.
- TRANSLATION NEED CATEGORIES: The Total Population chart was removed, as it is being revised. Several languages have very large populations outside the home continent, which made the summary misleading.

❖ **MAY 2019**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Three languages were removed as non-existent. This decreased the total number of living languages from 7,111 to 7,108.
- COMPLETED SCRIPTURE: Old Testament Scriptures are now grouped with SELECTIONS in SNAPSHOT graphs and tables.

❖ **APRIL 2019**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Three languages were removed as non-existent, one language was split into two new languages, one non-ISO sign language was added to the ISO standard, and twelve new languages were added. The net increase changes the total number of living languages from 7,100 to 7,111.
- REMAINING TRANSLATION NEEDS: The increase in the number of languages also increased the Remaining Translation Needs total.

❖ **MARCH 2019**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Four languages moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality, five languages merged into existing languages, and one language was removed as non-existent. This decreased the total number of living languages from 7,110 to 7,100, as of the beginning of February 2019. The 22nd edition of Ethnologue, published on February 21, shows 7,111 living languages. We expect the April 2019 version of progress.Bible to include the Ethnologue changes.

❖ **FEBRUARY 2019**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Eleven languages have moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality. In addition, three languages were revitalized and moved from an *extinct* to *dormant* vitality level. The net decrease changes the total number of living languages from 7,118 to 7,110.

❖ **JANUARY 2019**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Two languages moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality, resulting in a decrease from 7,120 to 7,118 living languages.

❖ **DECEMBER 2018**

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Three languages were revitalized and moved from an *extinct* to *dormant* vitality level. This increased the total number of living languages from 7,117 to 7,120.
- REMAINING TRANSLATION NEED: The Ethnologue staff performed a global review of vitality levels (EGIDS). This led to some languages being placed in different translation categories, resulting in a net increase of 7 in the Remaining Translation Need list.
- SIGN LANGUAGES: One non-ISO Sign Language from the United States was recognized as a vital language. This increased the number of Sign Languages from 385 to 386.

❖ OCTOBER 2018

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: One language moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality changing the total number of living languages to 7,117.

❖ SEPTEMBER 2018 - Multiple organizations engaged in a data review process over several months. This process, combined with a realignment of definitions, caused changes in the following categories:

- **Remaining Translation Needs:***
 - There is a new definition for languages that need translation work: ***Languages that are vital enough for communities to sustain and benefit from translation work, which do not have Work in Progress and do not have any Scripture.***
 - The review resulted in a sizeable increase in the reported number of remaining needs.
- **Work in Progress and No Known Need:** Moderate decreases occurred following the review process, which changed the categorization of some languages to *Potential Need*.
- **Potential Need:** The jump from 1424 to 1587 was primarily caused by applying a new, tighter data quality standard for Language Engagement records. For example, a future status engagement record must have a start date and it must be in the current year, or the next calendar year, for it to be accepted as a valid future engagement record.
- **Expressed Need:** The increase from 138 to 233 was mostly due to one organization's specific effort to gather and share known information about *Expressed Needs*. Multiple organizations are now documenting *Expressed Needs* with progress.Bible.

*ETEN Network: This number is in alignment with the "Translation Not Started" All Access Goals.

❖ SEPTEMBER 2018

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Two languages moved to the *extinct* level of language vitality. In addition, nine Australian languages and one Ethiopian language were revitalized from *extinct* to *dormant* vitality. The net increase changes the total number of living languages from 7,110 to 7,118.
- SIGN LANGUAGE: An infographic showing registered and approved **Sign Language data** is added to SNAPSHOT.
- POPULATION: Statistics showing **total population numbers** by continent and by Translation Need Categories is added to SNAPSHOT and to the Dashboard.

❖ JUNE 2018

- NUMBER OF LIVING LANGUAGES: Progress.Bible adopted a new process that incorporates language inventory changes monthly. As a result of Australian revitalization efforts, there are 13 languages that have been revitalized from an *extinct* to *dormant* language vitality level. This increases the total number of living languages from 7,097 to 7,110.