



Bible Access List

Where Bible access is most difficult, and Bible shortage is greatest

Benin

Bible Restrictions Rank: **68**
MINIMAL ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Bible Shortage Rank: **29**
Bible needs estimate between two hundred fifty and five hundred thousand



An Overview of Bible access in Benin

Benin's Christian population makes up roughly 45% of its 14 million citizens—an estimated 6.3 million believers. Yet despite the nation's long-standing religious tolerance and legal freedom to practice Christianity, access to Bibles remains a challenge. Research suggests that less than half of Benin's Christians own a copy of the Scriptures. This means that millions of believers are left without direct access to God's Word.

While Benin does not impose significant legal restrictions on owning, distributing, or accessing Bibles, there are still several practical and systemic barriers. Logistical challenges exist when it comes to importing, printing, and storing Bibles in the country, often delaying or limiting the supply of Scripture materials.

Economic hardship also plays a significant role. Many families cannot afford a Bible, especially in print. And for those who live in regions with low literacy or no internet access, digital or audio options are still far out of reach. These gaps reveal not only a practical need—but a deeper spiritual hunger that remains unmet across Benin's Christian communities.

Additionally, while internet usage is growing, just over a third of the population is connected online. Many still lack consistent internet access, further limiting Bible resources found online, especially in rural areas where infrastructure remains weak.

In recent years, northern Benin has also faced growing insecurity. While not widely reported, jihadist groups operating across West Africa are becoming more active in Benin's northern border. These groups are known to spread fear, disrupt Christian communities, and drive believers from their homes in neighboring countries. As fear and instability rise, Bible access in these rural areas become more difficult and dangerous.

Before we continue, would you take a pause to pray for Benin?

How can I pray for Benin?

- **Provision and Distribution.** Pray that more Bibles—especially in print and audio formats—would be made available and reach the hands of those who need them most.
- **Overcoming Barriers.** Ask God to remove the logistical, economic, and infrastructural obstacles that delay Bible importation, storage, and distribution.
- **Spiritual Awakening.** Pray that those who have never had access to the Bible would soon encounter the transforming power of God's Word.

Bible Access Restrictions

Minimal Access Restrictions

- Import restrictions for part of the country
- Print restrictions for part of the country
- Storage restrictions for part of the country
- Distribution restrictions for part of the country

Other Limiting Factors

Severe Other Factors

- Very poor
- Poor access to internet
- Poor infrastructure
- 50-70% of population access to electricity
- <50% literacy icon"/> <50% literacy

Bible Shortages Among Believers

Bible ownership is low, **estimated** Bible need is between 250 and 500 thousand

Main religion: Christianity

Country population: 14,080,000

Christian population:

6,346,000, 45.07% of total population

After praying for Benin, continue reading on the next page to learn more.

WHAT'S BLOCKING BIBLE ACCESS IN BENIN?

Cultural Resistance from Rural Communities and Increasing Danger in the North

While Benin's laws permit Bible ownership and religious practice, real barriers to Scripture access are not found in courtrooms, but in communities. In the country's northern and rural regions, Christianity is often perceived as a foreign religion that disrupts cultural identity. These areas are traditionally dominated by Vodun and Islam, with village chiefs often serving as both political leaders and spiritual authorities. Here, the Bible is not just a book, it's a statement that can provoke suspicion or social rejection.

Christians in these areas often face pressure to conform to traditional beliefs, with some being forced to participate in Vodun rituals or denied community support if they refuse. Evangelists are sometimes treated with hostility, and young believers may be seen as betraying their heritage. These deeply rooted cultural dynamics pose a quiet but powerful threat to Bible access, especially where believers must hide their faith to avoid backlash.

A growing layer of insecurity has also been emerging in the north. Though not formally tracked in every report, terrorist groups like the JNIM—active in neighboring Burkina Faso and Mali—are seen to have increased activity crossing into northern Benin. Their presence has led to a rise in attacks on villages, churches, and Christian gatherings. While these regions are less dense in population (10% of the country), the spread of fear and disruption has made it more dangerous to possess or distribute Bibles, particularly among believers isolated in these rural areas.

Limited Infrastructure and Language Barriers

Even where hostility is low, access is still far from guaranteed. Many Christian communities in Benin's countryside are isolated, with few churches, bookstores, or digital options available. Roads are poor, supply chains are weak, and Bible distribution efforts often fail to reach these harder-to-access areas.

Even when Bibles do arrive, another challenge emerges: language.

Benin is home to dozens of local languages and dialects. While French is the official language, many believers, especially in rural regions, speak primarily in their ethnic tongue. Unfortunately, Bible translations in these languages are limited or nonexistent, leaving entire communities without access to Scripture they can understand.

THE URGENT NEED FOR BIBLES IN BENIN

Amid a backdrop of cultural resistance, rural isolation, and language diversity, Bible access in Benin remains critically low. Millions of believers are navigating their spiritual journeys without personal access to God’s Word. To meet this gap, it’s estimated that **up to 500,000 Bibles** are needed across the country. This will help make a difference and spark growth in personal devotion, discipleship, and evangelism efforts.

A Growing Church, A Growing Demand

This need is only becoming more urgent. In the past five years alone, the Christian population in Benin has been expanding rapidly. That means hundreds of thousands of new believers, many of them in regions where Christianity is still emerging, where Bibles remain scarce.

If this growth continues, the church in Benin will face a crisis of discipleship unless Scripture can reach these growing communities. Without Bibles, many of these new believers will struggle to deepen their faith, share the gospel, or withstand cultural and spiritual pressures.

Bibles for Every Format and Context

To address the diverse needs of Benin’s Christians, Scripture must be made available in multiple formats. **Printed Bibles** remain the priority and most effective tool, especially in areas where internet access is unreliable or non-existent.

In urban areas and more connected communities, **digital Bible formats accessed through the internet** offer an accessible option, particularly among youth. However, this remains a secondary option. Without consistent infrastructure, digital-only approaches fall short.

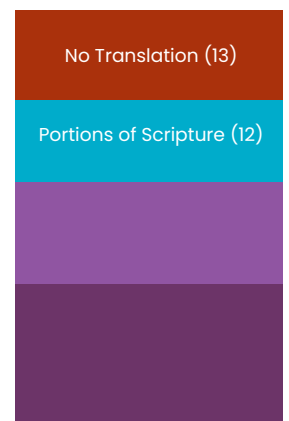
To truly meet the need, both print and internet-based Bibles must be expanded, with special focus on getting physical Bibles into rural hands.

The Translation Challenge

Language remains one of the greatest barriers to Bible access. Christians in Benin speak at least 61 distinct languages. Of these languages:

- Only **21** of these have a full Bible translation.
- **15** languages have only the New Testament.
- **12** have small portions of Scripture translated.
- **13 languages have no translation at all**

For many believers, this means there is no Bible in the language they understand best. Translation efforts are not optional. They are essential if every believer is to encounter the full counsel of God.



Spoken Languages with Believers in Benin

THE CLARION CALL

The need for Bibles in Benin is not merely a matter of distribution—it is a matter of discipleship, spiritual survival, and gospel reach. Every unopened Bible is a missed opportunity for transformation. Every untranslated verse is a message yet to be heard.

The global Church must rise to the occasion. Through strategic partnerships, resource mobilization, and a renewed commitment to translation and delivery, we can ensure that no believer in Benin is left without the Word of God.

Now is the time to act... because hunger for the Bible is rising, and the door to meet that need is wide open.



2.5%
Annual Church
Growth



Bibles needed for both
**Believers
& Seekers**



250-500k
Bible needs estimate



**Printed
Bible**
Preferred Format



**Internet
Bible**
Format 2nd Priority