



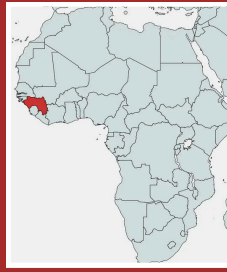
# Bible Access List

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

# Guinea

Bible Restrictions Rank: **56**  
**MINIMAL ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**

Bible Shortage Rank: **43**  
**Bible needs estimate between fifty and one hundred thousand**



## An Overview of Bible access in Guinea

Guinea's Christian population makes up just under 4% of its 14.5 million citizens, an estimated half a million believers scattered across a Muslim-majority nation. Among Christians, access to God's Word is extremely limited. It's estimated that fewer than one in four believers own a Bible, highlighting an urgent need to bridge this gap.

Legally, there are minimal restrictions on Bible access in Guinea. Bibles can be imported and printed without outright bans, and Christians are permitted to worship. However, the reality on the ground tells a different story. In areas dominated by the Fula and Maninka ethnic groups, who make up roughly two-thirds of the population and are predominantly Muslim, accessing, printing, owning or distributing a Bible is not just frowned upon, it can be dangerous. Muslim Background believers or MBBs face the highest risks, often forced to hide their faith completely. Even lifelong Christians practice quiet self-censorship, particularly in regions like Labé, Kankan, and the Fouta-Djallon area, where radical influences and traditional pressures converge.

In rural and tribal areas, secret societies like the Poro and Sande enforce religious conformity through intimidation, social exclusion, and sometimes violence. Churches report difficulty securing land, permits, or the ability to operate freely. And even when Bibles are available, extreme poverty prevents many believers from affording one. With nearly two-thirds of Guineans living in poverty, and 50% of the nation illiterate, print Bibles are not enough on their own.

Digital access remains limited. Just a third of the population are connected online, and many regions lack stable electricity. While mobile phone penetration is high, the infrastructure for accessing and downloading Scripture securely is underdeveloped, especially in regions where Christian presence is met with suspicion or hostility.

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

### How can I pray for Guinea?

- **Courage for Believers.** Pray for protection and boldness for Christians, especially MBBs who risk their safety to follow Christ.
- **Open Doors for Distribution.** Pray for creative, secure channels to distribute Bibles across Guinea—both print and audio.
- **Peace and Stability.** Pray for a peaceful transition to civilian government in 2025 and for an environment that allows faith to flourish.






### 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
-  Ownership 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% of population access to electricity
-  <50% literacy


### Bible Shortages Among Believers

-  Bible ownership is very low, **estimated** Bible need is between 50 and 100 thousand

**Main religion:** Islam

**Country population:** 14,529,000

**Christian population:**

 506,000, 3.48% of total population

**World Watch List:** #68

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

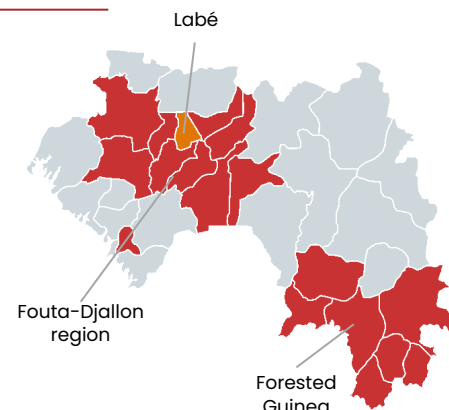
# WHAT'S BLOCKING BIBLE ACCESS IN GUINEA?

## A Nation of Watchful Eyes

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In Guinea, Bible access is shaped less by formal legal bans and more by deeply entrenched societal and political pressures. Although Guinea's constitution technically upholds religious freedom, Christians face considerable barriers that restrict access to Scripture.

In areas with strong Islamic or animist influence, such as the Fouta-Djallon region, Labé, and parts of Forested Guinea, Christians are often harassed, ostracized, or even physically threatened for owning or reading a Bible. MBBs are especially at risk: carrying a Bible or publicly demonstrating their faith can provoke death threats or expulsion from their communities.



## Daily Risks for Believers

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Christian families often face pressure to conform to prevailing religious norms. Children may be forced to attend Islamic or animist instruction, and Christian teaching in the home is discouraged in many regions. In extreme cases, burial rites for Christians are forcibly conducted according to non-Christian traditions due to the absence of designated cemeteries.

Evangelical and Pentecostal groups encounter further obstacles when trying to establish churches or organize worship gatherings. In some areas, authorities and community leaders actively prevent construction or oppose Christian activities, citing noise complaints or disapproval of religious conversions.

## Government Surveillance and Restrictions

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Even officially registered churches operate under surveillance. Guinea's Secretariat General of Religious Affairs (SRA) issues weekly themes that churches are expected to follow during Sunday sermons. Sermons, teaching materials, and even digital communication by Christian organizations are monitored. Any material deemed to challenge the government or dominant religious norms risks triggering repercussions.

Christian organizations are also barred from owning radio or television stations, limiting their ability to share Scripture or discipleship content through mass media. While mobile penetration is high, internet access remains limited, with only about 34% of the population online, further restricting access to digital Bibles.

## Barriers Beyond Religion

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The environment of generalized corruption, especially among local authorities, creates practical obstacles for Christians seeking legal permissions to build churches or distribute Scripture. Bribes are sometimes expected for administrative approvals, and bias against Christians is common in government and employment sectors, which can discourage open religious expression.

# Unmasking the Forces That Restrict Bible Access in Guinea

Guinea	Islamic Oppression	Religious Nationalism	Ethno-religious hostility	Clan oppression	Christian denominational oppression	Communist and post-Communist oppression	Secular intolerance	Dictatorial paranoia	Organized corruption and crime	Reference
Persecution Engines →										<p><b>Reference</b></p> <p>The more fully shaded the circle in orange, the stronger the level of persecution. The number of "+" signs indicates the frequency or intensity of the driving factors behind it.</p>
Persecution Drivers ↓	Medium	Not at all	Medium	Medium	Weak	Not at all	Not at all	Medium	Medium	
Government officials								+++		
Ethnic group leaders			+++	+++						
Non-Christian religious leaders	+++									
Christian religious leaders					++					
Violent religious groups										
Normal citizens	+++									
Extended family	+++									
Political parties										
Revolutionaries or paramilitary groups										
Organized crime									+++	
Multilateral org. & Embassies										

In Guinea, several forces of persecution converge to limit Bible access, including **Islamic oppression, dictatorial paranoia, organized corruption and crime, clan oppression, and ethno-religious hostility.** These are driven by government officials, radical Islamic clerics, extended family networks, ethnic leaders, and local mobs. Each plays a role in restricting Christians’ freedom to worship, evangelize, and possess or share Bibles, particularly in rural areas and among MBBs or traditional religions.

The World Watch List by Open Doors sheds light on the broader context of persecution of Christians. But now we have to ask the question: How does this affect Bible access? Furthermore, where can we pinpoint the problem so we can address the need and demand for Bibles in Guinea?

## A CLOSER LOOK AT PERSECUTION ENGINES

A persecution engine is simply this: the source of persecution in the country. A persecution driver (or actor) is the one “driving” the persecution. Taking a closer look at these engines and drivers, in proper context, will give us insight on how we can solve the problems of Bible access in the country.



### Muslim Background believers or MBBs in Hiding, Bibles Out of Sight

In Muslim-majority areas such as Fouta Djallon and Labé, MBBs face intense pressure to abandon their new faith. Families, religious leaders, and community members often enforce this pressure through threats, social exclusion, or violence. As a result, many Christians must hide their faith, making Bible ownership extremely risky.

In 2024, MBBs in Middle Guinea were forced to live in secrecy, unable to be seen with a Bible or attend public worship. Baptisms were met with hostility from family members, and some MBBs were expelled from their homes simply for professing Christ.



### State Surveillance Chokes Out Christian Expression

Under the military junta that took power in 2021, religious expression is tightly controlled. Churches must submit detailed activity reports to the government every six months, and sermons are monitored by state-appointed inspectors.

In 2023, the Secretariat General of Religious Affairs (SRA) issued weekly sermon themes, which churches were expected to follow. These policies create a climate of fear and self-censorship, where Christian leaders hesitate to speak freely or teach Scripture that could be seen as politically sensitive.



### Bribery and Bureaucracy Stall Bible Access

Systemic corruption touches nearly every level of life in Guinea, including religious affairs. According to Transparency International, Guinea scored just 28 out of 100 in the 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index. This corruption undermines justice and creates barriers to church operations and Bible distribution.

Christians often face delays or outright refusal when attempting to register churches or secure land—unless bribes are paid. In many cases, church construction is halted or blocked entirely by corrupt officials, further limiting safe spaces for reading and distributing Scripture.



### Traditional Authorities Block Church Growth

In Forested Guinea and other rural areas, traditional clan leaders wield immense power and often act as gatekeepers to their communities. Christians who convert from animist religions face immediate backlash, including exclusion from community life.

In one village in the Macenta region, an evangelist was forced to abandon a church construction project after local leaders declared the area "unsuitable for Christians." Such declarations are often used to justify barring Christians from owning land or building churches—effectively cutting off access to Bibles and discipleship resources in entire regions.



### Culture and Belief Used to Justify Suppression

In regions where religious identity is closely tied to ethnic heritage, converting to Christianity is viewed not just as a spiritual betrayal but as a cultural offense. This is particularly evident in communities where Islam or traditional religion is deeply rooted in ethnic identity. Christians who reject ancestral rituals often face pressure to conform or leave.

Evangelical churches in particular are frequently targeted for refusing to participate in traditional ceremonies. In several areas, church buildings have been denied legal status or construction blocked due to objections from community leaders hostile to Christian presence.

# THE URGENT NEED FOR BIBLES IN GUINEA

Against the backdrop of persecution, pressure, and poverty, Bible access in Guinea remains critically low. This gap is not just statistical; it's deeply spiritual. In a nation where Islamic oppression, ethnic hostility, and systemic poverty converge, the absence of God's Word leaves believers vulnerable, isolated, and without the foundational truth they desperately need. To meet the needs of existing Christians and support seekers, it is estimated that up to **100,000 Bibles** are needed across the country.

## A Growing Church, A Growing Demand

Despite mounting pressure, the church in Guinea is expanding. This growth reflects a spiritual openness, but it also amplifies the urgency.

As Guineans turn to Christ, the demand for Bibles grows. Without sufficient Scripture, this momentum is at risk. Churches lack the resources to disciple new believers, and seekers are left without the truth that could set them free.

## Bible Formats for Diverse Needs

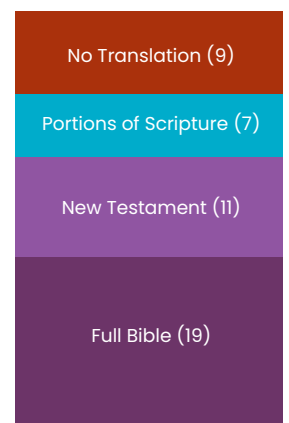
In Guinea, the most effective Bible format is still the **printed Word**. With a low literacy and limited internet access, digital formats cannot fully bridge the gap. However, in urban areas and among younger generations, **Bible apps** are gaining traction, making mobile-based Scripture a valuable supplement to print.

## The Translation Gap

Language diversity presents another barrier. While Christians in Guinea speak at least 46 languages, of these languages:

- Only **19** have a full Bible translation.
- **11** have New Testament translations only.
- **7** languages have partial Scripture translated.
- **Alarmingly, nine languages have no Bible translation at all**

That means entire communities still cannot hear or read God's Word in their heart language. Translation efforts must accelerate, not just to preserve linguistic equity, but to ensure no soul is left unreached.



Spoken Languages with Believers in Guinea

# THE CLARION CALL

The need for Bibles in Guinea is not just a logistical issue. It represents a spiritual crisis. In a country where believers are often forced to worship in secret, where church registration is routinely blocked, and where Islamic and clan-based pressures isolate new converts, access to Scripture can be a lifeline.

This is a call to the global Church: to stand with our brothers and sisters in Guinea. To respond with compassion and conviction. By supporting Bible distribution, investing in translation projects, and praying fervently, we can ensure that every believer has access to the life-changing power of God's Word.



**1.7%**

Annual Church  
Growth



Bibles needed for both

**Believers  
& Seekers**



**50-100k**

Bible needs estimate



**Printed  
Bible**

Preferred Format



**Bible  
App**

Format 2nd Priority