



Bible Access List

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

Morocco

Bible Restrictions Rank: **17**
SEVERE ACCESS RESTRICTIONS

Bible Shortage Rank: **69**
Bible needs estimate is less than ten thousand



An Overview of Bible access in Morocco

In the Kingdom of Morocco, home to over 38 million people, the Christian population remains remarkably small, estimated at around 33,000, literally just 0.1% of the total population. Most of these believers are Muslim Background believers or MBBs or part of small expat communities. While Christians in urban centers may enjoy relative freedom, access to the Bible for Moroccan believers, particularly MBBs, remains highly restricted and fraught with risk. As a result, an estimate of just over a third of the already tiny Christian community have direct access to Scriptures.

Bible access in Morocco is tightly controlled. While foreign Christians can sometimes import Bibles for personal use, this is done under heavy self-censorship and with close government surveillance. There is only one known bookstore permitted to import Bibles in limited quantities; and even this concession is limited to use within the Christian community and not for broader distribution. For Moroccan MBBs, simply possessing a Bible can invite police interrogation, social ostracism, or even pressure from family to recant their faith.

The Moroccan Penal Code, particularly Article 220, criminalizes any effort to “shake the faith of a Muslim,” which essentially equates evangelism or even casual sharing of Scripture with a criminal act. While some court rulings have softened interpretation in isolated cases, the law continues to cast a long shadow over the everyday spiritual life of Moroccan Christians. The state also denies official recognition to Moroccan Christian communities, which forces believers underground into house churches that are often surveilled, disrupted, or forcibly disbanded.

Though Morocco is considered economically and technologically developed—with near 100% electricity access and over 90% internet penetration—Bible engagement is still not easily facilitated. The high risk of surveillance discourages many from accessing online Bibles.

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

How can I pray for Morocco?

- **Wisdom and Protection for Believers.** Pray that Christians in Morocco, especially MBBs, would be given divine wisdom and courage as they seek to live out their faith under surveillance and pressure. Ask for their safety and discernment as they navigate how to access God’s Word in a restrictive environment.
- **Global Partnerships.** Lift up the formation of effective, resilient partnerships between Moroccan Christians and global Bible agencies. Pray for breakthroughs in safe Bible distribution, both through digital and discreet physical means, tailored to Morocco’s unique challenges.
- **Open Hearts for the Muslim Majority.** Pray for open hearts and minds across Morocco’s Muslim majority. Ask the Lord to soften spiritual resistance and create conditions that allow for the freer exploration and acceptance of the Gospel.

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

Bible Access Restrictions

Severe Access Restrictions

- Import restrictions
- No Printing
- Storage restrictions
- Ownership restrictions
- No distribution

Other Limiting Factors

Some Other Factors

- Poor

Bible Shortages Among Believers

- Bible ownership is low, **estimated Bible need** is <10 thousand

Main religion: Islam

Country population: 38,211,000

Christian population:

- 33,000, 0.09% of total population

World Watch List: #21

WHAT'S BLOCKING BIBLE ACCESS IN MOROCCO?

A Climate of Surveillance and Restriction

In Morocco, Bible access is severely restricted—not by open laws banning Scripture, but through a climate of close surveillance, legal ambiguity, and societal pressure. Moroccan Christians, particularly those from a Muslim background, are closely monitored by state security forces. House churches, where many believers meet, often face forced closures by police, and some Moroccan Christians have been detained and interrogated for their religious activities, including possessing Christian materials.

Although some Bibles in European languages and a few Arabic editions are permitted for academic purposes, Christian literature can be confiscated if authorities suspect it is intended for evangelism.

Legal Barriers to Open Practice

Legally, owning a Bible is not explicitly prohibited, but the Penal Code criminalizes any act that could be interpreted as “shaking the faith of a Muslim.” This makes public sharing of the Bible, whether through conversation or distribution, risky and punishable by imprisonment. Christians are further hindered by laws that restrict the establishment of new churches.

Only historical expatriate churches (Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox) are allowed to operate, and Moroccan believers are not permitted to join them. Thus, Moroccan MBBs are left with no legally recognized avenue for worship or access to Scripture.

Societal Pressure and Isolation

Beyond government restrictions, MBBs face strong societal and familial opposition. Many believers experience rejection from their families, expulsion from their communities, and pressure to return to Islam. Some are subjected to forced marriage, house arrest, or even physical abuse, particularly young women. These pressures not only isolate Christians but also make it dangerous to own or read a Bible openly, let alone distribute one.

Unmasking the Forces That Restrict Bible Access in Morocco

Morocco	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
Persecution Engines →									
Persecution Drivers ↓	Strong	Not at all	Not at all	Very Weak	Not at all	Not at all	Not at all	Medium	Not at all
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									

Reference

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.

Very Strong

Strong

Medium

None

In Morocco, two dominant forces of persecution operate to restrict Bible access: **Islamic oppression** and **dictatorial paranoia**. These are driven by government officials, Muslim religious leaders, broader society, and even extended family members.

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 Morocco?

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.



Criminalizing Conversion, Silencing Scripture

In Morocco, Islamic oppression doesn't come as an official decree, but it shows up in courtrooms, police stations, and quiet family homes. The state may promise freedom of belief on paper, but in practice, converting from Islam is treated as a crime against culture, religion, and family. Article 220 of the Penal Code remains the sword hanging over many believers' heads; it criminalizes anything perceived as “shaking the faith of a Muslim,” including simply sharing one's faith or handing someone a Bible.

In early 2024, several Moroccan Christians were arrested and questioned by police, not for organizing mass movements or public protests, but for holding private conversations or simply being in possession of Christian materials. While no formal charges were filed, the social cost was enormous. These public arrests marked them in the eyes of neighbors, co-workers, and even family members as traitors to their faith and their nation. Some were forced to relocate, others were ostracized, and nearly all were pressured into silence.

This pressure wasn't confined to the legal system. Throughout the year, reports surfaced of young women, many still in their teens, being forcibly married after their conversions were discovered. At least four such cases were documented, and in several others, girls were sent away to rural areas against their will, cut off from any Christian community. The message was clear: return to Islam or be removed from everything and everyone you know.

Even house churches, the fragile lifeline for most Moroccan Christians, were not spared. In March and again in June 2024, police interrupted gatherings and ordered believers to stop meeting. Bibles, especially those in Arabic, were quietly confiscated from homes, and Christian materials were seized on suspicion of being used for proselytism. Though a handful of Arabic Bibles could still be found in select university bookstores, their presence was more symbolic than practical. In everyday life, access to Scripture remained elusive and dangerous.



Surveillance State and Religious Suppression

What Islamic oppression begins, dictatorial paranoia deepens. In Morocco, loyalty to the monarchy is inseparable from loyalty to Islam. King Mohammed VI is not just a political figure, he is the religious authority, the "Commander of the Faithful." As a result, any shift away from Islam is seen not only as religious dissent but as a threat to the social fabric and national identity. MBBs are watched not just by neighbors, but by the state itself.

Following the devastating earthquake in September 2023, the government intensified its monitoring of local aid efforts. By January 2024, several Moroccan Christians who had organized humanitarian relief were summoned for questioning. Their motives were scrutinized. What others saw as compassion, the authorities viewed with suspicion—was this really aid, or a cover for evangelism?

The pattern continued throughout the year. Church leaders and known MBBs were quietly brought in for interrogation, their movements tracked, their social media watched. Some believers suspected infiltration within their own fellowships—evidence that the government was embedding informants to keep tabs on the growing Christian movement.

Even peaceful civic engagement wasn't tolerated. In April 2024, Christian-led organizations seeking legal recognition were blocked under Morocco's Law on Associations, which forbids any group that might "harm the Islamic religion." Though couched in vague legal language, the effect was precise: any initiative to advocate for religious freedom or represent Moroccan MBBs was immediately shut down.

Christians, especially those from a Muslim background, found themselves unable to register as churches, unable to meet openly, and unable to speak freely about their faith. Even attending foreign Christian services was discouraged, as the state carefully monitored expatriate churches to ensure no Moroccan nationals joined their gatherings. For many, worship became a secret act, and owning a Bible meant looking over your shoulder.

THE URGENT NEED FOR BIBLES IN MOROCCO

Against the backdrop of persecution, social stigma, and ongoing legal limitations, Bible access in Morocco remains deeply restricted. Numbering approximately 33,000 believers, an estimate of less than **10,000 copies of the Bible** can spark a difference and greatly bridge the gap.

Slow and Quiet Growth In Desperate Need of Scripture

Adding to this challenge is the quiet growth of the indigenous Moroccan church. Over the past five years, the Christian community has grown modestly, highlighting an urgent need to supply believers and seekers alike with Scripture.

Bible Formats for Unique Needs

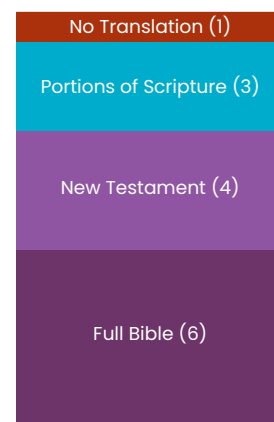
In terms of format, **printed Bibles** remain the top priority. Physical copies offer privacy and permanence. Though there are risks to accessing the Bible online, **Scripture accessed through the internet** can serve as a secondary tool, particularly for younger believers who find community through discreet digital platforms.

The Translation Gap

Language remains another formidable barrier. Christians in Morocco speak at least 14 different languages. Of these languages:

- Only **6** of have a full Bible translation
- **4** have the New Testament only
- **3** languages have just a portion of Scripture
- **1** language left has no translation at all

While this means that some communities may be cut off from the Gospel, this is good news. There's only one language that remains to be translated.



Spoken Languages with Believers in Morocco

THE CLARION CALL

The need for Bibles in Morocco is urgent. It is not just a matter of supply; it is a matter of survival for a young, underground church that lives under pressure but yearns for God's Word. Behind each number is a believer risking everything for the hope found in Scripture.

If we are to stand with them, we must act decisively. Through global partnerships, translation efforts, and the provision of Bibles in secure formats, we can ensure that no believer in Morocco remains without access to the life-transforming truth of God's Word.



1.0%
Annual Church
Growth



Bibles needed for both
**Believers
& Seekers**



<10k
Bible needs estimate



**Printed
Bible**
Preferred Format



**Internet
Bible**
Format 2nd Priority