

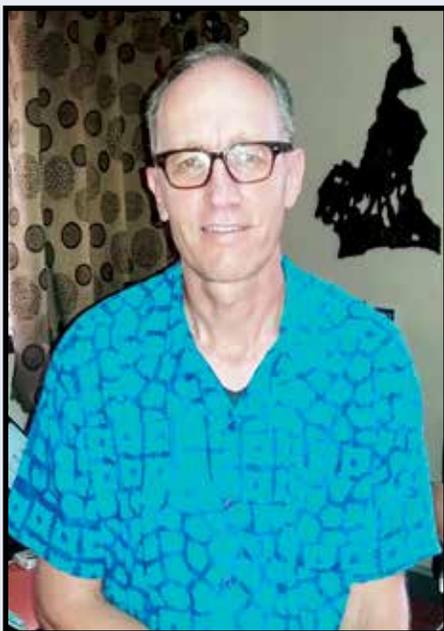


ON ROUTE TO A NEW WAY TO SERVE



Cameroon

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



When SIL came to Cameroon in the late 1960s, our desire was to serve the people of Cameroon. Our areas of focus were linguistic research, language development and Bible translation. We received the government's

permission to live in Cameroon, learn national languages and help the people to develop their language. We still desire to serve and our areas of focus are still quite similar. Some things do not change much, but the way we serve has changed significantly. There are many more actors and stakeholders involved in language development and Bible translation today.

TURNING POINTS

Technology has changed radically. Urbanisation and multilingualism have had an influence on life in Cameroon.

Our desire and commitment is to see local communities and language committees make informed decisions about their language. We desire to continue growing in listening to other Cameroonian agencies so that we can better serve them in our areas of focus. In this light, we have set up an external Advisory Group to meet three times per year in order to give SIL advice on how to serve better in today's context.

I trust that this annual report will give you a glimpse of how we served in 2016.

How are we doing at the participatory approach and how can we continue to improve? Following is one of the statements from SIL's 2016 international conference expressing areas in which SIL must adapt:

"SIL prioritizes participatory approaches so that language communities have voice and ownership with respect to program vision, design, and implementation."

We gave some training to about 30 people, including about 10 of our staff, in "Participatory Methods for Engaging Communities" (PMEC). The tools which they learned in the participatory approach have been used in a number of settings. Two of our staff have been trained in Community-Based Language Development (CBLD), which included learning about the Sustainable Use Model (SUM)

of language development and the use of the "Guide for Planning the Future of Our Language."

Community leaders are telling us that they need more training in order for them to have a more effective voice and ownership of the program. How can they design and implement such a program if they have not been trained to do that? In our annual planning with community leaders, we need to listen to their needs for capacity building in the areas of leadership and management, and then help them see how these needs can be met.

PIVOTAL SHIFT IN SERVING



SEEKING NEW WAYS OF SERVICE IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA

A number of cross-border languages are being developed in both Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. The SIL team in Equatorial Guinea continues to partner with several national agencies. Bible translation projects are done in collaboration with ACTB (Christian Association of Bible Translation), with various churches, and with the Ndowe Cultural Association Tata Ngangwe. Language development projects are done in collaboration with the Council of Scientific and Technological Research and with language communities. Training continues to be a big focus of the work, with SIL now partnering with the Bible Institute in Bata and SETECA (Seminario Teologico de Centro America/Central American Theological Seminary) to offer the first master's degree taught at a seminary in Equatorial Guinea.

During 2016, ACTB and SIL sponsored a Fang literacy workshop, with more than 50 church Fang interpreters involved. Tata Ngangwe and SIL sponsored a Ndowe orthography workshop, seeking to unify 150 years of different Ndowe orthographies. Working together, we have developed many new phone



¡GRATIS!
El Nuevo Testamento
en Fang de G.E.

¿No sabes leer Fang?
¡No pasa nada!

¡El programa te lo puede leer!
Escúchalo en audio claro y fácil mientras el programa resalta el texto que lees.

Pregunta como puedes descargarlo aquí.

ACTB Asociación Cristiana de la Traducción de la Biblia
222 24 66 98 | Niderlandweg 60a Suriname Noord 1301

applications for Android, including:

- *Fight against AIDS (in Fang, Kombe, Pidgin, Fa d'Ambu, Spanish, French, English)*
- *Treating Infant Diarrhea (in Fang, Kombe, Spanish, French, English)*
- *9 Parables (illustrated, in Fang, Bubi, Kombe, Kwasio, Spanish, French)*
- *We Can Read Fang (interactive transitional literacy manual)*



THE SIL LIBRARY

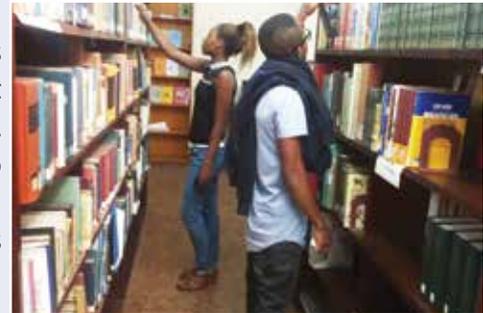
Providing Access to Useful Information Resources

The SIL library service is an opening to linguistic research, translation and literacy in Cameroon's national languages. We provide access to the latest ideas in these areas of knowledge through information resources, documentation, information management and high-quality services for our users: SIL staff, university students and the general public. Our libraries are situated in three different locations; in Yaoundé, Bamenda, and Maroua. The Yaoundé library has a rich collection of about 20,000 volumes in varied categories such as anthropology, ethnomusicology, linguistics, literacy, mother-tongue literacy, national language publications, Scripture use and translation. We have a variety of professional journals in the same categories. The Yaoundé library is open to the public from 9 am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.

By providing access to these resources, we contribute to the mission of seeing research work done in the various national languages become accessible to all while

properly conserving it for future generations. Through the services of the library, SIL is able to give back to its public through the publication of research outcomes and the development of national languages. The library also provides useful information resources and a foundation for future researchers.

During the year 2016, we registered over 100 new users and had more than 900 visitors to the Yaoundé library alone. Our subscriptions to more than five professional language journals were renewed. The new digital library software, Koha, went fully operational, thus making circulation easier and providing quicker access to information. Users express their continuous satisfaction with the library's collection and services. The library's catalogue is now accessible on the Internet at <http://koha.yaounde.ddns.info/>





As a native English-speaker with many years of writing experience, I read aloud in my head

all the sentences I write. If you were standing next to me, though, you would not hear a single thing, since my reading is with an internal voice. I know that in order to write good English prose, it needs to “sound right.” If I really want to make sure it is good natural English (at least for an American), I will read it out loud to a friend and then ask, “How does that sound?”

Whether we are writing for those who will be reading silently or for those who will be listening to others read out loud, we depend on a sense of “what sounds right.” We aim for a standard appropriate to the audience we are addressing. When our audience changes, perhaps the standard will also change, but our sense of what is natural depends on “what sounds right.”

In the Translation Department of SIL Cameroon, one of our criteria for a good translation is that it is natural. One way of explaining what that means is to say that it “sounds right” to a mother-tongue speaker of that language, that it “sounds like the way we speak.”

We are experimenting with new ways of training translators so that the translations will be natural

and “sound right” for their communities. One of these

methods is to make an audio recording of a first draft instead of writing it down. This is so the translator becomes very aware right away of “what sounds right” when translating.

The translator can also pay more attention to the language in its natural flow and speed, instead of having to slow down to write each word well.

Once a first draft is written down, it needs to receive the approval of others that it does indeed “sound right.” Translators need this assurance that it is communicating clearly to the audience, without confusion or ambiguity. Having it written down also enables the team of translators and others to check the accuracy of what has been translated. That is another criterion of a good translation. Being natural, clear and accurate are three important criteria for a good translation.

One of the teams we have trained told us recently, “by recording an audio first draft, we are producing results that others in our community tell us is natural since it ‘sounds like the way we speak.’”

TRANSLATION



In order to find new ways to better serve language communities and to extend and improve our activities in all the fields in which we work, SIL Cameroon has established an Advisory Group, whose main mission is to give SIL information and advice that would allow us to better engage in language development and Bible translation in order to see growth for a sustainable movement in Cameroon. This group is made up of heads of ministries, directors of civil society organizations, university professors and Christian leaders. Each member of the Advisory Group

actively participates in scheduled meetings and also contributes through other means such as e-mail. Since its creation in August 2016, SIL Cameroon's advisory group has been constantly encouraging, supporting and especially advising SIL Cameroon, which is already experiencing visible and efficient change. During the initial gathering, the General Director of SIL Cameroon highlighted that SIL Cameroon is ready to be held accountable by the group. He also helped the Advisory Group become familiar with the vision and mission of SIL Cameroon.



AN ADVISORY GROUP FOR SIL CAMEROON

**“In the multitude of counsellors
there is safety.”**

The meetings are often chaired by a member of the Advisory Group as appointed by the group. At each sitting, the group listens to a presentation on a major domain in which SIL is involved and follows with questions and answers. They further provide suitable feedback to SIL's administration based on the topic of discussion of the day. Such topics have so far included Linguistics and Multilingual Education.

Worthy of note is the fact that this new initiative by SIL Cameroon aligns perfectly with SIL International Global Roadmap Action 3, developed by the Executive Director Dr Michel Kenmogne and his executive leadership team. This action encourages SIL entities around the world to begin to consider forms of governance that allow greater accountability to local stakeholders.

ADVANCES IN 2016

The primary objective of SIL Cameroon's communication activities is to raise public awareness of the causes we promote, namely linguistic research, local-language literacy, translation and the training of nationals to carry out all tasks essential to the development of their

languages. These activities seek not only to inform the Cameroonian public but also, with time, to build up their desire to support and take ownership of this mission.

During 2016, our communications strategy focused on two major events. The first event was the commissioning ceremony of Dr Michel Kenmogne as the Executive Director of SIL International. Under the patronage of the Prime Minister, Head of Government, this event provided an opportunity to introduce a large number of communication initiatives whose positive effects gave new momentum to SIL Cameroon's public relations efforts. The second event was the signing of a scientific and technical cooperation agreement between SIL and the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation.



Dr Michel Kenmogne
Executive Director, SIL International



**Mr Bert Visser, General Director of SIL Cameroon and
Dr Madeleine Tchuente, Minister of Scientific Research and Innovation**



The Training Department of SIL Cameroon was created in 2001 with the following aims:

- Develop teaching modules to assist SIL's mission of developing local languages and translating the Bible.
- Provide logistical and staff support for training programs.
- Raise funds to subsidise training.

Through the creation of the Training Department, SIL committed itself to a strategy based on addressing training needs in three broad regions of Cameroon: the Greater South (South, Littoral, West, East, Centre), the Greater North (Adamawa, North, Far North) and Bamenda (North West, South West). Areas of training include:

- Linguistics
- Literacy
- Translation
- Adult learning (e.g., Learning that LASTS)
- Information technology applied to linguistics
- Scripture Use

In 2016, SIL carried out a comprehensive assessment of its training programme since the department's inception. The aim of this evaluation was to analyze the impact of SIL Cameroon's training courses to date and identify the needs of our community partners.

The interactive field survey with supporting questionnaires

identified the following key positive impacts:

- Training events have helped train literacy teachers and prepared others to lead Bible translation projects.
- People can already read the Bible in their mother tongue and many literacy classes have been set up.
- Many people's lives have been changed.
- Those who have received training are now able to extract the meaning of a text they read and to rephrase it.
- Some communities have translated the national anthem into their local languages.
- Participatory methods have helped communities become more involved in decision-making.
- Training events have helped to take the mystery out of the mother tongue.

Some suggestions were made to improve the quality of the services we provide to local communities with respect to the development of their mother tongues.

TRAINING

	Translation	Scripture Use	Linguistics	Literacy
No. of Workshops	18	6	17	20
No. of Participants	196	117	188	219
Summary of Training Events in 2016				

SCRIPTURE USE

The Scripture Use Department's work is to promote the use of Scriptures that have been translated into Cameroonian languages using all possible formats: written, oral and audiovisual. On a practical level, the department works alongside churches and theological training institutions to develop biblical tools and equip users of mother-tongue Scriptures in the use of those tools. They include the Jesus Film, Oral Bible Storying, the Kande Story (a Bible-based HIV/AIDS awareness-raising tool) and Trauma Healing - a training program for pastors and Christians to assist those who have gone through traumatic experiences.

The Scripture Use Department occupies a strategic place in SIL's work by equipping churches and Christians to make good use of the various biblical tools developed in national languages. The reality is that most churches in Cameroon use the official

languages and, sometimes, regional languages to teach the message of the gospel. Pastors and Christians find it very difficult to communicate in the national languages, even in areas where people have trouble communicating in official or regional languages. As a result, the faith of some is superficial. The department's work makes it possible to overcome these shortcomings. It allows people not only to use the tools developed, but to use them in the right way so that lives are transformed and the Cameroonian church grows. During 2016, the department carried out the following activities: worked with several churches to train Christians in trauma healing; developed websites for eight language communities that can be accessed anywhere in the world; developed Bible-reading applications for Android phones and tablets in the mother tongue; trained people to use oral Bible storying and audio; distributed 1,000 audio devices containing the entire New Testament in several different languages; and raised the awareness of 6,814 people of the dangers of HIV/AIDS. The results have been many and encouraging .





Several activities have furnished the daily life of the Department of Literacy and Education. These range from project planning and evaluation meetings, to training courses and enriching partnerships. During the year 2016 we continued to see growth in our literacy and multilingual education efforts. We have continued to flourish with our work

among the Baka through our partnership with Plan Cameroon and the Ministry of Basic Education, where books for class 3 and preschool in the Baka language were developed. In addition, 2,180 other books for classes 1, 2 and 3 were printed and used by pupils. Our partnership with Universities has also created a platform for students to come in as interns to receive practical skills while on the field.

LITERACY AND EDUCATION

Worthy of note is the fact that our mother tongue based literacy and multilingual education activities are taking a more participatory community approach. Local communities are increasingly taking charge of their need for language development. They identify suitable individuals and support them through the process of being trained as trainers. These individuals eventually start literacy classes in their respective communities.

This approach has recorded great success. In the Yasa community, a very zealous gentleman composed a song using the Yasa alphabet and volunteered as one of the mobilisers.

The biggest challenge remains the continuation of literacy activities in all communities following the departure of volunteers. However, we are encouraged to record daily increases in the literacy and multilingual and education (MLE) classes.

	Number of Classes	Number of Languages	Number of Participants
Literacy	166	17	3,020
MLE	169	8	6,250

PUBLICATIONS

THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

Kwasio (South Region)

- Ayotte, Michael Robert. Text Appeal: Choosing Scripture Media for the Kwasio People of Cameroon. D. Min. dissertation, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, USA, 2016.

Mbam Languages (Centre Region)

Boyd, Virginia (Ginger). The Phonological Systems of the Mbam Languages of Cameroon with a Focus on Vowels and Vowel Harmony. PhD dissertation, University of Leiden, Netherlands, 2015.

NATIONAL LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

Kemedzung (North West Region)

- Smoes, Kay and Christopher Smoes. Kemedzung Mathematical Key Terms Booklet: A Teacher's Aid. Kemedzung Language Committee, 2016 (English version)

- Smoes, Kay, Christopher Smoes and Emmanuel Bikom. Kirwati ki Die yintar yi Madmati la Kimædzur ntirj: Nchitæ yi Mii wu Tifia. (Kemedzung Mathematical Key Terms Booklet: A Teacher's Aid.) Kemedzung Language Committee, 2016 (Kemedzung version)

Kemedzung (North West Region)

Templeman, Eline. Part of the Kemedzung-English Word List & English-Kemedzung Index. SIL, 2016.

Nooni (North West Region)

Nooni-English Dictionary and English-Nooni Index. Njwa' Diew Nooni. Compiled by David Lux, in collaboration with NGWANG Jonah Nyingsha, N FON Protus Njin, NJINYOH Alfred Njah, FALE Elijah Ntani. Nooni Language Committee, 2016

TECHNICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Bafanji (North West Region)

Hamm, Cameron Dean. Boundaries, Backgrounding and Highlighting in a Chufie' Narrative Text. SIL, 2016

Bamunka (North West Region)

Ingle, Jane Margaret. Tone Orthography in Bamunka. SIL, 2016.

Lamnsø' (North West Region)

- Hedinger, Robert. Lamnsø' Grammar Sketch. SIL, 2016.

- Hedinger, Robert. Lamnsø' Orthography Guide. SIL, 2016

Naami (North West Region)

Li, Bonny. Participant Reference Strategies in Naami Narrative Discourse. SIL, 2016.

LANGUAGES SIL SERVED IN 2016

During 2016, SIL gave consultation, training and/or logistic support to language development in many languages throughout Cameroon, including the following:

■ **Far North Region**

Bana
Gude
Hdi
Mada
Mafa
Mbuko
Merey
Moloko
Mpade (Makary Kotoko)
Muyang
Parkwa (Podoko)
Tupur*
Vame
Wandala (Mandara)
Wuzlam (Ouldeme)
Zulgo

■ **North Region**

Daba
Fali
Karang
Mambai (Mambay)
Mazagway-Hdi

■ **Adamawa Region**

Doyayo
Mambila, Cameroon
Suga (Nizaa)
Tikar

■ **North West Region**

Baba
Bafanji
Bafut
Bamali
Bambalang
Bamukumbit
Bamunka
Bangolan
Cung (Chung)
Fulfulde
Kemedzung
Kenswei Nsei (Bamessing)
Kom
Limbum
Naami
Ncane (Mungong)
Ncane (Nchane)
Noone (Noni)
Sari (Nsari)
Vengo (Babungo)
Wushi (Babessi)
Yamba

■ **South West Region**

Iceve-Maci [Oliti]
Ipulo
Iyive
Mesaka (Ugare)

Language names are according to the 17th edition of the Ethnologue published by SIL International.

(Name) = Other common name

[Name] = Dialect name

■ **West Region**

Ghomálá'

■ **Centre Region**

Basaa
Mbule
Mengisa
Vute

■ **South Region**

Batanga
Gyele
Kwasio
Yasa (Iyasa)

■ **East Region**

Baka
Kako
Kwakum
Makaa (Mekaa)



● **Headquarters: Administration Office**

P. O. BOX: 1299 Yaounde, Centre Region
Tel. : +237 222 306 456 / +237 677 500 987

● **Bamenda Regional Office**

P. O. BOX: 5025 Bamenda-Nkwen, North West Region
Tel. : +237 677 500 233

● **Greater North Regional Office**

P. O. BOX: 200 Maroua, Far North Region
Tel. : +237 677 500 425

SIL CAMEROON ADMINISTRATION IN DECEMBER 2016

General Director: *Bert Visser*

Director of Administration and Finance: *Fabienne P. Freeland*

Director of Language Services: *Lawrence M. Seguin*

Director of Literacy and Education: *Gedeon Noussi*

Director of Bamenda Region: *Joe Rider*

Director of Human Resources: *Kevin Bradford*

SIL CAMEROON ENTITY COMMITTEE IN DECEMBER 2016

Chair : *Melanie Viljoen (Ph.D.)*

Vice-Chair: *Chris Smoes*

Members: *Daryl Young, Andreas Ernst, Bruce Cox, Drew Maust*

SIL INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

President: *Karel van der Mast (Ph.D.)*

Executive Director: *Michel Kenmogne (Ph.D.)*

Area Director for Francophone Africa: *Nelis van den Berg*

NATIONALITIES OF SIL CAMEROON PERSONNEL

Australia

Bahamas

Cameroon

Canada

Chile

Costa Rica

Finland

Hungary

Ireland

Netherlands

Peru

Sweden

Switzerland

United Kingdom

United States of America