

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This document presents three sets of definitions regarding (i) Bible translation, (ii) the UPG initiative, and (iii) roles & committees within the UPG initiative. Some of the terms here are technical, pertaining to Bible translation or another specialized field, and may be refined as SRG continues to learn more about reaching UPGs. Input on them is welcome.

BIBLE TRANSLATION

Adaptation. The process of working from an approved gateway-language translation (not original Greek or Hebrew texts) to produce Scripture in a new language or dialect, whether oral or written. See Translation.

Church-centric Bible translation (CCBT). A philosophy and method of Bible translation that holds that “Bible translation in its proper place belongs to the church, as a tool for evangelism and church planting” (unfoldingWord). “A distinction of CCBT methods from other methods revolves around ownership: translations are typically initiated and “owned” by the local church network leaders as they seek to pursue the expansion and establishment of the church” (Every Tribe Every Nation).

Colloquialization. The process of creating written or oral Scripture products in a colloquial dialect of Arabic—the common language of the people.

Gateway language. One of 40–50 widely used languages, which cover all people groups and languages through patterns of multilingualism.

Minimum expected product. The least amount of biblical product, whether written or oral, expected to be produced in a particular language: Genesis, Psalms, Proverbs, and the New Testament.

Open license. A concept of ownership and rights that permits, subject to limited “rules,” use of intellectual property. No legal permission or financial arrangement is required for others to use open-licensed biblical translations and resources to produce Scripture adaptations and other products in their own language. When SRG helps to create Bible products within the UPG Initiative, it seeks to do so under open license.

Preferred language. Either a mother tongue, trade language, or other learned language; the language most used and best used by an unreached people group. It is the focus of the UPG Initiative’s translation work.

Scripture. The 66 books of the Protestant Bible.

Trade language. The primary language, both written and spoken, of business in a country or region. This is likely to be the official language of government and a country. Often, a trade language is thought to be inappropriate for sacred literature.

Translation. Creation of new Bible products from another language. Scripture was first translated from the original biblical languages (Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic), but this method is less common today. It is

easier and quicker to work from a gateway or nearby language than from the original languages. See Adaption.

UPG INITIATIVE

Church-based theological education (CBTE). Leadership development and theological training that generally trains leaders in the context of their own congregations and existing relationships. Since it requires little or no travel to a training center—it occurs locally, at a trainee’s church or home or nearby—it is scalable and inexpensive.

Church formation. The intentional creation of a church—in a house, virtually, or on the ground—where members grow in biblical understanding and community is experienced; the result of proclamation, discipleship, and leadership development.

Church-planting movement (CPM). In a missiological context, church planting refers to intentionally starting and establishing reproducing fellowships of believers who reflect the kingdom of God in their communities.

Dialect. Typically, a subset of a language that introduces different accents and idioms, and, in some cases, different vocabulary. For example, North Levantine Arabic is a dialect of Standard Arabic. Speakers of one dialect may or may not understand well another dialect.

Disciple-making movement. Disciple-making movements (DMMs) are: (i) fast-growing, (ii) indigenous (of the local culture), (iii) made up of multiplying groups, and (iv) made up of obedient Jesus followers (disciples). Some missiologists say that a DMM emphasizes disciples making disciples while a church-planting movement emphasizes churches planting churches. For most purposes, however, the concepts are basically the same.

Distribution & communication. Once Bible, proclamation, and Last Mile products are translated or created, the content needs to be communicated to speakers of the language. This may be done by distributing content—in print or digitally as text, audio, or video—via numerous channels. Since “distribution” often conjures images of physical distribution, “distribution and communication” is used to signal *both* physical *and* digital distribution.

Gateway language. One of 40–50 widely used languages, which cover all people groups and languages through patterns of multilingualism.

Initiative sector. A discrete field of ministry vital to reaching a UPG. Each of the nine UPG Initiative sectors is essential to the initiative’s goals:

- Bible translation & distribution
- Media
- JESUS Film & other videos
- Orality
- Proclamation
- Discipleship
- Leadership development
- Church formation
- Prayer mobilization

Language. The primary form of communication for a people group, written, oral, or both.

Last mile. Kingdom ministry work that builds upon, and extends beyond, gospel proclamation with a goal of creating healthy churches; includes discipleship, leadership development, and church formation.

Ministry. A church or organization, usually indigenous-led, that conducts ministry in the Greater Middle East; a ministry may or may not be a SRG ministry partner.

Ministry partner. A ministry (church, parachurch ministry, or individual) that assists in accomplishing the vision of the UPG Initiative. Ministry partners have had an application approved through SRG’s due diligence process and thus may propose projects for funding under the UPG Initiative.

Ministry sector. See Initiative sector.

Mother tongue. The language a person learns as a child, as opposed to languages learned later in life. A person may be bilingual or multilingual, speaking a mother tongue language and one or more other languages learned as a child or adult. Also, a person may be a native speaker (from birth) of two or more “mother tongue” languages.

Next generation. Persons under 50 years of age. (SRG defines “next generation” as those who are 35 to 50, and the “emerging generation” as those who are 25 to 35; but here the term “next generation” is used generally to refer to all persons under 50.)

Orality. Reliance of a people group upon the spoken, rather than written, word for communication. People in oral communities are not necessarily illiterate or uneducated, but evangelism and discipleship with oral learners are more likely to be effective through mediums such as stories, songs, drama, proverbs, and non-print media.

Outcomes. One of two types of key measurements for the effectiveness of a ministry partner’s proposed project. Outcomes are desired changes in program beneficiaries; they are program-centric, unique to a program. Outcomes are defined to match the project purpose, and typically require measurement rather than counting. They are not imposed from outside; the same is true for outputs.

Outputs. One of two types of key measurements for the effectiveness of a ministry partner’s proposed project. Outputs are tied to project activities. They are the products and services provided by the ministry that touch program beneficiaries. Outputs are nearly always observable and, hence, quantifiable. Typically, they are counted not measured. They are not imposed from outside; the same is true for outcomes.

People group. The largest group of people in which the gospel can spread without barriers (Joshua Project).

Project. The planning and work a ministry partner does to engage a UPG as described in its *Proposal*.

Proposal. A written response to the UPG Initiative RFP using SRG’s *Project Proposal* web form.

Render. Oral-to-oral Bible translation software developed by Faith Comes By Hearing (in partnership with Pioneer Bible Translators and Seed Company) to assist with creating recorded Bible products or other oral products. These ensure that oral learners (see Orality) have the opportunity to hear God’s Word in their preferred language.

Request for proposal (RFP). A document outlining more than 80 prototype projects that are deemed necessary to accomplish the vision of the UPG Initiative. Ministry partners may submit compliant proposals to receive funding to carry out projects identified in the RFP.

Script. The written or oral dialogue for a film or video.

Segmented JESUS film. The “JESUS” film divided into 40 video segments for use in evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development.

Unengaged, unreached people group (UUPG). An unreached people group that has no ongoing, intentional church-planting effort. Fifty-nine of the 94 currently identified UPGs are UUPGs.⁷

Unreached people group (UPG). A biblical ethne (a Greek term for “nation”), or people, with significant homogeneity (including a common language), in which evangelical Christians make up less than two percent of the population. UPGs generally lack the ability to evangelize effectively or multiply churches without outside assistance. For the purposes of the UPG Initiative, 94 UPGs, speaking 31 languages, have been identified across 14 countries. (Note: the definition of a people group that is less than 2% evangelical Christian is used by IMB & Finishing the Task and was used to identify the language and people groups that the UPG Initiative addresses. However, Joshua Project uses a different one.)

Unreached People Groups Initiative. A multi-year effort to see the complete Bible and high-impact discipleship, leadership development, and church formation materials translated, distributed, and communicated in 31 UPG MENA/Pakistan languages that are spoken by 94 unreached people groups in 14 countries (see Unreached people group (UPG) entry above).

UPG Initiative project executive summary. An overview of a potential UPG Initiative project proposal submitted by a ministry partner in accordance with the RFP (request for proposal) for initial consideration by the language consultant and UPG Initiative director. Upon approval, a ministry partner expands an executive summary into a full proposal.

UPG Initiative project proposal. A detailed explanation of a project with expected outputs and outcomes, process detail, and full budget. Upon approval, the ministry partner implements the project and funds are released according to a predetermined resourcing plan.

ROLES & COMMITTEES WITHIN THE UPG INITIATIVE

Advisory group. A small group that provides insight, monitors implementation, renders support when requested, makes recommendations, and conducts training to improve the ministry effectiveness of the UPG Initiative. It provides counsel on diverse topics to the initiative management team, language group facilitators, and ministry partners. Three specific advisors are described below—distribution advisors, indigenous church advisors, and technology advisors.

Director, UPG Initiative. The manager of the UPG Initiative who works with the UPG Initiative management team and reports to the SRG managing director. The director is responsible for retaining and managing language consultants and others, managing the budget, approving projects, entering into agreements, and other tasks to achieve the Initiative vision.

⁷ This data is provided through the Southern Baptist Convention’s International Mission Board. Finishing the Task lists two of the people groups included in the UPGI as unengaged and unreached. The reason for the substantial difference is not known.

Distribution Advisors. Experts in content distribution in the region who help ministry partners: design content to maximize high-impact distribution channels, develop distribution plans, and pursue all viable distribution channels, to increase the impact of content they create. Distribution advisors may also consult on integrated campaigns where custom-created content is shared with persons matching a specific persona.

Indigenous Church Advisors. Local authorities who support ministry partners to understand the targeted UPG and ensure culturally-appropriate strategies.

Language consultant (LC). An expert in a language with knowledge of the people groups that speak the language. An LC advocates on behalf of the speakers of the language and brings insight regarding their situation and needs. Based on this, the LC works with ministry partners to design projects that are compliant with the language strategy. LCs also provide ongoing project oversight and reporting. LCs report to the UPG Initiative director.

Native Speaker (NS). Regarding Bible translation, NSs are native speakers of a UPG language who have not participated in a language project and thus are “uninitiated” to a translation project. Most NSs are young believers or seekers who have had little exposure to the Bible. A NS acts as a hearer and reader, and gives feedback regarding the clarity and naturalness of the text.

Quality Checker (QC). Regarding Bible translation, QCs help translators improve the quality of the text by providing expertise in biblical understanding and translation principles to translators. They also act as a bridge between a consultant and translators. Quality checkers speak both English and the gateway language well so they can communicate fluently with consultants and translators. They should have formal theological or biblical education.

Resource partner. A foundation, individual, church, or ministry that partners with SRG to invest in the UPG Initiative by contributing wisdom, experience, and funding.

Technology Advisors. Experts in technology who advise ministry partners to multiply the impact of content development by using technology in innovative ways. Also, technology advisors help develop a “virtual church” model and provide research on emerging technologies such as use of virtual reality, augmented reality, artificial intelligence, and drones for ministry to UPGs.

Translator. Regarding Bible translation, the translator translates and refines the biblical text. Translators are native speakers of the target language and speak it fluently; they grew up speaking the target language in their own homes with their family.

Translator, CCBT model. For the CCBT Bible translation model, in addition to the requirements at Translator (above), translators are believers who are spiritually mature and have been leaders in the church for at least two years. They are able to read and write, though computer proficiency is not required.

UPG Initiative Management Team. A group of persons with diverse experience that SRG selects with authority to guide strategy and make key management decisions regarding the implementation of the UPG Initiative.