

In a rapidly progressing technological age, it is ideal for everyone in every community to have the technological means necessary for how our world is changing. Communication, learning and even worship are seeing vast differences from societal norms as technology makes our ways of life more accessible and easier than ever. And while big populations tend to get the first “pickings”, so to say, it is imperative that minority communities or languages are not left out of this progression. Unfortunately, it is found that a large number of minority and refugee languages have been excluded because their dialects simply are not covered in most services (UNESCO, 2023).

As such, a lack of access to the digital world can pose a large challenge, serving as a wall preventing certain cultures from interacting and reading Biblical texts, creating an issue for any translator who is working with refugee groups to translate the text into a language that may not be represented on Android or iOS keyboards. Without their native dialect represented on keyboards, community members can find it challenging to engage with the content of the Bible or to have in-depth discussions, forced to rely on rough translations or the appearance of a mediator to translate back and forth. Even the European Parliament (2020) puts forth the notion that increasing digital access for lesser-known languages is an integral component for the long-term standing of their cultures.

To address this problem, this project aims to develop mobile keyboards for the Android and iOS platforms that aim to support the refugee community’s script. The primary benefits of this will of course center on the translation effort. However, beyond that, it is foreseeable that in having an accurate keyboard, it can encourage their community to write and share content in their own language, even beyond the Biblical texts that is the basis for this project. It is also of note that, as stated by the European Parliament, including these lesser-known communities in a growing technological age is necessary for the long-term preservation of their culture.

To summarize, the absence of a mobile keyboard for this refugee community’s language prevents meaningful participation in the Bible translation project and undermines digital inclusion. Developing custom Android and iOS keyboards will bridge this technological gap, ensuring the community can engage spiritually, culturally, and linguistically in their own language.

## **References**

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