



COUNTRY ASSESSMENT PROCESS (CAP)

18 February 2010

Purpose

The purpose of the Country Assessment Process (CAP) is to validate and possibly update existing ethno-linguistic people group information, with a focus on the least-reached people groups. The goal is to complete the CAP by 31 October 2010 so that the data may be continentally collated, analyzed and reports prepared for presentation at the Movement for African National Initiatives - MANI 2011 Consultation. With the new information, MANI hopes to encourage the African Church to initiate strategic ministries to the least-reached peoples in Africa.

Overview

The CAP is a review, validation and possible update of existing data! It is not to be confused with a baseline survey or census that would require extensive field research. A recommended process would be to form a core assessment team that facilitates Phases I and II of the assessment process. The team may enlist specialists for the respective phases as the need arises.

The current people group and language information are from the Joshua Project and Ethnologue 16th edition, respectively. The assessment team should rely primarily on local knowledge and country sources to update the information.

The primary tool for the editing process is the CAP spreadsheet. The terms, definitions and instructions are in the spreadsheet. The assessment process will be greatly enhanced if the team begins with the spreadsheet instructions.

Core Team

The core assessment team should consist of members who understand and are committed to the CAP. The team will facilitate the process and serve as informants for people groups and ministries among them. It could consist of MANI representatives, denominational and mission leaders. Experts in socio-linguistics, anthropology, missiological research and demographics may be considered. Depending on the situation, the size of the core team may vary greatly. However, a team beyond twelve members may not be effective.

Phase I – Ethno-linguistic Update

The people group information is based on an ethno-linguistic definition and not on social groupings or definition, such as street children. It is important for the quality of the update that the core team enlists specialists who have linguistic/socio-linguistic expertise. Other experts to consider are translators and anthropologists.

The three objectives of Phase I are to review and possibly correct:

- People group name

- People group cluster
- Primary language

The assessment team will decide if a people group needs to be added or deleted from the list and possibly merged or split. The team will also accept or change the people group cluster information and the primary language. The ethno-linguistic phase needs to occur before the second phase, to allow for the successful update of the demographics and ministries among the people groups.

Phase IIa – Demographics Update

The demographic information serves as the strategic foundation for determining the least-reached people groups. The core team should consider adding specialists who have demographic expertise, representatives from major denominations or mission organizations.

The primary objectives of Phase IIa are to update:

- Population of the people group
- Percentage of Christian Adherents
- Percentage of Evangelical Christians

The assessment team will review the information and accept or make changes, preferably based on in-country sources. The team will indicate their confidence in the demographic data for each people group. The confidence level will be expressed by three options:

- A – Strong evidence for change
- B – Weak evidence for change
- C – No change

Phase IIb – Ministry Update

The information in the ministry update will help churches know more about the people groups and whether additional resources are needed to reach the people group. The core team should consider representatives from major denominations, mission organizations, and church planters. The information includes:

- Religion
- On site church planting
- Church of 100
- Radio
- Public Language resources

Conclusion

Every country will face different challenges in the process. While the structure of the team may vary, the data fields and definitions are non-negotiable to maintain data integrity. Communication with the MANI regional coordinator or research facilitator is crucial for the success of the CAP. God's plan is for the earth to be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Our prayer is that the Country Assessment Process will help the African Church carry out God's plan for Africa.

Database Advisory Team for Africa (DATA)
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