

## PRESS RELEASE

# Country Assessment of People Groups Launched in Africa

April 2009

The Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI) believes that mobilisation of the African Church will be heightened by country-level assessments of the unfinished task. For the next two years, MANI regional and country coordinators will make it their priority to begin updating the Joshua Project list of people groups, particularly those considered Least-Reached. Several countries have begun forming review teams or even research networks for accomplishment of this goal.

It is appreciated that global entities have provided lists of unreached peoples, so as to focus attention on those with little access to the Gospel. The limitations of those same global efforts are also recognized. It is necessary for knowledgeable people at a country level to provide correction and updates so the most accurate information is available for prayer, mobilisation and strategy purposes.

This is a project full of challenges and it is not anticipated that it will be completed for all of Africa in one pass. More importantly, MANI hopes to establish processes and partnerships which empower the African Church, and which will allow for easier and ongoing assessments in the future. In time it is hoped that countries will also conduct assessments of least-reached geographic areas and least-reached social groupings.

MANI Coordinators are partnering with a team of research specialists who will assist with definitions and processes. Though the primary purpose is mobilisation of the Church, it is important for Africans to provide accurate and valid data which rightly identifies information such as: people group name, language spoken, population, status of outreach and church growth.

On the field it is anticipated that country assessment Review Teams will evaluate and reach consensus on updates to the people group lists. These teams might include language and people group researchers, church planters and others knowledgeable of that country's people groups and their status of evangelization.

Results of the assessment efforts will be presented at the next MANI Continental Consultation to be held in Nigeria in September 2011.

How might you be involved?

- Engage Church and denominational leaders, mission organizations, and networks to represent multiple perspectives.
- Submit suggested edits to people group data.
- Discover individuals who might serve on country assessment review teams.
- Contact those who may have information about various people groups.
- Pray for this process and that the evangelistic needs of least-reached peoples will no longer be hidden.
- Provide much needed travel funds for those involved on a regional or country basis.
- Assist with technical needs – database and website development and management.
- Visit the MANI website [www.maniafrica.com](http://www.maniafrica.com) for further information:
  - MANI Research vision - overview:  
<http://www.maniafrica.com/Home/Research/tabid/57/Default.aspx>
  - Country Assessment Process – recommended steps and timelines for accomplishing the assessment. (link on left of Research Vision page)
  - Country Spreadsheets – download the tool on which updated information must be recorded and submitted. (link on left of Research Vision page)
- Direct questions to: [research@maniafrica.com](mailto:research@maniafrica.com)