



WYCLIFFE
Global Alliance



ANNUAL REPORT

2021

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends:

Greetings in Jesus' name!

Fiscal Year 2021* was another year of universal challenge, but we saw God working in and through the Wycliffe Global Alliance in incredible ways. While much of our attention centres on looking forward, an annual report affords the chance to look back — to acknowledge the contributions of Alliance organisations and other stakeholders in the Bible translation movement, and to assess the Alliance's financial stewardship and wellbeing. Based on what we saw in FY 2021, we trust and look forward to God growing his kingdom and we pray for expansion of our participation with him, especially in the ministry of Bible translation.

In this Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report, you will find:

- A summary of the Alliance Vision, Mission and Core Values.
- Listings of the Alliance Leadership Team (ALT) and Board of Directors.
- Overall Alliance highlights.
- Highlights from each of our four geographic areas.
- Our annual Financial Report.

There is much to celebrate. Our Alliance Leadership Team and staff, as well as leaders from so many of our organisations, served in significant, ongoing conversations with others in the Bible Translation movement. There is the [exciting partnership](#) with Youth with a Mission (YWAM), and the goal of reaching at least 1,000 language communities through oral Bible translation by 2025. We are seeing new approaches to consultant recognition and training, with [signs of solutions](#) to this perennial bottleneck in Bible translation.

Meantime, Alliance leaders are playing key roles in growing and maintaining Global Partnerships throughout the Bible translation movement. 2021 saw so many discussions and activities that it would be impossible to list them all in this report. In my own role as Executive Director, I have enjoyed fruitful conversations with Alliance organisation boards, directors and many more.

We do take the lead at times, but I see the Alliance's primary role as a connector for the Bible translation movement. Both our ALT



and our Alliance organisation leaders are in a position to “set the table” — to create an environment in which key players from numerous contexts can meet for friendship and collaboration. We are able to advocate for and facilitate the presence of all who should be at the table, ensuring all relevant voices are heard. I also believe it is not necessarily our large, global events that carry the most impact — though those are important. Rather, we strive to consistently take part in smaller conversations that lead to progressive and sustained change. What a joy and privilege to find ourselves in position to serve God’s kingdom in this way.

FY 2021 also saw the anticipated change in the Alliance funding structure — from a percentage contribution to an annual fee. ([This article](#) explains the change and the reasoning behind it.) The change has gone smoothly so far, with full implementation of the new funding model planned for FY2022.

Please enjoy this Annual Report, and join me in thanking God for his guidance, wisdom and creativity as we fully rely on him.

In his grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Coertze". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Coertze
Executive Director
Wycliffe Global Alliance

*Fiscal Year 2021: October 2020 to September 2021



PURPOSE

The Wycliffe Global Alliance exists to see individuals, communities and nations transformed through God's love and Word expressed in their languages and cultures. It is a network of approximately 105 organisations working in more than 2,000 languages. A Covenant/Statement of Commitment, signed by each Alliance organisation, sets out the basis of our relationships.

MISSION

In communion with God and within the community of his church, the Wycliffe Global Alliance contributes to the holistic transformation of language communities worldwide.

VISION

Individuals, communities and nations transformed through God's love and Word expressed in their languages and cultures.

CORE VALUES

The Glory of God among the Nations

Living and serving to God's glory so people of all nations might know and glorify him.

Christlikeness

Following Christ's example in who we are and what we do.

The Church as Central in God's Mission

Believing the Church is created, called and equipped by God to disciple the nations.

The Word Translated

Trusting God to transform lives through his Word translated into the languages and cultures of the world's peoples.

Dependence on God

Depending on God and his sufficiency to equip and sustain us.

Partnership and Service

Partnering interdependently as an expression of the unity of believers. Serving in community through holistic ministry that facilitates translation, access and application of God's Word.

ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP TEAM

A small core team and a diverse group of consultants help shape and nurture the direction of the Alliance, participate in key networks and partnerships, and provide accountability.



Dr. Stephen Coertze
Executive Director
South Africa



Martijn de Vries
Director for Operations
Switzerland



Hannu Summanen
Chief Financial Officer
Finland



Dr. Bryan Harmelink
Director for Collaboration
United States



Valerie Soo
Logistics/Events Mgr. &
Singapore Manager
Singapore



Phil Prior
Director for
Communication
United Kingdom



Nydia García-Schmidt
Americas Area Director
Mexico



Dr. Paul Kimbi
Consultant for Bible
Translation Programs
Cameroon



Hannes Wiesmann
Europe Area Director
Switzerland



Dr. Susan Van Wynen
Consultant for Strategy
United States



Wairimu Irungu
Africa Area Director
Kenya



Jo Johnson
Consultant for
Prayer Advocacy
United Kingdom



Simon Wan
Asia-Pacific Area Director
Singapore



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Alliance Board of Directors gives input to and provides governance for the Alliance. Each Alliance Organisation has its own leadership and board, but all seek to work interdependently and value the Alliance community for friendship, partnership, spiritual and other practical forms of mutual support.



Agnes Lid
(Chair)
Norway



Joke Haaijer
Netherlands



Marco Herrera
(Vice Chair)
Mexico



Rob Lovatt
New Zealand



Matt Dawson
(Secretary)
United States



Susanna Muntz
Canada



Hannu Summanen
(Treasurer)
Finland



Prof. Jayne Mutiga
Kenya



Dr. Ir Nestor René Ahoyo Adjovi
Benin



Su-Ling Ng
Singapore



Dr. John Chesnut
United States



Rev. Dr. Bambang Widjaja
Indonesia

FY 2021 ALLIANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Our three primary areas of focus as an Alliance are:

- Bible translation;
- Influences on the movement; and
- Collaboration.

Here is a short, representative list — merely a sampling of the multiple events and activities, virtual and in-person, which happened in FY 2021 and in which Alliance Leadership Team members took part.

- Africa Digital Conference
- OCMS Research Forum for Faithful Witness
- Europe Area Church Engagement Academy
- FOBAI consultant qualifications
- OBT taskforce
- Mesas de Diálogo - Mexico roundtable with Bible Society Mexico (one of many such discussions in the Americas)
- SIL and Wycliffe Asia Pacific leadership meeting
- Joint Funding Initiative for Asia
- Africa Area Conference
- SIL and Wycliffe Africa leadership meeting (similar to AP area leaders meeting)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Wycliffe World Day of Prayer: In November 2020, the World Day of Prayer was observed around the globe on the theme of Shalom. One Alliance organisation posted this on social media: “Through the theme for the day we were reminded of the peace that God gives in volatile, uncertain and changing world”. For the first time, many Alliance organisations held virtual events which made it easier for those serving in other countries and supporting churches to participate. Thirty-two organisations joined the partnering in prayer initiative and were encouraged to experience the friendship of other Alliance organisations extended through prayer.

Global Connect : For one week in September 2020, the Alliance met virtually in many different ways. Individuals joined Global Connect from home, some office staff joined together to watch and discuss the videos and many directors met virtually to process each day’s events. Even in the context of the ongoing pandemic, the Alliance joined together to worship, reflect, learn and grow as a community.

REVISED ALLIANCE COVENANT / STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The signing process allowed ALT members and Area teams to have robust and helpful interactions with some Alliance organisations in which expectations could be clarified, and challenges and opportunities for the organisation’s future participation in the Bible translation movement could also be clarified.

DELIVERED TRAINING

- YWAM Master of Applied Linguistics for Bible translation
- Supporter care
- Communication topics via videos

MENTORING

- Connecting Alliance organisations. For example, BTL and Wycliffe India working together in the area of information technology.
- Meeting with partner organisations and their leaders in a number of different contexts: SIL, FOBAI, YWAM, SIM, OM, OMF, WEC, FCBH, Bible Societies.

PANDEMIC

A second year of COVID-19 curtailed travel for most of the world and forced many Alliance interactions to happen virtually. While this presented its challenges, of course, it also created a more-level playing field, with many more faces and organisations able to attend significant conversations and events.

AREA HIGHLIGHTS, 2021

AFRICA WAIRIMU IRUNGU, AREA DIRECTOR

Training. Among the many virtual and physical events were:

- Bible Translation Programs Managers' Forum, February 2021 (virtual). We brainstormed on what transformation in a sedentary world looks like and how Bible translation managers can work on achieving that transformation. How do we network together to achieve comprehensive quality and allow the impact to trickle down in communities?
- Translation Consultants' Forum, August 2021 (virtual). A key issue we addressed was, how do we create a Zoom consultant taskforce to cope with the acute shortage of consultants and the lack of mobility?

Collaboration within the Alliance. In June 2021, an Africa Area virtual leaders meeting brought together Alliance organisation directors and representatives. Attendees included the Alliance Executive Director; and Alliance Area Directors from Europe, Asia-Pacific and Americas Areas. The gathering focused on strengthening relationships among Alliance organisations, learning together, sharing the direction the Alliance is heading and fostering collaboration.

Strengthening Alliance organisation capacity in Africa. We have been running a project aimed at strengthening the capacity of Alliance organisations in Africa. The key initiatives under this project are organisational capacity assessments, management training, leadership development and board training.

Wycliffe Africa and CABTAL organisational assessments were held virtually in April and September 2021, respectively. The reports generated will inform capacity-strengthening initiatives for Wycliffe Africa and CABTAL.

Also in September, we saw:

- A project funding forum brought together (virtually) project funding coordinators from Alliance organisations in Africa. An average of 16 people participated on each of the fo-

rum's three days. The focus was to enhance project funding management skills. Key topics covered were project proposal development, project monitoring and evaluation and project reports.

- The strengthening of capacity of the new Wycliffe Togo board as they started on the right footing, understanding their responsibilities and learning to serve effectively.

Francophone Initiative. In March and May 2021, two trips were made to the far north of Cameroon and to Togo to share the vision of this initiative with theological training institutions. In Cameroon, the Institut Biblique Evangélique de Maroua and the Institut Biblique Fraternelle de Maroua requested the creation of translation departments in their respective institutions. A team composed of CABTAL, SIL and UBS in Cameroon are exploring the feasibility. In Togo, three conferences were given in three theological institutions. As a result, 11 students committed to work in Bible translation. The four who have completed their theological training will begin working soon with Wycliffe Togo.

New directors. Our area welcomed three new executive directors in FY 2021: Alan Webster (Wycliffe South Africa), Edwyn Kiptinness (Wycliffe Africa) and Patience Toma (NBTT).

We celebrate God's goodness in the midst of the challenges brought by the pandemic. Serving in a context with technological challenges such as lack of reliable internet connections in some places, we are grateful to God for the ability to connect and to effectively serve. Then, as travel started opening again, we were able to serve those with difficult internet connections. The understanding that we are serving in God's mission influences our understanding of how we serve together with others in the Bible Translation movement. In light of this, Africa Area has sought to strengthen the capacity of Alliance organisations and encourage collaboration in God's mission.



AMERICAS

NYDIA GARCIA-SCHMIDT, AREA DIRECTOR

National Bible Translation Tables. Virtual and face-to-face meetings have continued with a national approach to dialogue on issues related to Bible translation and use of Scripture. Eleven tables are under development in Colombia, Mexico, El Salvador, Bolivia, Guatemala, Ecuador, Brazil, Panama, Peru, Venezuela and Nicaragua. More than 130 leaders from 100 ministries, denominations and networks are participating. The tables are a way to connect, discern and participate in a collaborative environment for Bible translation. Leaders build and strengthen friendly relationships, share a common vision, develop an ongoing agenda and carry out collaborative initiatives.

Church. A meeting with denominational leaders and pastors was held to listen and learn about their plans and vision to become more involved in Bible translation activities in their different contexts. Pastor Marcos Agripino from Brazil has mentioned how important it was for him to participate in the Alliance consultations and to help him see how his denomination should respond to translation needs around the world. Now his vision is to incorporate in every seminary of the Presbyterian Church in Brazil a curriculum and seminars that will help future church leaders and pastors understand the importance of Bible translation and support the movement.

Organisational development. Strategic and influential meetings within the Bible translation movement have continued to encourage and inspire Alliance Organisations to lead their entities with good management practises. The webinar “Working Together for the Healthy Functioning of Christian Ministries” attracted more than 40 par-

ticipants from 30 organisations — exceeding all expectations. Topics included Biblical and Theological Foundations on Generosity, Stewardship and Management, Collaboration, Good Practises of Efficiency and Organisational Development, and Research on the Context of Alliance Organisations.

Mi Comunidad Platform. *Mi Comunidad* has contributed to a space for communication, learning and interaction for Alliance organisations in the region. The platform is part of a technological ecosystem in which other applications (WhatsApp, email, Zoom, YouTube) are intentionally used for the exchange of information and learning. It has a section for participation channels where users can find blogs and forums, an organisational effectiveness section and a folder with various resources, among other features. In 2021, a new means of contact was opened with the members of the organisations and ministries through WhatsApp, sending messages about activities, forums, events and other news. To date, we have registered 90 leaders from Alliance organisations and other ministries.

New organisational directors in FY 2021 were Victor Hoyos, AEL Peru; Gabriel Ortiz, FAM Guatemala; and Lucas Paulino, ALEM.

Prayer. There is a growing prayer movement for Bible translation in the region. About 10 prayer coordinators from Alliance organisations meet and pray monthly with the Americas Area Prayer Coordinator. The desire is that this initiative will be extended to other organisations. As people pray together, they build community and unity. A sense of mutual belonging and genuine concern for one another opens the door to collaboration.



AREA HIGHLIGHTS, 2021

ASIA-PACIFIC SIMON WAN, AREA DIRECTOR

We praise God for the experience of serving him together as an Alliance community. Regular communication, prayer times and joint projects bring us together as different parts of the Body of Christ. There is much joy serving God together, in serving with each other, and serving each other.

Fiscal Year 2021 highlights included:

Joint funding event. A collaboration among six Alliance organisations and SIL, held in March 2021.

A joint SIL / Wycliffe Global Alliance Asia Pacific conference held in January 2021.

Consultant checks in the Solomon Islands. A collaboration with consultants from WBTA, TAP, WBTS, Taiwan, PNGBTA and help from SIL (various dates).

Consultant Zoom gatherings.

Welcoming of new executive directors Charles Ho at Wycliffe Singapore and Budi Santoso at Kartidaya (Indonesia).

Monthly Coffee Chats via Zoom.



EUROPE HANNES WIESMANN, AREA DIRECTOR

The pandemic helped us to become quite agile in meeting virtually and thereby connecting with other people more often than we used to. For example:

- Regular “Share & Pray” meetings with directors of European Alliance organisations.
- Regular prayer sessions where the Area team invites two directors of European Alliance organisations to share more in-depth about what is going on in their organisations and their lives.
- Monthly prayer meetings with Area teams from Asia-Pacific and Africa.

Other 2021 highlights:

Sign languages. All over Europe and beyond, there is an increased sensitivity for and interest in translation in sign languages. We have regular meetings with SIL’s Global Sign Language Team.

Training. First Virtual Personnel Workshop in January 2021, a Communications Workshop in March and a Church Engagement Academy over the whole fiscal year.

Leadership. We welcomed two new executive directors among Alliance organisations in the Europe Area in FY 2021: Stewart Johnson of Wycliffe France and Peter Wilburg of Wycliffe Switzerland.



**Fiscal Year 2021:
October 2020
to September 2021**

FINANCES

Note: Amounts are rounded for easier reading. Exact amounts can be found online in the Alliance's audited Financial Statement.

INCOME

Annual contributions income was \$1.55 million USD, plus interest and other income totaling \$108,000 USD. Of the contributions, about \$560,000 USD came from Alliance organisations' Annual Fees; the rest was mostly assessment income. Most assessment income ended in May 2021, at the same time when we switched to a new system of transferring money internationally.

In addition to the actual contributions, the Alliance received a promised \$468,000 USD contribution from one organisation for FY 2022. Because of accounting rules, this needed to be recorded as income to the Alliance Financial Statements for FY 2021.

The Alliance also received \$2.4 million USD in contributed services from Alliance organisations in FY 2021. This is the calculated value of labour performed by staff members assigned to work in the Alliance.

Total Alliance income for FY2021: \$3.9 million.

EXPENSES

Alliance expenses in FY21 totaled \$3.1 million USD. This includes the contributed labour of \$2.4 million USD, so the direct operational and project expenses were \$699,000 USD. The low expense level is mostly due to COVID-19 restrictions; travel and meeting expenses were only a fraction of what was planned.

CONCLUSION

Partly due to low expense level and the recorded promised gift, the Alliance's surplus for FY21 was \$1.4 million USD. Also, the Alliance was blessed with our organisations' generosity and commitment to pay their dues on time.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannu Summanen
CFO and Treasurer
Wycliffe Global Alliance



ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL NEWS

- The Alliance Board decided to begin the de-registration process of the Alliance’s Singapore Branch. This decision was made in September 2021 and will happen in the first half of FY 2022.
- The previous model of 0.35% contributions from Alliance organisations changed to Annual Fees in FY21. This change was anticipated and went smoothly. As mentioned, assessment income changed during the FY21 and is now gradually reducing. FY22 is the last year with any significant, budgeted assessment income. During FY22 the new funding model will be planned and implemented. The Alliance’s steady financial position should help to make this change safely.

Statement from the Independent Auditing Firm of Capin Crouse LLP:

“In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to (in the Consolidated Statements of Financial Position) present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of Wycliffe Bible Translators International, Inc. (d/b/a Wycliffe Global Alliance), as of September 30, 2021 and 2020, and the changes in its net assets and cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

The FY2021 Financial Statement was approved by the Audit Committee in January 2022. The Alliance Board will consider it in March 2022.