

# Bible Access List 2025



# BIBLE ACCESS LIST 2025

A 2025 assessment in 88 countries identifying where Bible access is most difficult and shortages among Christians are greatest

## MISSION STATEMENT



To provide a reliable, global view of Bible Restrictions and Shortages to inform the fulfillment of the Great Commission

## CORE ASSESSMENTS

### Bible Restrictions list



**Block 1**  
(75% weight)  
Restrictions imposed by Governments, extremist or other actors (e.g. banning Bible printing, distribution, ownership)



**Block 2**  
(25% weight)  
Socio-economic barriers (e.g. poverty, poor infrastructure, low literacy)



### Bible Shortage list

Estimated number of Christians desiring a Bible but don't have one. Results expressed in ranges

## METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCES

### Primary data



Global surveys  
Expert interviews  
Field observations

### Secondary data



World Christian Database  
Open Doors' World Watch List  
World Bank Indicators  
Bible Translation Repositories

## KEY OUTPUTS

### Bible Restrictions List



A ranked scored list based on access restrictions



### Bible Shortage List

A ranked scored list where the shortage among the Christians is the greatest



### Country Profiles

Narrative and visual summaries of Bible access realities and prayer needs

# Overview

- Stories from the Bible
- Common Myths about Bible Access
- Bible Restrictions: indicators, scoring, results
- Bible Shortage: approach and results
- Combining Restrictions and Shortage – a global challenge!
- Common Myths about Bible Access: debunked!
- A call to action & Your Toolkit



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BIBLE ACCESS LIST



# Bible Access Restrictions and Shortage: Stories from the Bible

## KING JOSIAH AND THE REDISCOVERY OF THE LAW

(2 Kings 22-23)



When the Book of the Law was found, it was first read to Josiah, ignited action leading to revival and reformation.

## EZRA READS THE LAW TO THE PEOPLE

(Nehemiah 8)



Ezra read the Law to returned exiles. Their response of worship and repentance resulted in a broken community rebuilt.

## PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

(Acts 8:26-40)



Philip explained the scripture from Isaiah, leading to salvation and expansion of the gospel.

## JEHOSHAPHAT SENDS THE LEVITES

(2 Chronicles 17:7-10)



When Jehoshaphat sent Levites to proclaim the Word, peace reigned, and the fear of the Lord fell on surrounding

**The Word that Precedes the Move:  
A Biblical Foundation for Bible Access**





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BIBLE ACCESS LIST

## 4 Common Myths About Bible Access Around the World



**1**

**Bibles Are Available Everywhere**



**2**

**Digital Bibles Are the Global Solution**



**3**

**Bibles Are Accessible to Anyone**



**4**

**A Combination of Printed and Online Bibles Solves the Global Bible Shortage**

## Common Myths about Bible Access

- Let us explore what the data reveals
- Keep these in mind and we'll revisit them later on!



BIBLE ACCESS LIST





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BIBLE ACCESS LIST

# Bible Restrictions: indicators, scoring and results

## Block 1: Access Restrictions (Max. 75 points) (6 indicators (imposed by Gov't/ Extremists/Others))



- Restrictions to *freely* **IMPORT** Bibles *in any quantity*



- Restrictions to *freely* **PRINT** Bibles *in any quantity*



- Restrictions to *freely* **STORE** Bibles *in any quantity*



- Restrictions to *freely* **OWN** Bibles *in any quantity*



- Restrictions to *freely* **DISTRIBUTE** Bibles *in any quantity*



- **INTERNET SAFETY:** safe to access the Bible online and is the gov't monitoring internet access

## 4 dimensions per restriction:

- What % of the Christian population is impacted by a specific restriction?
- What % of Other population is impacted by a specific restriction?

0-10%	11-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
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- What is the severity for Christians?
- What is the severity for Others?

Low	Medium	High	Very High
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BIBLE ACCESS LIST



# Bible Restrictions: indicators, scoring and results

## Block 2: Other Limiting Factors (Max. 25 points)

### *5 indicators (socio-economic indicators)*



- **POVERTY** – prevents access Bibles



- **LITERACY** –alternative access to written Bibles



- **POOR INFRASTRUCTURE** – limits / complicates access to Bibles



- **ELECTRICITY** – prevents access to electronic versions



- **LIMITED INTERNET AVAILABILITY** – prevents access to online Bibles

*Data source: various indices from the data bank from **World Bank***



# Bible Restrictions: indicators, scoring and results

Composite of **ACCESS RESTRICTIONS AND OTHER LIMITING FACTORS**– Max. 100 points

## Block 1: Access Restriction (Max. 75 points)



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### Overall Access Restriction Description

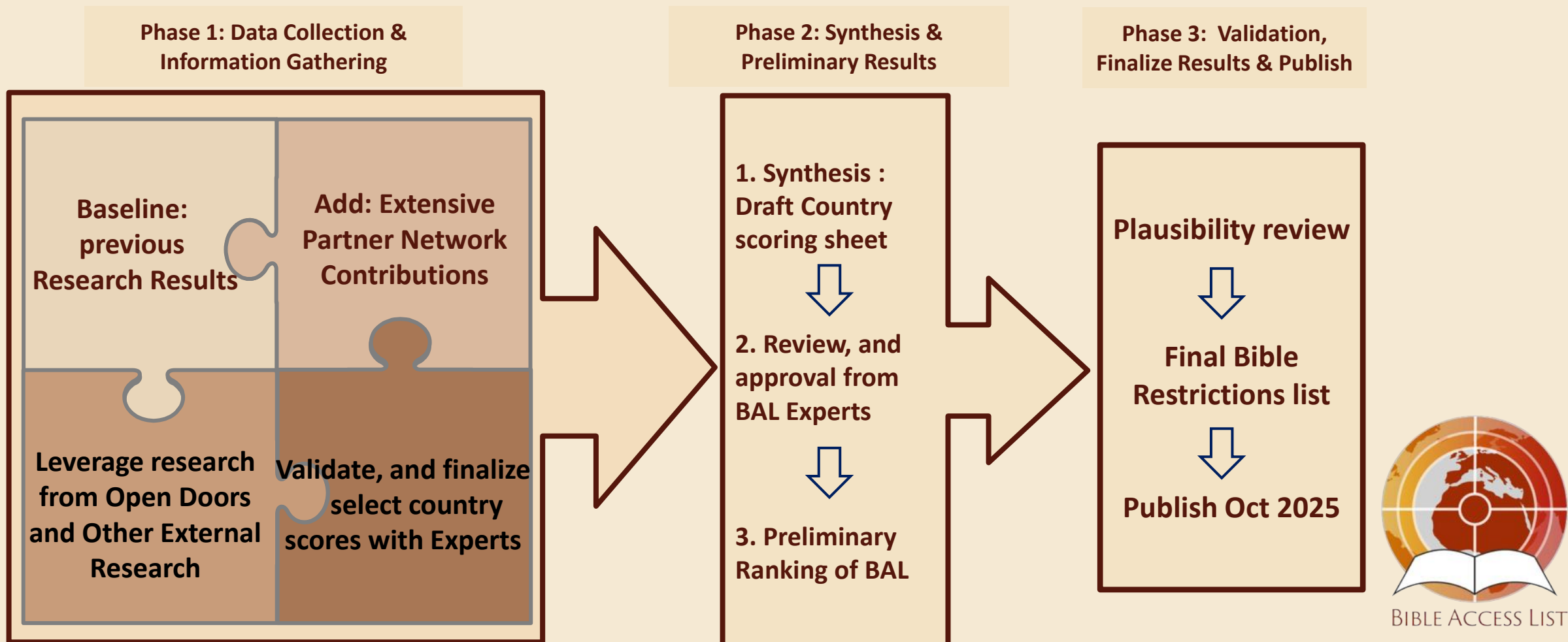
>75	Extreme Access Restrictions
>=65	Severe Access Restrictions
>=55	Considerable Access Restrictions
>=45	Some Access Restrictions
<45	Minimal Access Restrictions
0	No Access Restrictions



BIBLE ACCESS LIST

# Bible Restrictions list – framework for putting it all together(data & discernment)

- Block 1 and Block 2 indicators are part of a broader framework to establish the Bible Restrictions list.
- The framework is designed through rigorous methodologies and comprehensive evaluations to ensure a product meets high-quality standards and is verifiable and defensible.





# Bible Access List Results- Bible Restrictions list – samples from Top 50

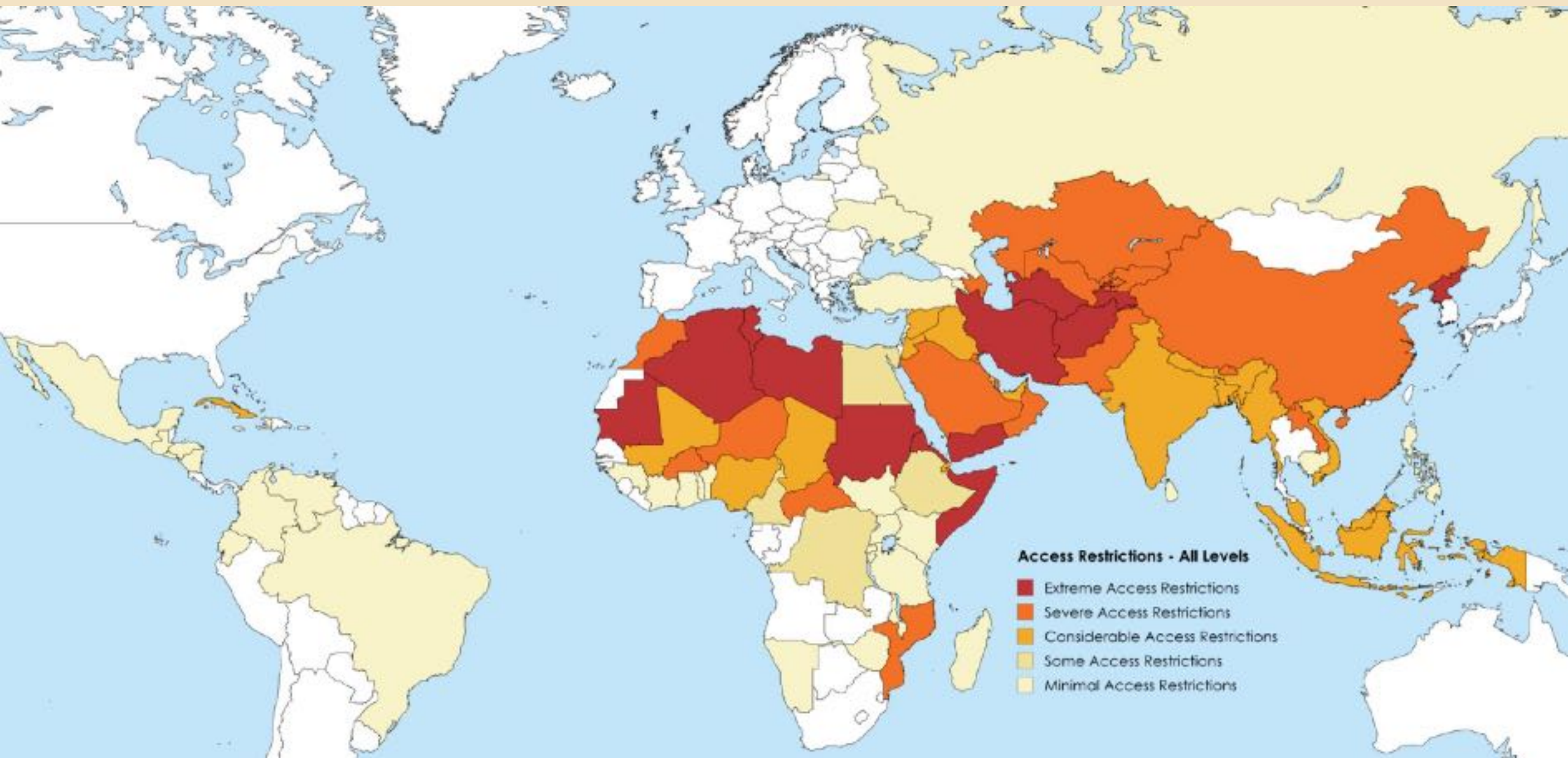
<b>BWL 2025 Access Rank</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Total Score</b>	<b>Block 1: Access Restrictions (Max: 75 points)</b>	<b>Block 2: Other Limiting Factors (Max: 25 points)</b>
<b>1</b>	Somalia	<b>94.72</b>	74.22	20.50
<b>2</b>	Afghanistan	<b>94.47</b>	74.22	20.25
<b>3</b>	Yemen	<b>91.75</b>	75.00	16.75
<b>4</b>	North Korea	<b>91.72</b>	74.22	17.50
<b>5</b>	Mauritania	<b>88.72</b>	69.22	19.50
<b>6</b>	Eritrea	<b>88.63</b>	71.88	16.75
<b>7</b>	Libya	<b>86.75</b>	75.00	11.75
<b>8</b>	Algeria	<b>83.69</b>	73.44	10.25
<b>9</b>	Iran	<b>83.47</b>	74.22	9.25
<b>10</b>	Turkmenistan	<b>81.94</b>	72.19	9.75

<b>40</b>	Cuba	<b>62.91</b>	53.91	9.00
<b>41</b>	Vietnam	<b>62.81</b>	57.81	5.00
<b>42</b>	Myanmar	<b>62.16</b>	47.66	14.50
<b>43</b>	India	<b>60.91</b>	52.66	8.25
<b>44</b>	Malaysia	<b>60.44</b>	58.44	2.00
<b>45</b>	Burkina Faso	<b>58.38</b>	34.38	24.00
<b>46</b>	Bangladesh	<b>57.94</b>	45.94	12.00
<b>47</b>	Chad	<b>57.34</b>	33.59	23.75
<b>48</b>	Jordan	<b>56.81</b>	52.81	4.00
<b>49</b>	Indonesia	<b>56.34</b>	49.84	6.50
<b>50</b>	Mali	<b>55.19</b>	35.94	19.25





# Bible Access List 2025 Results: Bible Restrictions list





# Bible Access List 2025 Results: Bible Restrictions list

## *Access Restrictions for Individual Indicators*

### Block 1: Access Restriction (Max. 75 points)



- Restrictions to *freely IMPORT* Bibles *in any quantity*



- Restrictions to *freely PRINT* Bibles *in any quantity*



- Restrictions to *freely STORE* Bibles *in any quantity*



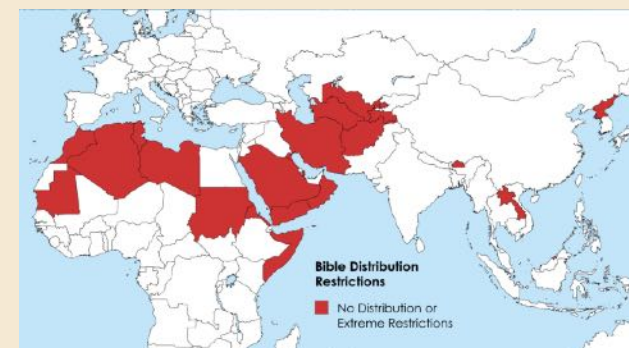
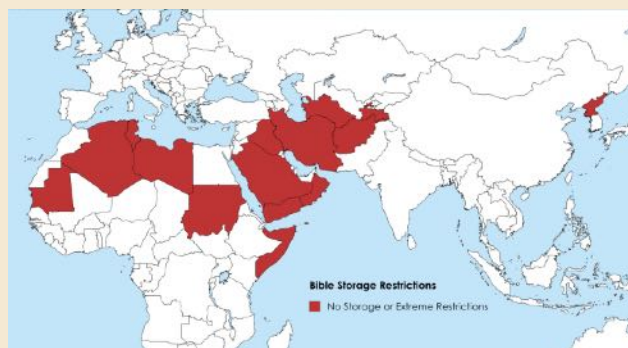
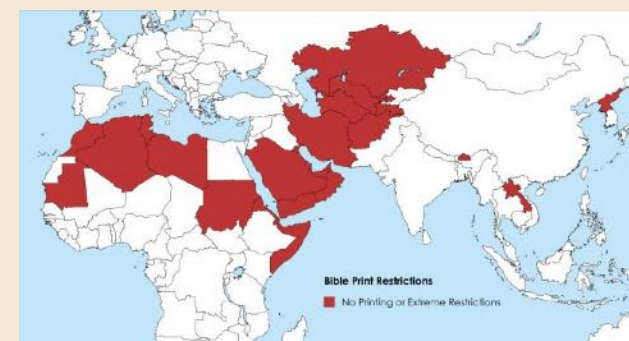
- Restrictions to *freely OWN* Bibles *in any quantity*



- Restrictions to *freely DISTRIBUTE* Bibles *in any quantity*

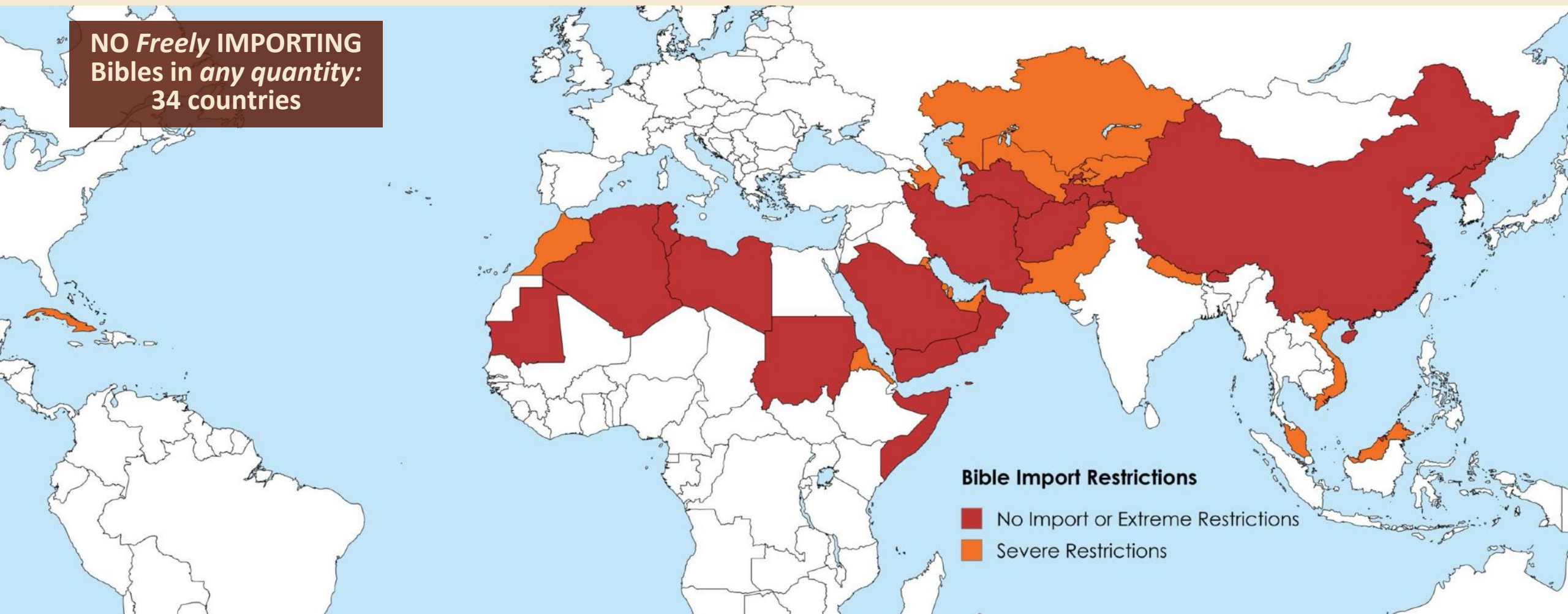


- **INTERNET SAFETY:** safe to access the Bible online and is the gov't monitoring internet access



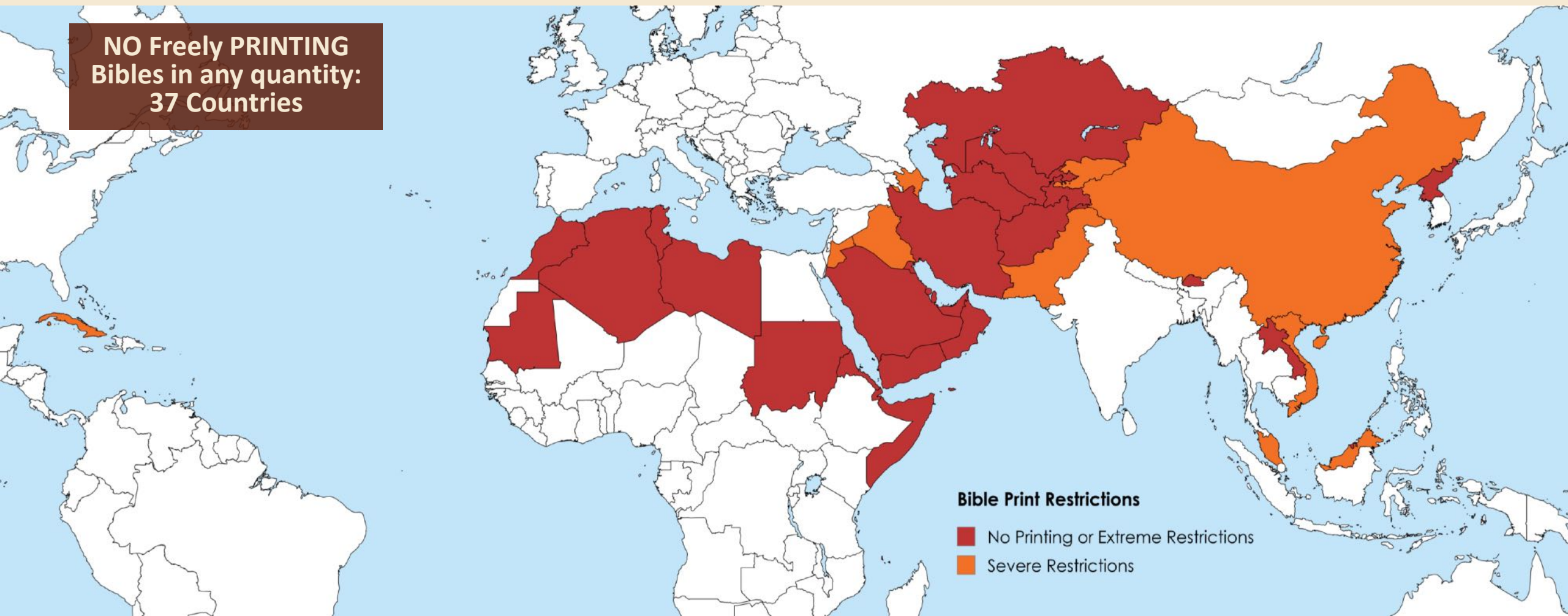


**NO *Freely* IMPORTING  
Bibles in *any quantity*:  
34 countries**



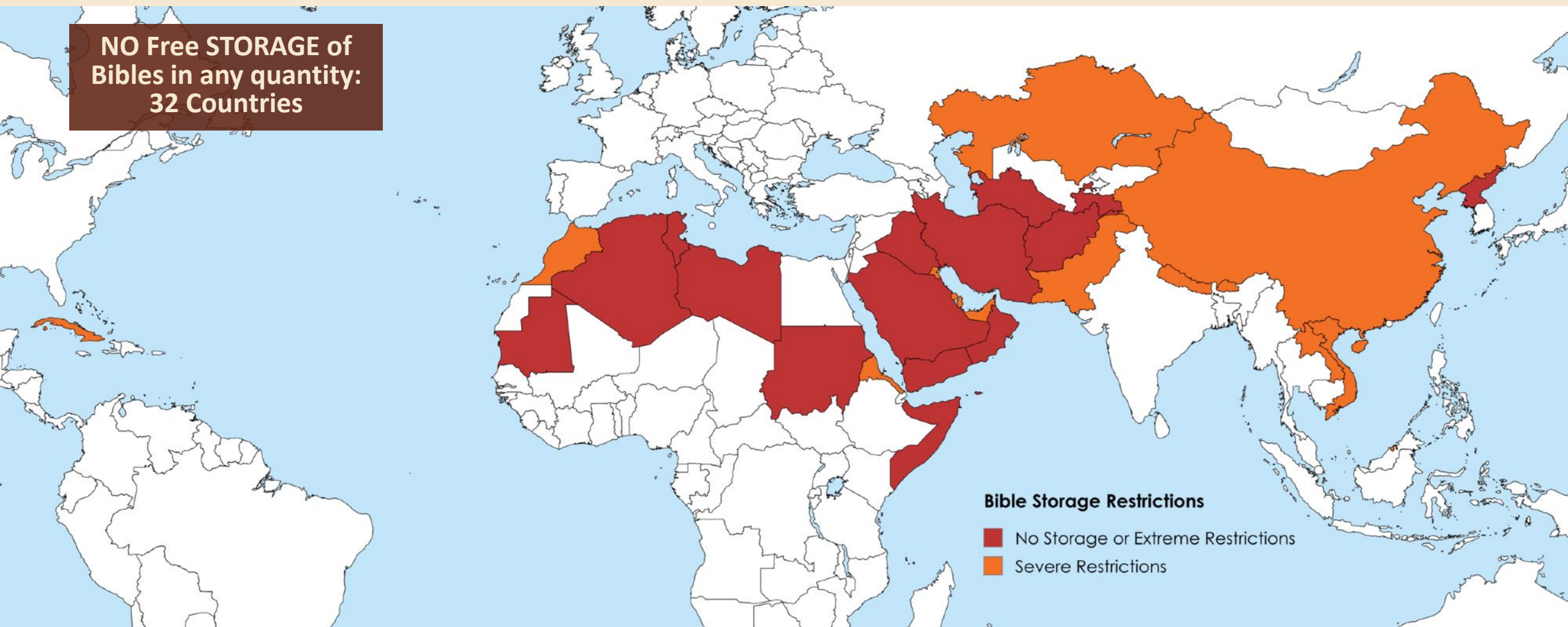
BIBLE ACCESS LIST

**NO Freely PRINTING  
Bibles in any quantity:  
37 Countries**





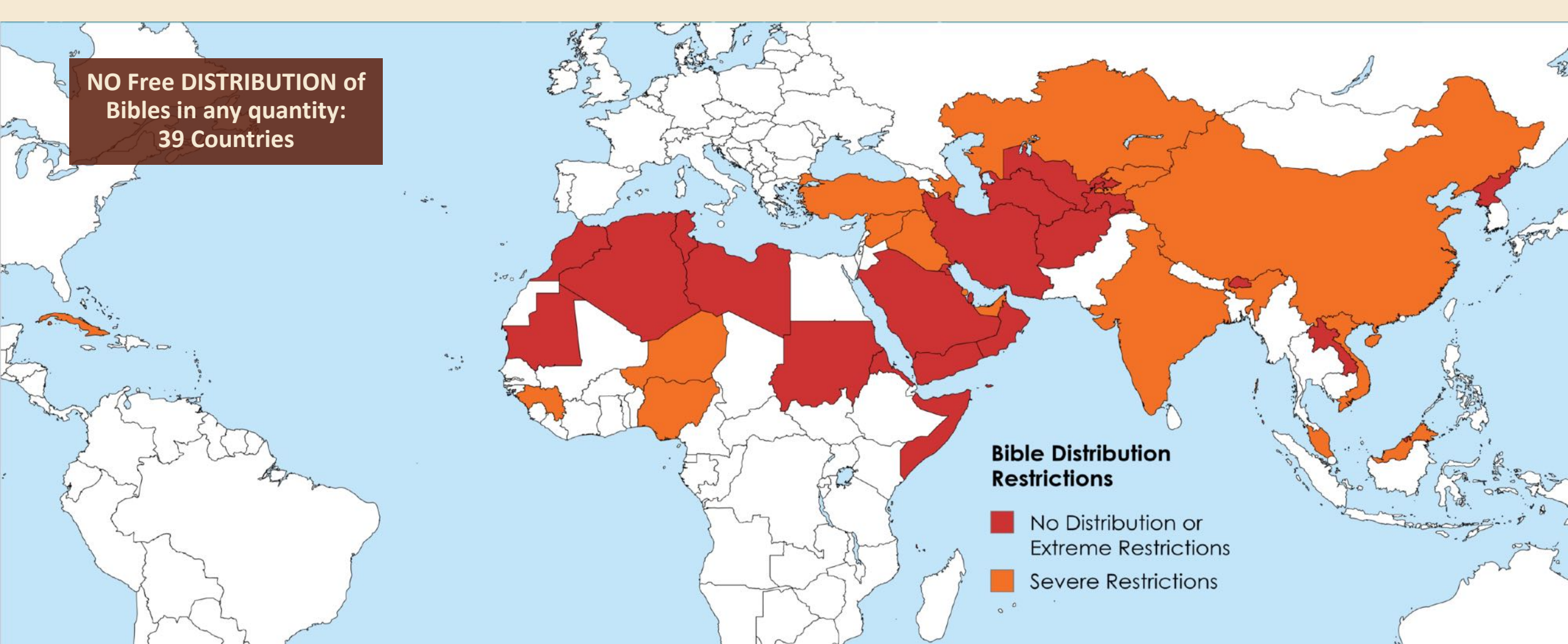
**NO Free STORAGE of  
Bibles in any quantity:  
32 Countries**



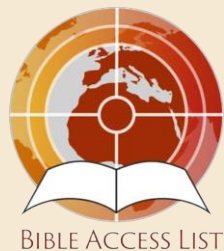
BIBLE ACCESS LIST



**NO Free DISTRIBUTION of  
Bibles in any quantity:  
39 Countries**

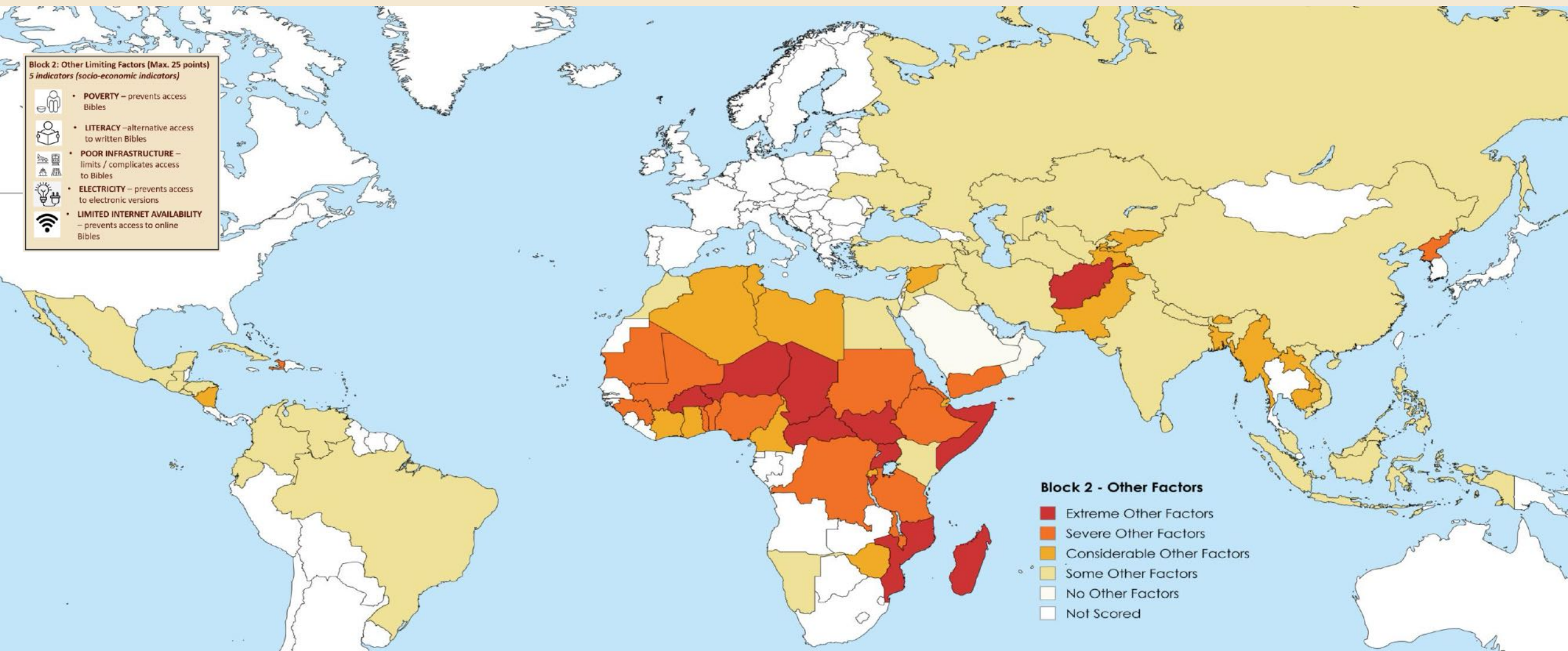


BIBLE ACCESS LIST



# Bible Access List 2025 Results: Bible Restrictions list

## *Block 2 Other Limiting Factors*







# Bible Access List 2025 Results: Bible Restrictions list

## *Issue-Based Clusters*

### *Similar patterns of access and restrictions challenges*

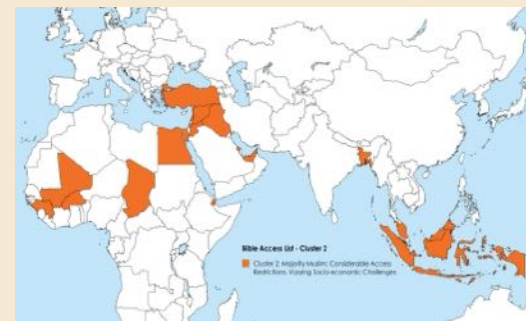
Cluster 1 Muslim Majority

Cluster 2 Muslim Majority

Cluster 3 Other Religion Majority

Cluster 4 Christian Majority

Cluster 5 Christian Majority

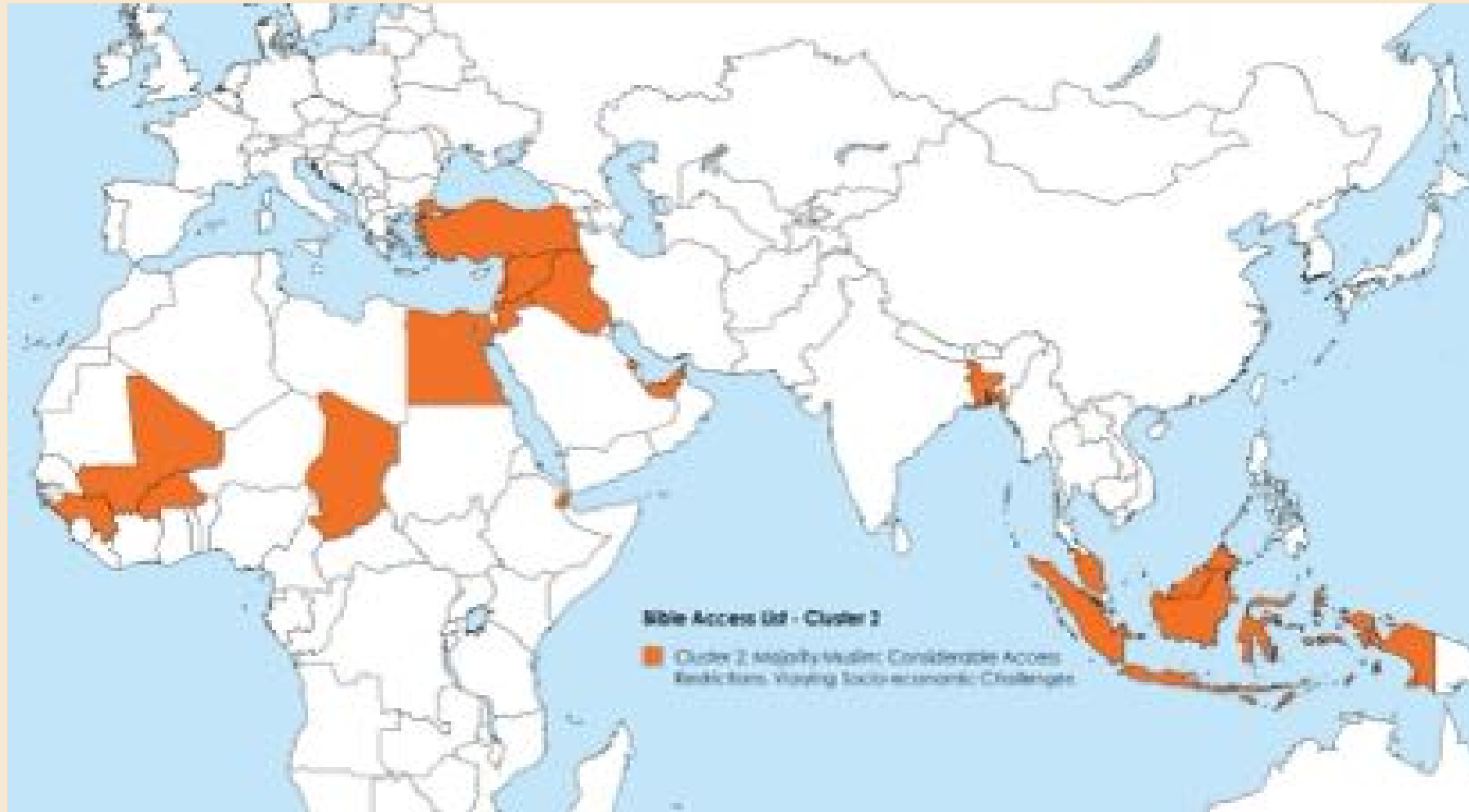




# Cluster 1: Majority Muslim, Extreme or Severe Access Restrictions and Varying Levels of Socio-Economic Challenges



## Cluster 2: Majority Muslim, Considerable Access Restrictions and Varying Levels of Socio-Economic Challenges



## Cluster 3: Other Majority Religion, Varying Access Restrictions and Varying Levels of Socio-Economic Challenges



## Cluster 4: Majority Christian, Varying levels of Access Restrictions and Extreme or Severe Levels of Socio-Economic Challenges





## Cluster 5: Majority Christian, Some or Minimal Access Restrictions and Some Socio-Economic Challenges





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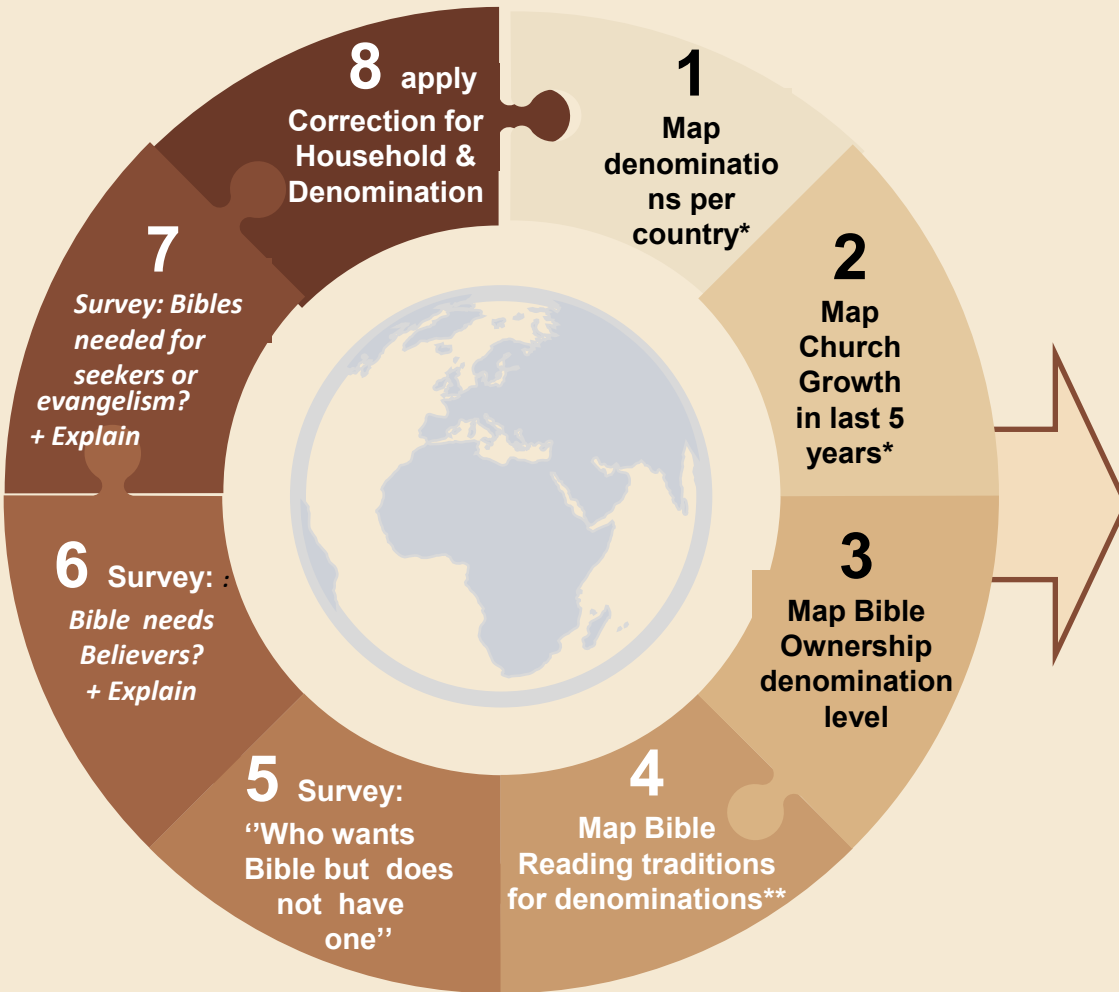
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BIBLE ACCESS LIST

# Bible Shortage list – Approach and Results

## Phase 1: Data Collection & Information Gathering



## Phase 2: Synthesis & Preliminary Results

1. Draft Bible Ownership & Needs overview



2. Review, approval from BAL Experts



3. Preliminary Ranking of BAL

## Phase 3: Validation, Finalize Results & Publish

Plausibility review



Final Bible Shortage Ranking List



Publish Oct 2025



BIBLE ACCESS LIST

\* #1 and #2 → source from World Christian Database

\*\* #3- #7 → BWL Surveys ; #8 – UN databank on World Population



# Bible Watch List - SHORTAGE for Believers – *SAMPLES*

Preliminary Shortage Rank	Country	Christian Population	Bible Ownership Estimate Individual Believers	Preliminary Estimate Bible Shortage
1	Congo DR	100,566,000	21-35%	>10 million
2	Nigeria	106,608,000	51-70%	>10 million
3	Ethiopia	77,509,000	21-35%	>10 million
4	India	73,233,000	51-70%	>10 million
5	China	121,448,000	51-70%	5 - 10 million
6	Kenya	44,852,000	21-35%	5 - 10 million
7	Tanzania	38,397,000	21-35%	5 - 10 million
8	Mozambique	19,973,000	51-70%	3 - 5 million
9	Indonesia	36,608,000	21-35%	3 - 5 million
10	Madagascar	18,189,000	21-35%	1 - 3 million

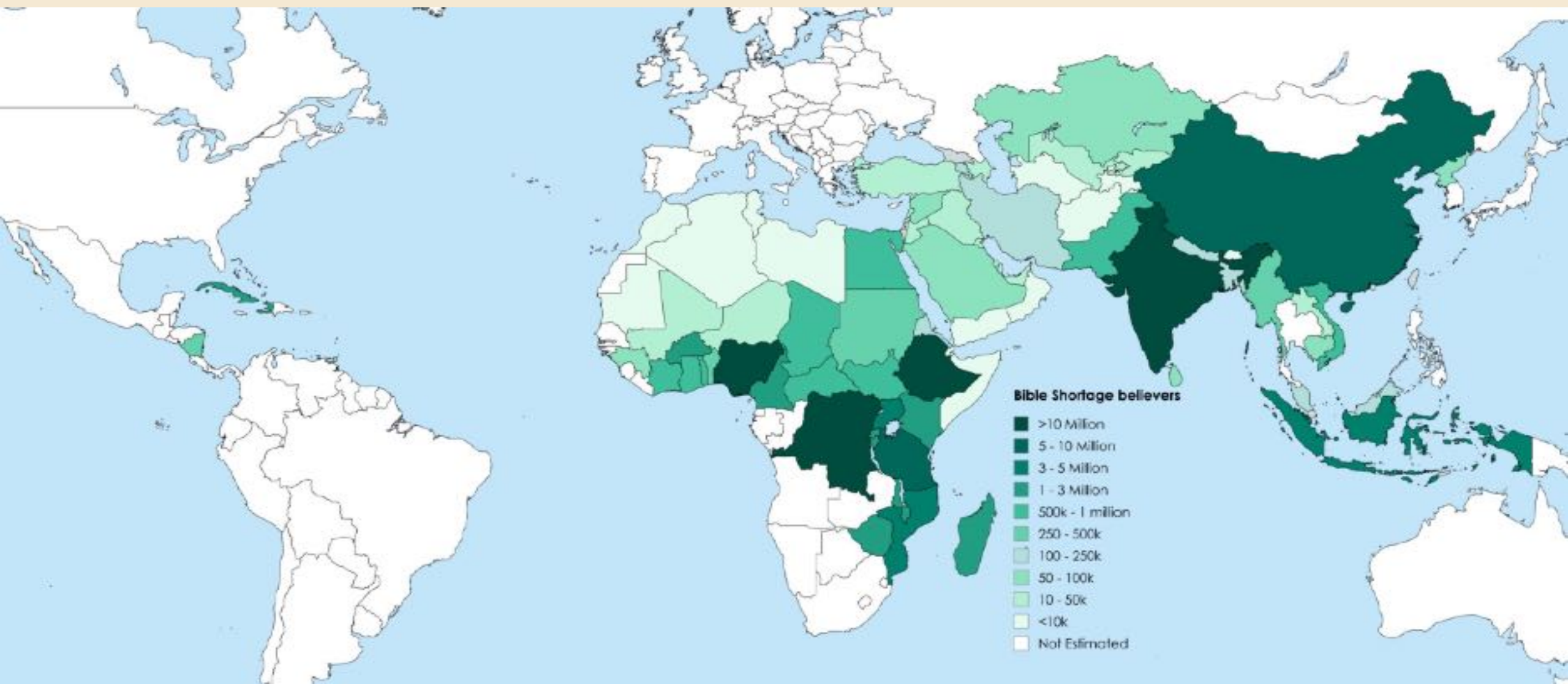
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35	Nepal	1,678,000	51-70%	100 - 250k
36	Bangladesh	1,118,000	51-70%	100 - 250k
37	Eritrea	1,687,000	71-90%	100 - 250k
38	Malaysia	3,449,000	51-70%	100 - 250k
39	Iran	953,000	21-35%	100 - 250k
40	Lebanon	1,888,000	51-70%	100 - 250k
41	Sri Lanka	2,162,000	36-50%	50 - 100k
42	Saudi Arabia	2,274,000	21-35%	50 - 100k
43	Syria	770,000	51-70%	50 - 100k
44	Cambodia	483,000	71-90%	50 - 100k
45	Guinea	506,000	71-90%	50 - 100k
46	Kuwait	629,000	51-70%	50 - 100k
47	North Korea	107,000	21-35%	50 - 100k
48	Mali	542,000	36-50%	25 - 50k
49	Qatar	381,000	36-50%	25 - 50k
50	Türkiye	257,000	21-35%	25 - 50k

Preliminary Shortage Rank	Country	Christian Population	Bible Ownership Estimate Individual Believers	Preliminary Estimate Bible Shortage
60	Turkmenistan	164,000	36-50%	<10k
61	Algeria	171,000	21-35%	<10k
62	Bhutan	18,800	51-70%	<10k
63	Oman	187,000	71-90%	<10k
64	Brunei	55,600	71-90%	<10k
65	Libya	35,500	36-50%	<10k
66	Tajikistan	62,600	51-70%	<10k
67	Palestine	42,600	51-70%	<10k
68	Tunisia	23,300	21-35%	<10k





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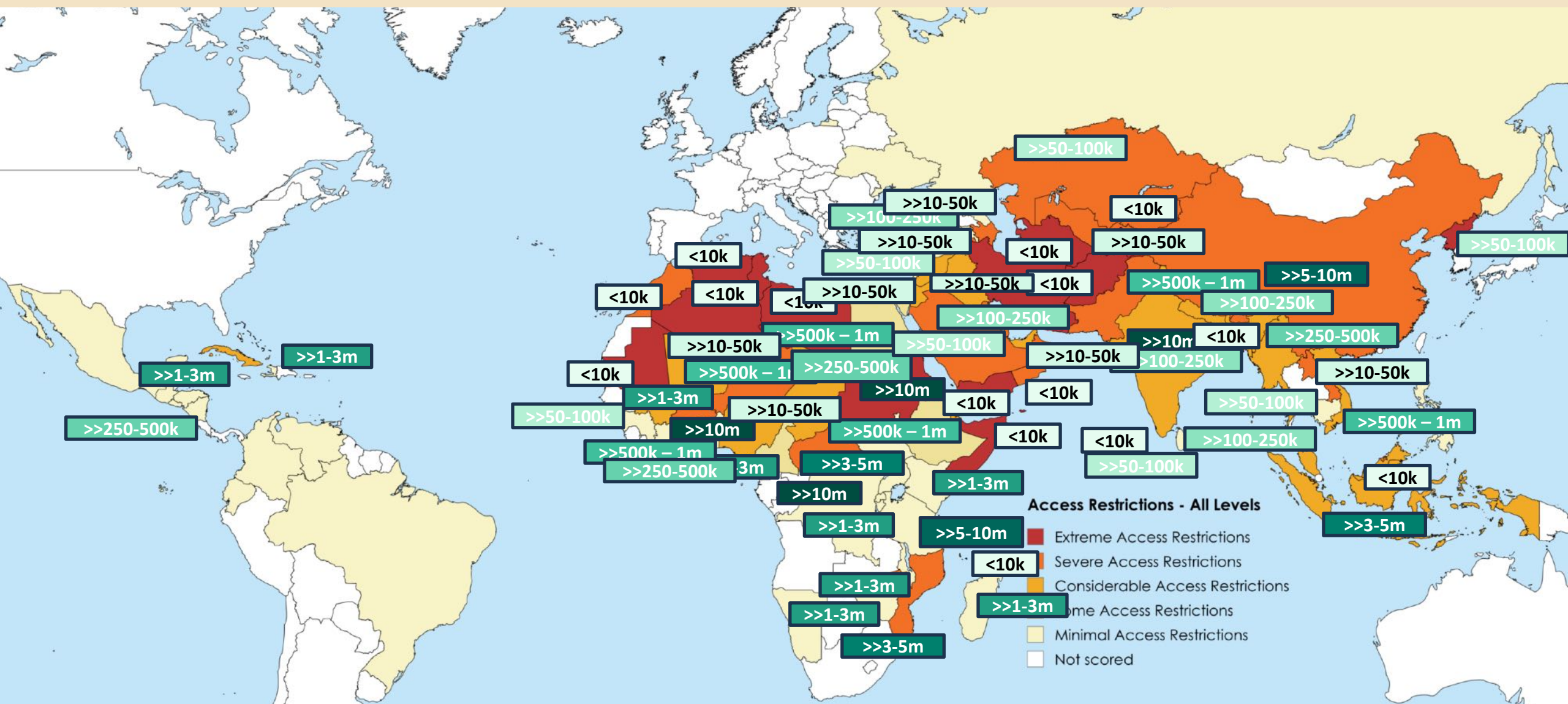
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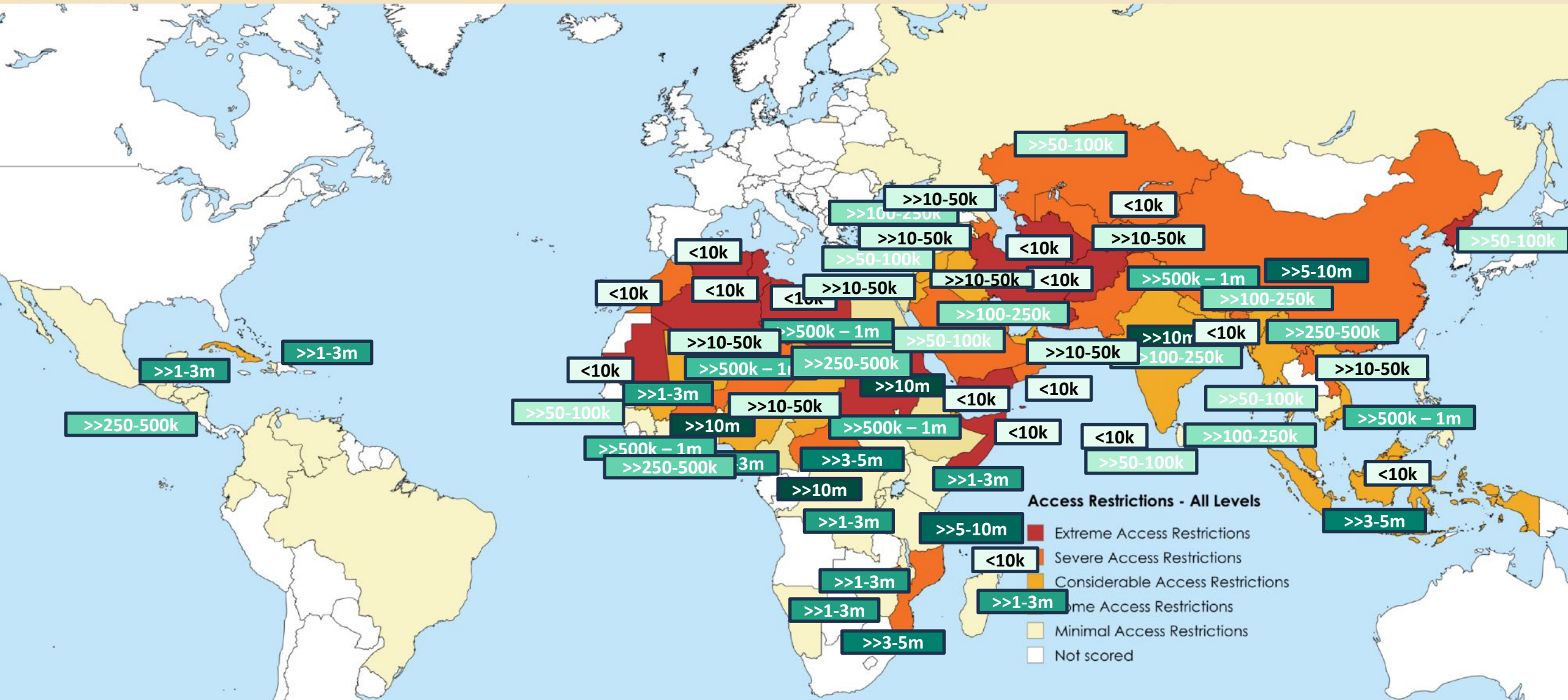
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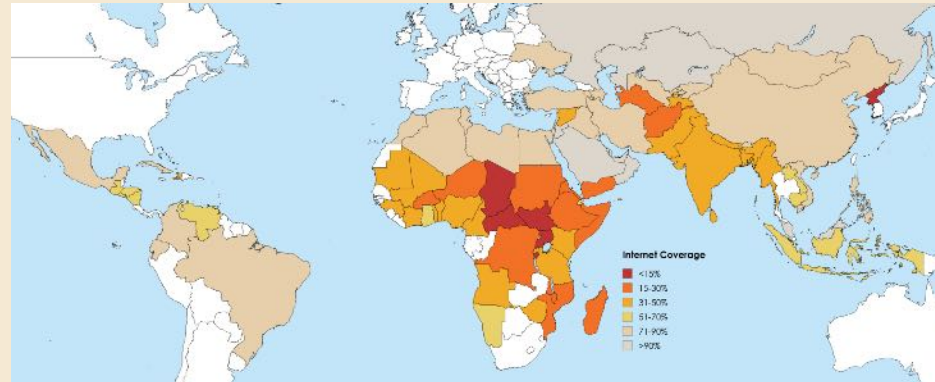




# Bible Access List 2025 Results: *Internet Safety and Availability*

Is it safe to access  
the Bible using the  
internet?

What % of the  
population has  
internet access?





# Is it safe to access the Bible using the Internet?

## Unsafe: 12 countries

*Algeria, Libya, Eritrea, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan, China, Yemen, NK, Maldives, Turkmenistan*

**126 million Believers**

**>8 million Bible Shortage**

## Somewhat safe: 6 countries

*Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Kazakhstan, Bahrain, Kuwait*

**6 million Believers**

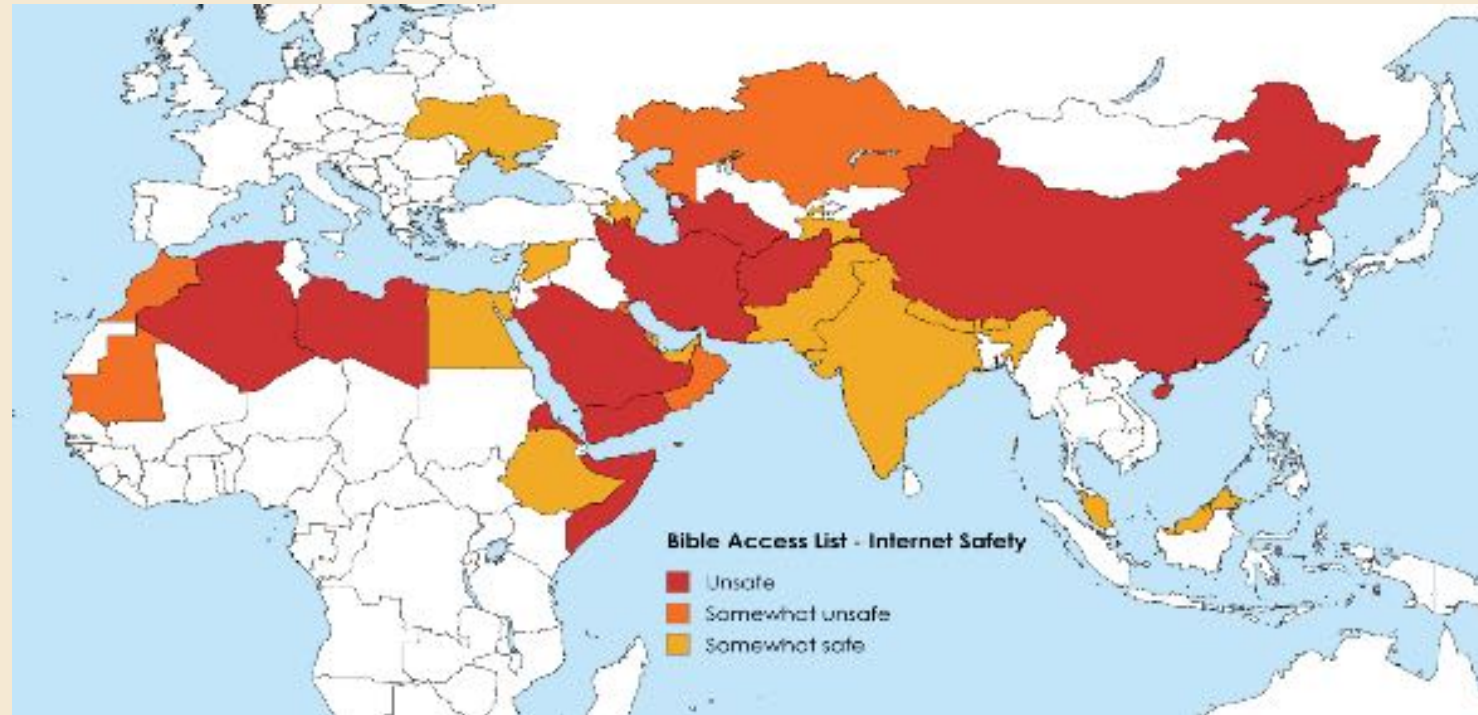
**> 150k Bible Shortage**

## Somewhat unsafe: 14 countries

*Tajikistan, Bhutan, Pakistan, Brunei, Azerbaijan, Qatar, Syria, Nepal, India, UAE, Malaysia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ukraine*

**173 million Believers**

**> 22 million Bible Shortage**

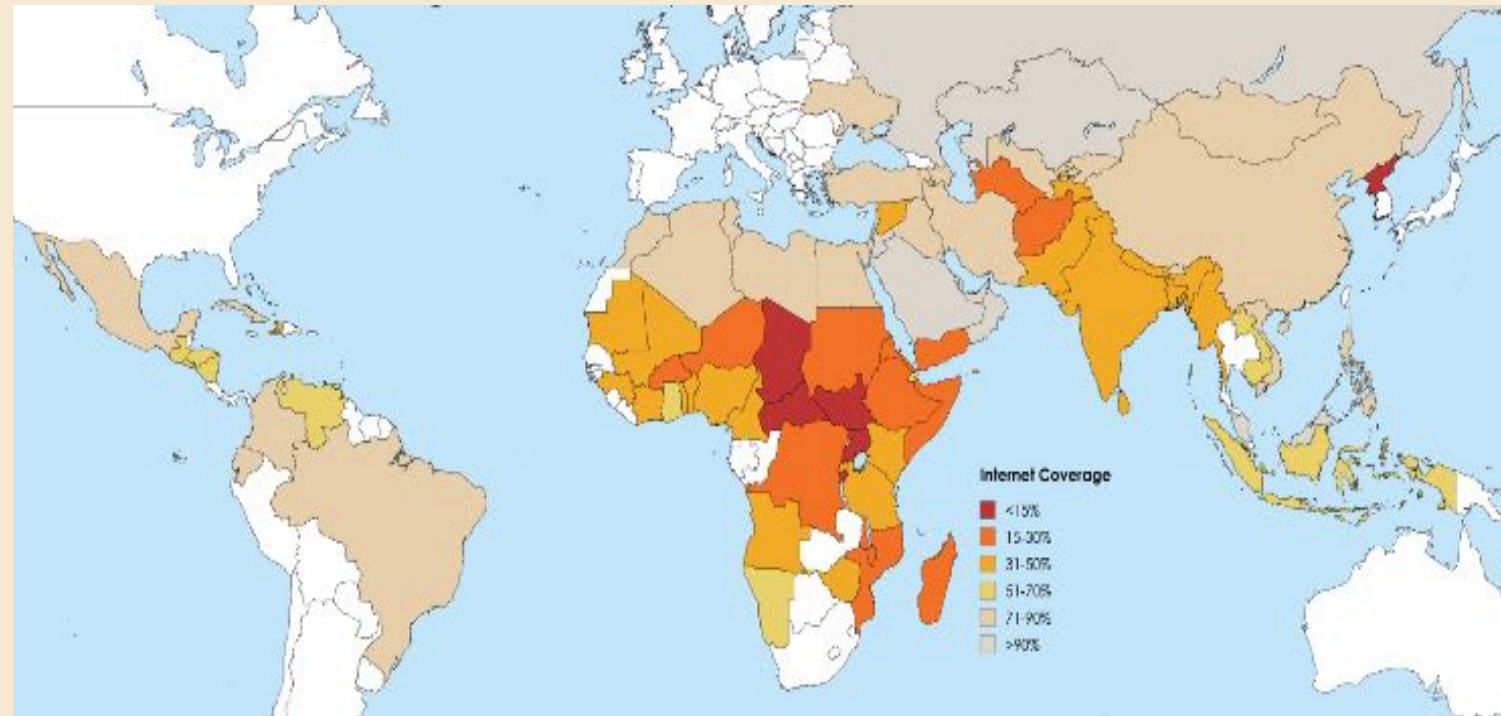


# What % of the Population has Access to the Internet

**<15% coverage: 6 countries**  
**72 million Believers**  
**>8.5 million Bible Shortage**

**15-30% coverage: 14 countries**  
**243 million Believers**  
**> 30 million Bible Shortage**

**31-50% coverage: 21 countries**  
**356 million Believers**  
**> 41 million Bible Shortage**





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Restrictions imposed by Governments, extremist or other actors (e.g. banning Bible printing, distribution, ownership)



**Block 2**  
(25% weight)  
Socio-economic barriers (e.g. poverty, poor infrastructure, low literacy)



### Bible Shortage list

Estimated number of Christians desiring a Bible but don't have one. Results expressed in ranges

## METHODOLOGY AND DATA SOURCES

### Primary data



Global surveys  
Expert interviews  
Field observations

### Secondary data



World Christian Database  
Open Doors' World Watch List  
World Bank Indicators  
Bible Translation Repositories

## KEY OUTPUTS

### Bible Restrictions List



A ranked scored list based on access restrictions



### Bible Shortage List

A ranked scored list where the shortage among the Christians is the greatest



### Country Profiles

Narrative and visual summaries of Bible access realities and prayer needs

# Overview

- Stories from the Bible
- Common Myths about Bible Access
- Bible Restrictions: indicators, scoring, results
- Bible Shortage: approach and results
- Combining Restrictions and Shortage – a global challenge!
- **Common Myths about Bible Access: debunked!**
- A call to action & Your Toolkit



BIBLE ACCESS LIST





# BIBLE ACCESS LIST 2025

A 2025 assessment in 88 countries identifying where Bible access is most difficult and shortages among Christians are greatest

## MISSION STATEMENT



To provide a reliable, global view of Bible Restrictions and Shortages to inform the fulfillment of the Great Commission

## CORE ASSESSMENTS

### Bible Restrictions list



**Block 1**  
(75% weight)  
Restrictions imposed by Governments, extremist or other actors (e.g. banning Bible printing, distribution, ownership)



**Block 2**  
(25% weight)  
Socio-economic barriers (e.g. poverty, poor infrastructure, low literacy)



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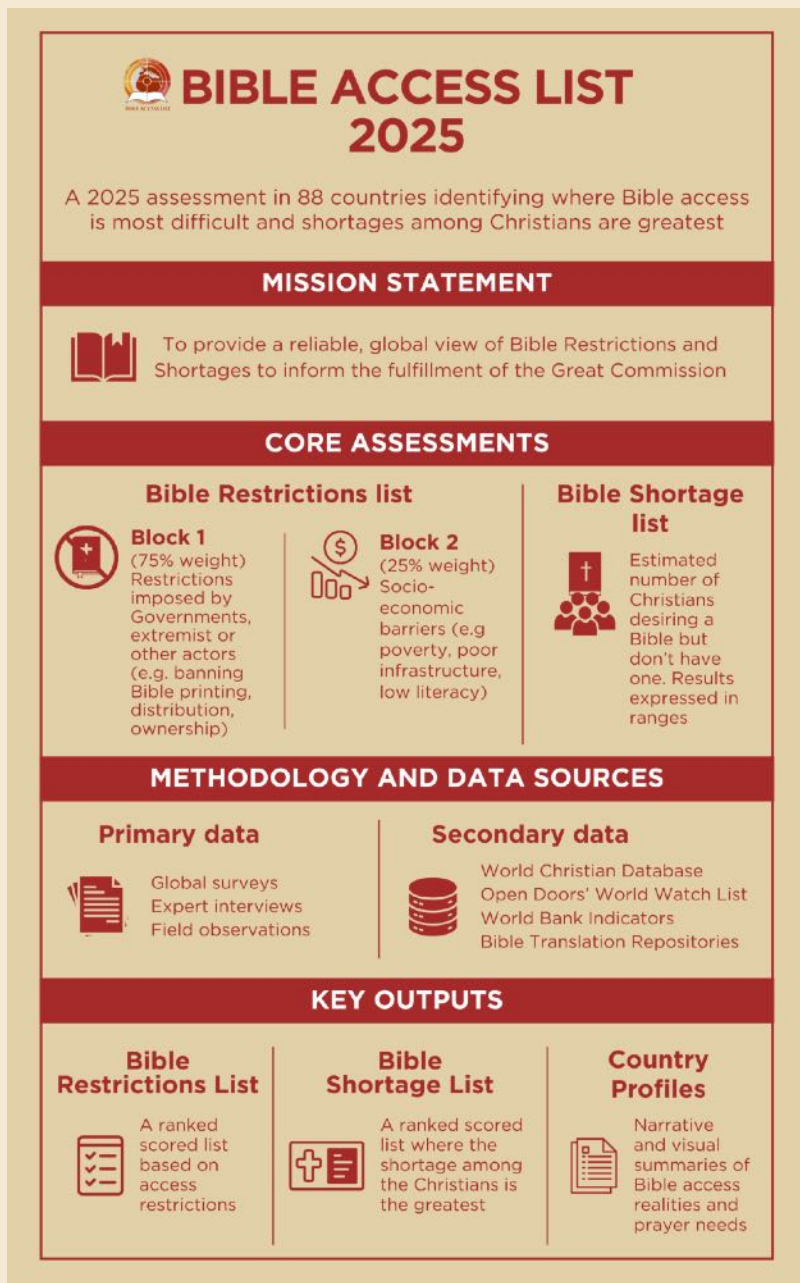
### Country Profiles



Narrative and visual summaries of Bible access realities and prayer needs

# Myths about Bible Access – Debunked!

1. Bible import, printing, ownership and distribution are restricted or not possible in many countries  
Poverty, especially in rural areas, prohibits Bible access
2. Limited internet and smart phone access in rural, poor communities  
Security and privacy concern in numerous countries
3. Severe penalties for Bible ownership part parts of the population in numerous countries. Religious extremists prohibit safe Bible access in many countries
4. Both are part of the solution, but not sufficient  
No, audio Bible are also needed for many who are illiterate







# Overview

- Stories from the Bible
- Common Myths about Bible Access
- Bible Restrictions: indicators, scoring, results
- Bible Shortage: approach and results
- Combining Restrictions and Shortage – a global challenge!
- Common Myths about Bible Access: debunked!
- **A call to action & Your Toolkit**
  - Biblical Context and Today's Context
  - Country Profiles
  - Partners



# Bible Access Restrictions and Shortage: Stories from the Bible & Stories from Today!

<p><b>KING JOSIAH AND THE REDISCOVERY OF THE LAW</b> (2 Kings 22-23)</p>  <p>When the Book of the Law was found, it was first read to Josiah, ignited action leading to revival and reformation.</p>	<p><b>EZRA READS THE LAW TO THE PEOPLE</b> (Nehemiah 8)</p>  <p>Ezra read the Law to returned exiles. Their response of worship and repentance resulted in a broken community rebuilt.</p>	<p><b>PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH</b> (Acts 8:26-40)</p>  <p>Philip explained the scripture from Isaiah, leading to salvation and expansion of the gospel.</p>	<p><b>JEHOSHAPHAT SENDS THE LEVITES</b> (2 Chronicles 17:7-10)</p>  <p>When Jehoshaphat sent Levites to proclaim the Word, peace reigned, and the fear of the Lord fell on surrounding</p>
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Story from  
Africa / Image

Story from  
Latin/ South  
America /  
Image

Story from Asia  
/ Image

Story from  
Central Asia/  
Middle East /  
Image

**The Word that Precedes the Move:  
Act Now!**





## Burkina Faso

Bible Restrictions Rank: **29**  
**SEVERE ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**  
Bible Sharepoint Rank: **18**  
Bible needs estimate between one and three million



### An Overview of Bible access in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso's Christian population comprises nearly 6.2 million believers, around 26% of the national population of almost 24 million people. Yet, despite this sizable community, Bible access remains a significant challenge due to considerable restrictions. Estimates suggest that barely 1 of 5 Christians have direct access to the Word of God, underscoring a pressing need across the nation.

While importing Bibles into the country remains possible—primarily through the capital, Ouagadougou—this alone does not guarantee distribution. Almost half of the country is impacted by the terror and violence of jihadist groups such as JNIM, ISWAP, and Ansarul Islam. In these regions, it is dangerous to own, store, or distribute Bibles. Approximately half of the Christian population of Burkina Faso live in these regions and face life-threatening risks for even possessing Scripture. Reports have documented cases of churches being burned down with Bibles destroyed, congregations attacked during worship, and believers displaced en masse due to their faith.

The security situation has dramatically worsened in recent years. Since 2016, Burkina Faso has been gripped by a devastating insurgency. More than 2 million people are internally displaced, and militant jihadist groups have exerted influence and terror in significant portions of the north, east, and increasingly, the central corridor of the country. In these areas, distributing or even visibly owning a Bible could provoke abduction, assault, or worse.

Though there is no official government restriction on owning Christian literature, the volatility of these regions makes safe Bible delivery nearly impossible. Furthermore, Christians in these areas face additional pressures, not only from the violence but also from their own families and communities. Many believers or MBAs often hide their faith to avoid forced conversion or physical violence.

Beyond the security threats, weak infrastructure and institutional limitations deepen the crisis. In rural areas, where only around 20% of the population has access to electricity, conditions severely limit the effectiveness of digital or online Scripture distribution.

Before we continue, would you take a pause to pray for Burkina Faso?

#### How can I pray for Burkina Faso?

- Protection and Safety.** Pray for God's protection (Psalm 91) over believers, especially those in areas where owning a Bible could cost them their life. Ask the Lord to make a way for Scripture to reach them—even under the most violent circumstances.
- Peace and Freedom.** Ask God to bring an end to the violence. Pray for lasting peace across Burkina Faso so that believers can read, share, and live out the Word of God freely.
- Global Partnership and Support.** Pray for the global Church to rally in bold support—mobilizing the resources, partnerships, and innovative solutions

#### Bible Access Restrictions

##### Minimal Access Restrictions

- Import restrictions for part of the country
- Print restrictions for part of the country
- Storage restrictions for part of the country
- Ownership restrictions for part of the country
- Distribution restrictions for part of the country

##### Other Limiting Factors

##### Extreme Other Factors

- Extremely poor
- Very poor internet access
- Extremely poor infrastructure
- <50% of population access to electricity
- >20% literacy

#### Bible Shortages Among Believers

- Bible ownership very low, estimated Bible need between 1-3 million
- Impacted by armed conflicts

Main religious: Islam

Country population: 23,840,090

Christian population: 6,168,000 (26.6% of total population)

## WHAT'S BLOCKING BIBLE ACCESS IN BURKINA FASO?

### A Nation in Crisis

Bible access in Burkina Faso is severely hindered by a volatile mix of lack of security, displacement, and economic hardship. Over the past few years, jihadist groups have expanded their influence through terror, particularly in the northern and eastern regions, where violence and intimidation are widespread.

In these areas, Christians are often targeted explicitly because of their faith. Churches have been burned, believers abducted or killed, and entire communities forced to flee. According to recent reports, over 10,000 Christians were displaced for faith-related reasons in just one year.

### Daily Risks for Bible Access

In territories where jihadist are active, simply owning or reading a Bible can be a death sentence. Believers risk being monitored, abducted, or even executed. Christians are often asked to give their faith publicly, much less store or distribute Scripture. Homes and churches have been looted or destroyed, and access to Christian media, whether online or in print, is extremely limited due to security risks and fear of reprisal.

### Displacement and Infrastructure Breakdown

Waves of violence have created a humanitarian crisis. As of early 2024, more than 2 million people, nearly 10% of the population, are internally displaced, with many Christians among them. IDP camps offer little safety or spiritual resources. Infrastructure has collapsed in many regions, with over 6,000 schools and hundreds of health centers shut down due to conflict.

These closures also impact Christian schools, further obstructing Scripture access and discipleship efforts.

### Poverty and Digital Limitations

Burkina Faso is one of the world's least developed countries. Nearly 40% of the population lives below the poverty line, and most depend on subsistence farming. Bibles are unaffordable luxuries for many. Compounding the issue is the digital divide; barely 20% of the population has internet access, and Christian content online is often blocked or surveilled in hostile zones. In rural regions, there is little to no digital infrastructure to support access or Scripture use.

### Unmasking the Forces That Restrict Bible Access in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso	Persecution Index	Religious Freedom	Minority Rights	Government Corruption	Security Situation	Internet Access	Electricity Access	Population Growth	Reference
Persecution Index	High	Low	Low	High	High	Low	Low	High	See more info
Religious Freedom	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	See more info
Minority Rights	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	See more info
Government Corruption	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	See more info
Security Situation	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	See more info
Internet Access	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	See more info
Electricity Access	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	See more info
Population Growth	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	High	See more info

In Burkina Faso, multiple forces of persecution work in tandem to restrict Bible access, most notably: **Islamic Oppression, Dictatorial Persecution, Organized Corruption and Crime, and Clan Oppression.** These are driven by violent Islamic groups, ethnic leaders, government officials, and even family members. Their combined influence has created a deeply hostile environment for Christians, especially in the north and east, where violence, fear, and displacement have become a part of daily life.

The World Watch list sheds light on the broader context of persecution of Christians. But now we have to ask the question: How does this affect Bible access? Furthermore, where can we pinpoint the problem so we can address the need for Bibles in Burkina Faso?

## A CLOSER LOOK AT PERSECUTION DRIVERS

A persecution engine is simply this: the source of persecution in the country. A persecution driver (or actor) is the one "driving" the persecution. Taking a closer look at these engines and drivers, in proper context, will give us insight on how we can solve the problems of Bible access in the country.



#### A Jihadist Campaign Against Faith

Islamic oppression is the most dominant force restricting Bible access in Burkina Faso. Since 2016, jihadist groups such as Ansarul Islam, JNIM, and Islamic State Sahel Province have launched violent efforts to "Islamize" the country, often through horrific attacks specifically targeting Christians. In the past year alone:

- In Essakane (Feb 2024): Militants stormed a Catholic church during worship, killing 18.
- In Senouba (Aug 2024): 29 Christian men were tied up and their throats slit in front of others gathered for a Sunday service.

In many cases, entire Christian communities are forcibly displaced, churches are burned, and converts from Islam are ostracized or threatened with death. The use of roadblocks and checkpoints by militants often results in Christians being identified and either kidnapped or executed on the spot.

## THE URGENT NEED FOR BIBLES IN BURKINA FASO

Against the backdrop of persecution, displacement, and poverty, Bible access in Burkina Faso remains critically low. To address this, **up to 3 million Bibles** are urgently needed to meet the spiritual needs of both new and established believers across the nation. A huge task we must not ignore.

### A Growing Church, A Growing Demand

Despite the escalating violence, the Church in Burkina Faso has grown by nearly 25% over the past five years, a testament to the resilience and hunger for faith among the people. This remarkable growth adds to the urgency of supplying Bibles.

As more believers come to faith, the gap between spiritual hunger and Scripture availability continues to widen. Equipping this expanding body with the Word of God is essential for discipleship, encouragement, and endurance under persecution.

### Bible Formats for Unique Needs

**Printed Bibles** remain the most critical need in rural and areas where jihadist are active and electricity and internet access are absent. **Audio Bibles** serve an equally vital role, especially in communities with low literacy rates. For displaced Christians living in camps where printed materials are impractical.

While digital Bibles are helpful in urban centers, security concerns and low internet penetration (just under 20%) severely limit their usefulness in high-risk zones.

## THE CLARION CALL

The need for Bibles in Burkina Faso is more than a matter of logistics; it is a spiritual emergency. In a country where believers are hunted, displaced, and often left to worship in hiding, the Word of God is a lifeline. It brings hope to the persecuted, guidance to the displaced, and strength to the growing Church.

Now is the time for the global Church to respond—with compassion, generosity, and urgency. By investing in Scripture translation, prioritizing print and audio Bible formats, and supporting innovative and safe distribution methods, we can meet this critical need.

Let us stand with our brothers and sisters in Burkina Faso and ensure that every believer—no matter how remote or oppressed—has access to the life-giving truth of God's Word.



## Country Profile – 4 pages:



BIBLE ACCESS LIST



# Burkina Faso



Bible Restrictions Rank: **29**  
**SEVERE ACCESS RESTRICTIONS**

Bible Shortage Rank: **18**  
Bible needs estimate between  
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## An Overview of Bible access in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso's Christian population comprises nearly 6.2 million believers, around 26% of the total population of almost 24 million people. Yet, despite this sizable minority, Bible access remains a significant challenge due to severe restrictions. Estimates suggest that barely 1 of 5 Christians has access to the Word of God, underscoring a pressing need for action.

While importing Bibles into the country remains possible—primarily through the capital, Ouagadougou—this alone does not guarantee distribution. Much of the country is impacted by the terror and violence of jihadist groups such as JNIM, ISWAP, Boko Haram, and others. In these regions, it is dangerous to own, store, or distribute Bibles. Approximately 10% of the Christian population of Burkina Faso lives in these regions. In these regions, believers are often possessing Scripture. Reports of Bibles being buried down with believers, and believers being buried down with Bibles, are not uncommon.

The security situation in Burkina Faso has dramatically worsened in recent years. Since 2015, Burkina Faso has been gripped by a devastating insurgency. More than 2 million people have been internally displaced, and militant jihadist groups now exert their influence in significant portions of the north, east, and increasing portions of the central corridor of the country. In these areas, distributing or even owning a Bible could provoke abduction, assault, or worse.

Though there is no government restriction on owning Christian literature, the violence in these regions makes safe Bible delivery nearly impossible. Furthermore, Christians from a Muslim background face added pressure from militant groups but also from their own families and communities. Muslim Background believers or MBBs often hide their faith to avoid marriage, ostracism, or physical violence.

Beyond the security issues, widespread poverty and infrastructural limitations deeply impact Bible access. Roughly 80% of the population practices subsistence agriculture, earns at barely 50%, and only around 20% of the population has access to the internet. These conditions severely limit the effectiveness of digital, or even printed, Bible distribution.

Before we continue, would you take a pause to pray for Burkina Faso?

### How can I pray for Burkina Faso?

- **Protection and Safety.** Pray for God's protection (Psalm 91) over believers, especially those in areas where owning a Bible could cost them their life. Ask the Lord to make a way for Scripture to reach them—even under the radar of violent actors.
- **Peace and Freedom.** Ask God to bring an end to the violence. Pray for lasting peace across Burkina Faso so that believers can read, share, and live out the Word of God freely.
- **Global Partnerships and Support.** Pray for the global Church to rally in bold support—mobilizing the resources, partnerships, and innovative solutions needed to deliver Bibles into dangerous and hard-to-reach areas.

After praying for Burkina Faso, continue reading on the next page to learn more.

### Bible Access Restrictions

#### Minimal Access Restrictions

- Import restrictions for part of the country
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Main religion: Islam

Country population: 23,640,000

Christian populations:

6,168,000, 26.88% of total population

World Watch List: #20

## Country Profile – 4 pages:

### First page

- Overview of Bible Restrictions and Key Infographics
- Invitation to Pause and Pray



BIBLE ACCESS LIST

# WHAT'S BLOCKING BIBLE ACCESS IN BURKINA FASO?

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In these areas, Christians are often targeted explicitly because of their faith. Churches have been burned, believers abducted or killed, and entire communities forced to flee. According to recent reports, over 10,000 Christians were displaced for faith-related reasons in just one year.

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In territories where jihadist are active, simply owning or reading a Bible can be a death sentence. Believers risk being monitored, abducted, or even executed. Christians are often afraid to express their faith publicly, much less store or distribute Scripture. Homes and churches have been looted or destroyed, and access to Christian media, whether online or in print, is extremely limited due to security risks and fear of reprisal.

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Burkina Faso is one of the world's least developed countries. Nearly 40% of the population lives below the poverty line, and most depend on subsistence farming. Bibles are unaffordable luxuries for many. Compounding the issue is the digital divide, barely 20% of the population has internet access, and Christian content online is often blocked or surveilled in hostile zones. In rural regions, there is little to no digital infrastructure to support access Scripture online.

## Country Profile – 4 pages:

### First page

- **Overview of Bible Restrictions and Key Infographics**
- **Invitation to Pause and Pray**

### Succeeding pages

- **What is Blocking Bible Access: Nation in Crisis, Daily Risks, Displacement, Poverty**



## Unmasking the Forces That Restrict Bible Access in Burkina Faso



In Burkina Faso, multiple forces of persecution work in tandem to restrict Bible access, most notably: **Islamic Oppression, Dictatorial Paranoia, Organized Corruption and Crime, and Clan Oppression.** These are driven by violent Islamic groups, ethnic leaders, government officials, and even family members. Their combined influence has created a deeply hostile environment for Christians, especially in the north and east, where violence, fear, and displacement have become a part of daily life.

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## THE URGENT NEED FOR BIBLES IN BURKINA FASO

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**Printed Bibles** remain the most critical format, especially in rural and areas where jihadist are active and electricity and internet access are unreliable or nonexistent. **Audio Bibles** serve an equally vital role, especially in communities with low literacy rates or for displaced Christians living in camps where printed materials are impractical.

While digital Bibles are helpful in urban centers, security concerns and low internet penetration (just under 20%) severely limit their usefulness in high-risk zones.

## THE CLARION CALL

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Let us stand with our brothers and sisters in Burkina Faso and ensure that every believer—no matter how remote or oppressed—has access to the life-giving truth of God's Word.



4.8%  
Annual Church  
Growth



Bibles needed for both  
**Believers  
& Seekers**



**1-3 million**  
Bible needs estimate



**Printed  
Bible**  
Preferred Format



**Audio  
Bible**  
Format End Priority

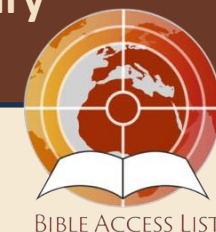
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### Succeeding pages

- What is Blocking Bible Access: Nation in Crisis, Daily Risks, Displacement, Poverty
- Unmasking the forces that restrict Bible access: persecution engines
- The urgent needs for Bibles
- The Clarion call and Summary



# Bible Access Initiative Collaborative

## BAL Founding Members



## BAL 2025 Steering Partners



## BAL 2025 Contributing & Supporting Partners



## Steering Partners:

- Strategic direction, complete surveys, provide expert advise on select countries, fully participate in working groups for ranking and launch; multiyear financial contributions

## Supporting and Contributing Partners:

- complete surveys for BAL countries, ad hoc provide expert advise on strategy and select countries, other levels of financial support



# A call to action & Your toolkit

## Learn More & Inform Others

### *Understand the need.*

Dive into the **Country Profiles** to see the realities in each of the 88 countries.

Reflect **Biblical examples** of transformation through God's Word – Josiah, Ezra, Jehoshaphat, and others.

Read **real stories from 2025** showing how Bible access is still urgent and impactful.

Use these resources in youth groups, churches, schools, or leadership teams.

Help dispel the myths of Bible Access and that the time for Bible distribution is now!

## Take Action

### *Respond personally and mobilize others.*

Pray – individually and as a group – using the Country Profiles.

Share what you've learned with your church, mission board, or prayer network.

Use the findings to create or inform the Bible distribution strategy and local/ global planning

Mobilize your community to become advocates for Bible access.

Where and How is God calling you to be part of the answer?

## Partner With Us

### *Help us go further in 2026.*

Join us in preparing for BAL 2026 – expanding to more countries and more data.

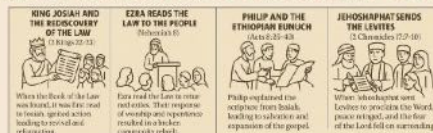
Offer your expertise about a country or topic, especially if you have insight or contacts in under-represented regions.

Help complete surveys and gather input from field.

Support the movement financially, strategically, or with prayer support

Connect with Bible partners like BLI, FLI, and DBS to support specific projects.

### Bible Access Restrictions and Shortage: Stories from the Bible & Stories from Today!



The Word that Precedes the Move:  
Act Now!



### Contact: [BibleaccessList.org](https://BibleaccessList.org) or our Partners:



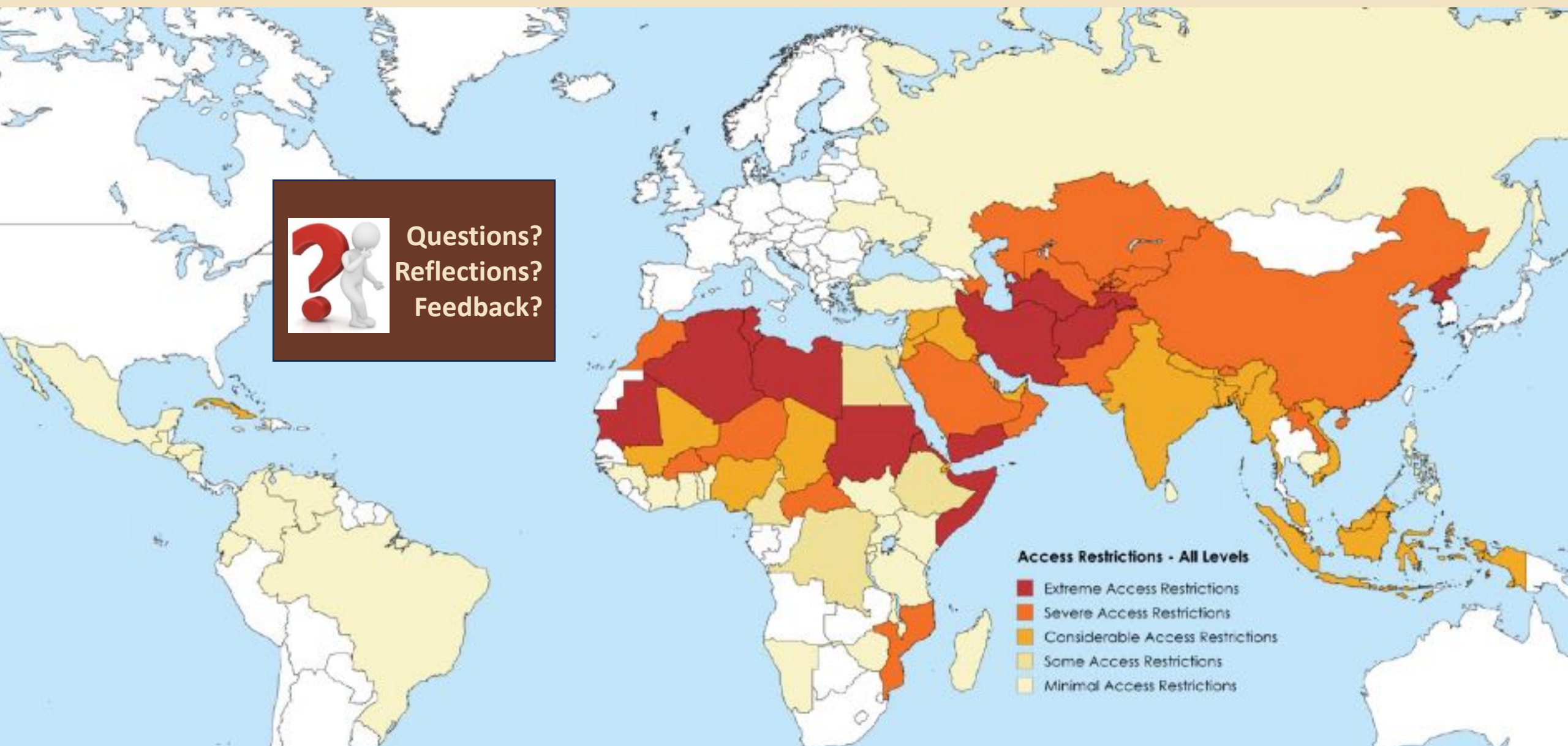




# Bible Access List 2025: Bible Restrictions list



Questions?  
Reflections?  
Feedback?



**Access Restrictions - All Levels**

- Extreme Access Restrictions
- Severe Access Restrictions
- Considerable Access Restrictions
- Some Access Restrictions
- Minimal Access Restrictions