INNOVATION LAB

EVERYTRIBE**EVERY**NATION

FACTORS FOR EFFECTIVE CBBT

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THE INNOVATION LAB

The following factors contribute to a Church Ecosystem's effectiveness in Church Based Bible Translation.

Any metric may be used to evaluate strength/competency in each category, but a measure of 0-3 may be adequate and simple enough to be easily adapted to a variety of contexts.

- 3 - can do competently
- 2 - can do with assistance
- 1 - has limited experience
- 0 - starting point; has knowledge of

FACTORS FOR EFFECTIVE CBBT		
Foundational Elements	Local Ownership, Leadership	*Missional Imperative*
		Decision-Making
		Leadership
	Resourcing	*Tools and Resources*
		Global Support
Translation Capacity	Theological Formation	*Theological Foundation*
		Theological Maturity
		Scripture Use
		Ongoing Revision and Translation
	Behaviors, Attitudes, Skills, and Knowledge (BASK)	*Esteem for Scripture*
		Esteem for Language and Culture
		Hermeneutical Capacity
		Translational Capacity
Ecclesial Climate	Connectedness	*Church Network Connection*
		Cross-Denominational Partnership
		Cluster Projects

		Collective Capacity
	Unity	Collaboration
		Emphasize Agreement
		Maintain Distinctives
Practical Scalability	Sustainability	Local Resourcing
		Technical and Regional Resourcing
		International Resourcing
	Multiplication	Local Equipping
		Training Trainers

FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS

Local Ownership, Leadership

- **Missional Imperative:** The local church recognizes and accepts responsibility for translation of the Bible into their own language(s).

- **Decision-Making:** The local church is at the center of decision-making, resourcing, and quality assessment processes of Bible translation programs in locally relevant ways. In places where the local church is young, the proximal church (church-planting networks and nearby missional churches) may be expected to serve and equip the local church as it grows in its understanding of Scripture and capacity for Bible translation.

- **Leadership:** The local church leads and is involved in every stage of translation, including authentication. The translation process must (1) serve the church's needs, (2) be clear and accessible, (3) be flexible enough to adapt to local needs while still ensuring quality. When these criteria are met, the church and community can easily participate in translation.

Resourcing

- **Tools and Resources:** The local church has free and ready access to Bibles, translation helps, software, and supporting technology in formats (esp. audio) that best serve the

local church. "Free" speaks of the cost to the end-user and open licensing. "Ready access" means that the tools and resources can be easily found (e.g. via internet search) and easily used.

- **Global Support:** The local church knows the variety of expertise that is available through the global church and Bible translation agencies to contribute to quality assurance in translation and is able to access that for its training, mentoring, capacity building, and other needs.

TRANSLATION CAPACITY

Theological Formation

- **Theological Foundation:** The local church is established in the gospel and apostolic teaching (Acts 14:21–23) and is able to build one another up to maturity (2 Tim. 3:16; Col. 1:28; Eph. 4:11–13).

- **Theological Maturity:** The local church is able to withstand obstacles to maturity—e.g., laziness (Heb. 5:11ff), suffering (1 Thess. 3:1–9), false teaching (2 Pet. 3:16), and worldliness (1 Cor. 3).

- **Scripture Use:** Translated Scripture is in use early with church and community feedback (which are critical for ensuring quality and reinforcing local ownership) is being gathered and incorporated.

- **Ongoing Revision and Translation:** The local church is able to improve and maintain its Bible translation(s) through ongoing revisions over time as it grows in maturity and understanding of Scripture.

Behaviors, Attitudes, Skills, and Knowledge (BASK)

- **Esteem for Scripture:** The local church has a high view of Scripture—recognizing its value as God's Word—and is committed to rigorous testing of translated passages to verify they are trustworthy, understandable, appropriate, and appealing.

- **Esteem for Language and Culture:** The local church has a high view of local/vernacular languages and is committed to ensuring that everyone has access to God's Word in a language he/she best understands

- **Hermeneutical Capacity:** The local church is able to understand Scripture, rightly applying hermeneutical principles, historical and literary context, etc. [1]

- **Translational Capacity:** The local church has experience implementing foundational translation principles.

ECCLESIAL CLIMATE

Connectedness

This focuses on the aggregate capacity and effectiveness of the Scripture Quality Networks (also known as NETs—Networks for Excellence in Translation).

- **Church Network Connection:** The translating church and community are connected to relevant Scripture Quality Networks to confirm the trustworthiness of the translation.

- **Cross-Denominational Partnership:** Different expressions of the church within the community and ecosystem are working together to ensure that every language with a Bible translation need within the region is supported and served.

- **Cluster Projects:** As the context requires, churches are able to work together to translate across multiple languages simultaneously in a way that provides mutual encouragement and support.

- **Collective Capacity:** Aggregate BT capacity of church networks (and supporting BT agencies) is sufficient for achieving excellence in all translation projects in the region.

Unity

This focuses on the ability of the church—in its many denominational expressions (esp. in the language community)—to work together in harmony.

- **Collaboration:** Regional church network leaders are able to function as an interconnected plurality.

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[1] *"Scripture affirms that it is able to be understood but (1) not all at once, (2) not without effort, (3) not without means, (4) not without the reader's willingness to obey it, (5) not without the help of the Holy Spirit, (6) not without human misunderstanding, and (7) never completely."—"The Perspicuity of Scripture", Wayne Grudem; Themelios Vol 34 Iss 3,*
https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/article/the-perspicuity-of-scripture/

- **Emphasize Agreement:** Regional church leaders value unity on essentials above differences on non-essentials.

- **Maintain Distinctives:** Regional church leaders collaboratively maintain boundaries of doctrinal integrity in appropriate ways.

PRACTICAL SCALABILITY

Sustainability

- **Local Resourcing:** As much as possible, local leaders take responsibility for resourcing and leading project development and management, finding and supervising personnel, and increasingly build technical capacity in locally appropriate ways.

- **Technical and Regional Resourcing:** As much as possible, regional partners support local ownership with technical translation help in areas such as training, mentoring, IT support, exegetical support—but always with the intention of building this same capacity in the local church and community. As much as possible the costs for regional support will be resourced from the regional level.

- **International Resourcing:** International partners will be careful to not hinder local resourcing efforts or create dependency and will invest primarily in training, translation tools, and resources that serve beyond the language community level and are often expensive and technical in nature.

Multiplication

- **Local Equipping:** The local church is equipped for effectiveness in Bible translation. This includes training in translation principles, hermeneutics, project management, etc. as necessary and in culturally appropriate and contextually relevant ways.

- **Training Trainers:** Associated Scripture Quality Networks or nearby regional or international partners are able to equip equippers (train other people to train lingual church leaders) for effectiveness in Bible translation.