BIBLE ACCESS LIST

Bible Access List Methodology

Publication date: October 2025

Bible Access List

- ***Bible Restrictions list: Where Bible Access is Most Difficult***
- ***Bible Shortage list: Where Bible Shortage is Greatest***

This document is the property of the Bible Access Initiative, publisher of the Bible Access List. Free to use and share —please credit and acknowledge Bibleaccesslist.org.

Executive Summary – Bible Access List Methodology (2025) 3
1. Introduction and Scope 4
1.1 Background and Purpose 4
1.2 Bible Access Initiative Collaborative and Copyrights 6
1.3 Guiding Principles 6
1.4 Scope for 2025 7
1.5 Products 8
2. Methodology 8
2.1 Bible Access and Ownership Definitions 8
2.2 Bible Shortage Definition 9
2.3 Primary and Secondary Data Sources 9
2.4 Bible Restrictions list: Indicators, Rationale, and Scoring 11
2.5 Bible Shortage list: Indicators, Rationale, and Scoring 21
2.6 Plausibility Review 28
2.7 Country Profiles: Format and Purpose 28
2.8 Bible Access List 2025 Results 29
2.9 Limitations and Ethical Considerations 35
2.10 Future Methodology Development 36
Appendix 1: Bible Access List 2025 Survey Questions 37
Appendix 2: Bible Restrictions list – Scores and Ranking 38
Appendix 3: Bible Shortage list – Scores and Ranking 40
Appendix 4: Descriptors for Access Restrictions 43
Appendix 5: Bible Ownership Ranges per Country 45
Appendix 6: Issue-based Clusters 48
Appendix 7: Glossary of Definitions and Terms Used in the BAL 51
Appendix 8: Glossary of Abbreviations Used in the BAL 52

Executive Summary – Bible Access List Methodology (2025)

The **Bible Access List (BAL)** is a global initiative developed by the Bible Access Initiative, a collaborative of Bible agencies to identify where access to the Bible is most difficult and where shortages among Christians are greatest. It aims to inform Bible agencies, mission organizations, and churches, and mobilize global prayer and resources to accomplish the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

The 2025 edition covers **88 countries**, offering a structured, data-informed framework to support strategic planning, distribution, and advocacy for Bible accessibility and addressing Bible shortages.

Core Assessments and Data Sources

1. **Bible Restrictions list:** A country is assessed using **11 indicators** grouped in two blocks.
    - **Block 1 (75% weight):** Restrictions imposed by government, religious extremists, or other actors (e.g., laws banning Bible printing or distribution)
    - **Block 2 (25% weight):** Socio-economic challenges (e.g., poverty, poor infrastructure, low literacy)
2. **Bible Shortage list:** Estimates the number of **Christians** (not seekers) who desire a Bible but lack one. Results are expressed in **range-based estimates** (e.g., 100k–250k) to reflect uncertainty and variability.

The BAL methodology combines:

- **Primary data**: Global surveys, expert interviews, and field observations
- **Secondary data**: World Christian Database, Open Doors' World Watch List, Bible translation repositories and World Bank development indicators.

Each estimate and score is rigorously validated through a multi-tier process involving analysts, experts, and country-based reviewers to ensure both technical accuracy and contextual relevance.

Key Outputs and Presentation of Results:

- **Bible Restrictions list**: A ranked score identifying where Bible access is most difficult
- **Bible Shortage list**: A ranked overview of where the greatest number of Christians lack Bibles
- **Country Profiles**: Narrative and visual summaries of Bible access realities and prayer needs

Results are communicated through 1. **Ranked Lists**: Based on total scores or shortage estimates; 2. **Descriptive Groupings**: Labels like "Extreme Access Restrictions" to help interpret scores, and 3. **Issue-Based Clusters**: Five country clusters grouped by common access challenges and religious context.

Conclusion

The BAL 2025 offers a unique, evidence-based lens on Bible access and ownership across the globe. By blending data analysis with local insights, the BAL equips Bible agencies, mission organizations, and the Church to respond with strategic clarity and urgency.

1. Introduction and Scope

This document provides a comprehensive overview of the methodology used to develop the Bible Access List (BAL). It is intended for analysts, partners, and leaders who seek to understand the underlying research framework.

The BAL methodology integrates structured indicators, scoring benchmarks, and contextual insights gathered at the grassroots level. It is regularly updated and includes detailed descriptions of data sources, validation processes, and calculation examples that inform country-level conclusions.

How to Read This Document

- **Chapter 1** outlines the rationale, purpose, and scope of the BAL, and introduces the Bible Access Initiative, a collaborative that publishes the BAL, and guiding principles.
- **Chapter 2** details the scoring methodology for Bible Restrictions and Bible Shortage estimates across 88 countries. It also introduces the Country Profiles and summarizes the 2025 BAL results.
- **Appendices** provide supplemental details and supporting data for further reference.

Readers seeking a high-level overview may focus on Chapter 1 and Section 2.8. Those interested in a deeper understanding of the indicators, scoring, and examples are encouraged to read both chapters in full.

1.1 Background and Purpose

The Bible Access List or BAL was launched by the Bible Access Initiative or BAI, a collaborative of global partners. These organizations brought together structured data, field insight, and global validation to build a repeatable, scalable methodology for assessing Bible Access and Bible Shortage. The BAL represents a collaborative effort to combine data-driven analysis with contextual understanding.

The BAI [1] believes that every individual on Earth has an inherent right to access God's Word and to own a copy of the Bible if they so desire.

However, in today's world, it is important to recognize that **unfettered access to the Bible is not a universal standard**. Across various countries, or specific regions of the world, there are significant barriers that impede individuals from accessing or owning a Bible.

The BAI recognizes that numerous Christians globally encounter significant obstacles in accessing God's Word. These challenges vary widely depending on the religious context which shapes the political and socio-economic context.

[1] See section 1.2 for more details

In certain regions, governmental restrictions, the influence of religious extremist groups or other actors serve as primary barriers to Bible access. For instance, in countries with authoritarian regimes or where religious extremists reign with terror, they may impose strict censorship laws or restrictions that limit (religious) freedoms, including the distribution and ownership of Bibles. In such environments, individuals often find themselves at risk for simply owning a Bible or attempting to get one.

Conversely, in other nations, socio-economic factors play a crucial role in hindering access to Bibles. High poverty levels can limit individuals' ability to purchase a Bible, while inadequate infrastructure—such as unreliable electricity and limited internet connectivity—further complicates access to digital versions of the Bible. In these contexts, even when individuals desire to own or access a Bible, these challenges make it difficult or impossible for them to do so.

The size and context of the church within a given country also significantly influence accessibility. In areas where Christianity is a minority, congregations or individuals may struggle to secure resources necessary to obtain Bibles. Additionally, cultural attitudes, or attitudes from other religions towards Christianity can impact how openly Christians are able to share and access Bibles.

Moreover, the presence of internal or international armed conflicts or violence exacerbates these issues by creating populations of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees who often lose their possessions—including Bibles —during displacement.

The level of difficulty to access a Bible is typically a combination of the factors outlined above. **The primary objective of the Bible Access List is to provide Bible agencies, mission organizations, and churches with a comprehensive and reliable overview of restrictions on Bible access and shortages experienced across different countries.** This information is crucial for enhancing strategic planning efforts aimed at addressing these challenges effectively. Moreover, the BAL serves as a vital resource for mobilizing prayer among Christians globally and generating necessary resources to tackle the identified barriers.

At the core of the BAL methodology is a commitment to interdisciplinary rigor. The process to produce the BAL integrated quantitative data analysis, survey research, and a qualitative validation review with experts and/or country-level practitioners. This combination of methods makes sure that the BAL is supported by solid analysis and takes the surrounding context into account.

In summary, the rationale for establishing the BAL is to illuminate the multifaceted barriers that hinder individuals worldwide from accessing God's Word due to religious persecution, political oppression, socio-economic challenges, church context dynamics, and the impacts of conflict-induced displacement, while equipping organizations with actionable insights to foster greater accessibility to Bibles.

1.2 Bible Access Initiative Collaborative and Copyrights

The Bible Access Initiative, or BAI was initiated in 2022 as a collaborative effort sponsored by Open Doors International (ODI) and the Digital Bible Society (DBS). The foundational framework, principles, and indicators were developed and subsequently tested through a pilot in 2022 and then first implemented in 2024. Insights gained from these efforts have significantly shaped the current BAL methodology, which is detailed in this document.

The production and research for BAL 2025 were spearheaded by the BAI, a collaborative of multiple agencies. These entities brought together distinct but complementary perspectives, combining empirical data, field-level experience, and a deep commitment to advance a shared goal: improving the global understanding of Bible Access and Bible Shortage.

The BAI distinguishes between "steering partners," who contribute strategic advice, research expertise, funding and data, and "contributing partners," who primarily provide data and research expertise. For BAL 2025, there are three steering partners: Digital Bible Society, Frontlines International, and Bible League International. Additionally, there are four contributing partners: Open Doors International, Biblica, Bible League Canada, and One Hope.

All content in the BAL methodology is the intellectual property of the BAI that manages the research and publication of the Bible Access List. It may be used and distributed free of charge for non-commercial purposes, provided appropriate attribution is given to the Bible Access Initiative collaborative (Bibleaccesslist.org) as the source.

1.3 Guiding Principles

Multiple Realities of Bible Access Within a Country
It is essential to recognize that within a single nation, diverse realities regarding Bible access and ownership can coexist. These differences often arise from varying religious traditions, sociopolitical and legal frameworks, or the influence of religious extremist groups or other actors, all of which affect the availability and ownership of Bibles.

Access Variability
In some regions of a country, individuals may freely access and own Bibles without legal or social risks. However, in other areas, especially those governed by restrictive legal systems, such as Sharia law or anti-conversion laws, or influenced by religious extremist groups, significant barriers and dangers may exist.

BAL Guiding Principles

1. Accessibility to all. Every individual should be able to access and own a Bible if they wish —regardless of their religious affiliation.

2. Free accessibility. There should be no legal or socio-economic barriers that impede or complicate access to Bibles, ensuring that everyone can obtain them without hindrance.

3. Access in any quantity. Churches, Bible agencies, and mission organizations should be able to acquire Bibles in any quantity necessary to support their activities, without restrictive limits.

Population Disparities
Access to Bibles may also vary among different segments of the population within the same

country. For example, Christians might be permitted to own Bibles, while individuals of other faiths, such as Muslims or others, may face restrictions.

Implications for the BAL: Given these complexities, it is vital to acknowledge that multiple realities of Bible access may exist within a single country due to religious contexts that shape the political and socio-economic context. To address this, the BAL has established three fundamental guiding principles (see box above).

Further, BAL is Data-informed, not Data-driven. While structured data is valuable, the BAL recognizes its limitations. Rather than pursuing a perfect model, the goal is a practical one that combines quantitative data with contextual interpretation and expert validation. This approach is grounded in theological, missional, and methodological reflection, emphasizing collaboration over purely technical analysis.

These three principles outlined above, and the data-informed approach provide a strong foundation that guides both the structure and tone of the BAL methodology, serving as a vital reference for interpretive decisions.

1.4 Scope for 2025

The BAL 2025 covers a total of 88 countries[2], representing a 31% increase from the 67 countries included in the BAL 2024. Countries are selected through a systematic approach by the BAI, which evaluates eligibility based on multiple factors including country size, the population of Christians, known or suspected restrictions to Bible access, and the feasibility of collecting reliable data from diverse primary and secondary sources.

Criteria for Country Inclusion

The BAI assesses each country's data availability, quality, and quantity, relying on both primary and secondary sources. In cases where countries have extreme access restrictions limiting direct data collection, secondary data or expert insights are used to maintain a high confidence rating that justifies their inclusion. BAI members express their confidence levels after evaluation to decide which countries are included in the BAL. The goal is to gradually expand coverage until all nations are assessed.

Bible Shortage List Definition and Criteria

The Bible Shortage list estimates are expressed as **ranges** rather than fixed numbers. This approach was chosen as there are always fluctuations in demand due to population changes, and variability in access conditions. When data is insufficient, conflicting, or other concerns exist, (for example, Cluster 5 countries [see Section 2.8.4]), a range cannot be published.

The Bible Shortage list focuses exclusively on **existing Christians** who lack access to Bibles. It **excludes seekers** because of the varying definitions and perspectives on their Bible needs, and

[2] For a full list of countries please refer to appendix 2

because reliable estimates for this group are not yet available. While initial research on seekers exists, further study is planned to address this gap in future editions.

Data Quality and Limitations

The BAL aims to publish both a Bible Restrictions score and a Bible Shortage estimate for each included country. However, Bible Shortage estimates are only released when sufficient data meets established quality standards and is validated by experts familiar with the local context. This approach is intended to maintain the reliability of the estimates and provide users with data that accurately reflects the situation in each country.

While all 88 countries are included in the Bible Access Restrictions List, the BAL determined—based on available data and expert consultation—that **Bible Shortage ranges can be confidently published for only 76 countries** in the 2025 edition. For the remaining **12 countries, all of which are classified in Cluster 5** (see Section 2.8.4 and Appendix 6), a shortage range will **not be published** at this time due to limited or inconclusive data. These countries have been flagged for **further research and assessment in future editions.**

By expressing Bible Shortage estimates as ranges, the BAL communicates the inherent uncertainty in the data while still providing valuable directional insight for planning and prioritization.

1.5 Products

The BAL produces a set of practical outputs designed to support strategy, prioritization, and planning. These products reflect the core findings of the methodology and serve different types of users-from local field teams and strategists to researchers and partners.

Three products will be produced:

1. **Bible Restrictions list**: Identifies countries where access to the Bible is most difficult.
2. **Bible Shortage list**: Highlights levels of Bible shortage among Christians per country and indicates where the shortage is greatest.
3. **Country Profiles**: Provide detailed information about each country's context regarding Bible access and availability.

To produce these deliverables, the BAL utilizes data from various primary and secondary sources. Key resources include the BAL survey data, World Christian Database, Open Doors' World Watch List files, Bible translation data from multiple organizations and World Bank development indicators. For a complete list of data sources, please refer to section 2.3.

2. Methodology

2.1 Bible Access and Ownership Definitions

As articulated in the sections related to rationale and principles, the BAL measures if all people in a given country can own or access a Bible if they so desire.

It is essential to have a clear understanding of the definitions of “Bible Access” and “Bible Ownership” as the BAL uses both these terms, but they are fundamentally different.

> The term **Bible Access** refers to the ability to obtain or read the Bible, which can occur through various means such as physical copies, digital formats, or availability in public/ community locations (e.g. churches, libraries etc.) or even a family setting (e.g. accessing a Family Bible kept in the home versus having a personal copy of the Bible).
>
> On the other hand, the term **Bible Ownership** signifies a personal ownership of a Bible. This ownership typically arises from having access; without the opportunity to encounter or acquire a Bible, ownership would not be feasible. Therefore, one could argue that ownership is a personal decision and to some extent influenced by the availability of Bibles in one's environment.

The distinction lies in the nature of each term: access is about availability and opportunity, whereas ownership pertains to personal possession and choice.

The BAL measures if unfettered access to Bibles is present, or if not, what kind of restrictions are in place. It is expected that the level of restrictions will impact ownership levels.

Indicators to measure access to Bibles are essential to create the Bible Restriction list and will be discussed section 2.4.

2.2 Bible Shortage Definition

The term **Bible Shortage** refers to the estimated deficit of Bibles among current Christians who desire to own a personal copy but encounter various barriers that prevent them from obtaining one.

As outlined in section 1.4, this list specifically focuses on Christians only and does not account for seekers—those who are non-Christian but have shown interest in exploring the Bible.

For a comprehensive understanding of how these needs are quantified on a country-by-country basis, please refer to section 2.5, which details the methodologies employed in estimating Bible requirements across different nations.

2.3 Primary and Secondary Data Sources

Data Sources

This section outlines the primary and secondary data sources utilized in the development of the BAL and the Country Profiles. These sources were selected based on their relevance, credibility, and alignment with the research objectives.

Primary Data Sources

Source Type	Description	Purpose
BAL Survey	Distributed to respondents in over 100 countries, translated into 6 languages. Respondents included a combination of residents and diaspora-based country experts.	To collect quantitative data on Bible Restrictions, current Bible ownership, and Bible shortages.
Expert Interviews	In-depth interviews with country-specific experts.	To gather qualitative insights and validate survey findings.
Field Observations	On-site visits to selected countries or regions as needed.	To verify reported data and collect additional ground-level information.
Plausibility Review	Online and email consultations with partner organizations and country experts to review preliminary findings and deliverables.	To confirm the validity of findings and ensure alignment with expert knowledge and historical research.

Secondary Data Sources

Source Name	Publisher/Owner	Data Accessed/Relevance to BAL
World Christian Database (WCD)	Gina A. Zurlo and Todd M. Johnson, Brill (Accessed May 2024)	Population, world religion, and denominational data at national and provincial levels; people groups; church growth; and Bible translation status.
World Watch List (WWL) Survey	Open Doors International (Accessed January 2025)	Select survey questions relevant to BAL scoring and restrictions. Reviewed scoring and qualitative comments to inform BAL assessments.
WWL Persecution Dynamics Reports	Open Doors International (Accessed January 2025)	In-depth context for 78 countries to support BAL findings with specific persecution data and detailed country analysis.
World Bank Development Indicators	World Bank (Accessed November 2024)	Extracted indicators: country income level, internet usage (%), logistics performance, access to electricity (%), literacy rate (% ages 15+).
Bible Translation Databases	Digital Bible Library, Ethnologue, Find Bible, Joshua Project, Scripture Earth (Accessed January 2025)	Used to determine Bible translation availability per language group with known Christians. Cross-referenced with WCD to determine which language groups have known Christians

Source Integration and Validation

This methodology incorporates both primary and secondary sources, providing triangulation and enhancing the robustness of the research. Primary sources offer real-time and context-specific

insights, while secondary sources provide breadth, benchmarks, and validation. Where applicable, inconsistencies were resolved through expert consultations and plausibility checks.

2.4 Bible Restrictions list: Indicators, Rationale, and Scoring

The Bible Restrictions list consolidates the outcomes of evaluating each country against a comprehensive set of 11 indicators, which are organized into two categories: **Block 1** encompasses restrictions imposed by governments, religious extremist groups or other non-state actors, while **Block 2** includes socio-economic indicators.

To accurately position a country on the Bible Restrictions list, each indicator within both Block 1 and Block 2 is scored. Countries that exhibit more severe access restrictions or higher levels of poverty receive greater point allocations. Consequently, these countries rank higher on the Bible Restrictions list compared to those with fewer or no restrictions and relatively lower poverty levels.

The methodology employed in scoring these indicators is crucial for understanding the relative access challenges faced by different nations. By systematically assessing both government-imposed restrictions and socio-economic conditions, the Bible Restrictions list presents a detailed overview of the factors influencing accessibility issues across countries.

2.4.1 Block 1: Restrictions Imposed by Government, Religious Extremists or Other Actors.

Governments may utilize existing laws or legal frameworks to impose restrictions on Bible access that apply either to the entire country or to specific regions and populations. In some instances, certain areas or segments of the population may fall under the control of religious extremist groups (e.g., Muslim extremists, Hindu fundamentalists, organized crime groups) that actively prevent access to Bibles. Furthermore, distinct legal frameworks—such as Sharia law or anti-conversion laws—may govern specific populations and impose additional limitations on Bible access.

Block 1 consists of six specific indicators that assess the degree to which individuals can freely access the Bible in any quantity. These indicators evaluate whether restrictions exist on importing, printing, storing, owning, or distributing Bibles, as well as on safely accessing Bibles online.

The six indicators are:

- Ability to freely import Bibles, in any quantity
- Ability to freely print Bibles, in any quantity
- Ability to freely store Bibles, in any quantity
- Ability to freely own Bibles, in any quantity
- Ability to freely distribute Bibles, in any quantity
- Ability to safely access Bibles on the internet

The first five of these are referred to as **Physical Access Restrictions Indicators**, while the last one is referred to as the **Internet Safety Indicator**.

2.4.2 Block 2: Access Restrictions Because of Socio-economic Factors

In contrast to the restrictions described in Block 1, Block 2 focuses on broader socio-economic conditions that indirectly restrict access to Bibles.

While many socio-economic factors can influence access to the Bible, Block 2 focuses on a carefully selected set of indicators that, based on expert input and available data, offer a representative picture of the broader challenges. These indicators do not capture every possible barrier—such as all aspects of education or infrastructure—but were chosen for their strong and direct relevance to Bible access and their ability to collectively reflect the indirect limitations many communities face.

Block 2 includes the following five indicators:

Poverty Levels: High poverty levels can severely limit individuals' financial resources, making it difficult to purchase Bibles. In many regions, the cost of printed materials remains prohibitive for those living below the poverty line.

Lack of Access to the Internet: Bibles are widely available online, often at no cost. However, individuals without internet access—particularly in rural or underdeveloped regions—are unable to benefit from these digital resources.

Lack of Access to Electricity: Reliable electricity is important for using digital devices to access electronic versions of the Bible. In areas where electricity is scarce or unavailable, even those with digital devices may be unable to use them effectively.

Low Literacy Levels: Literacy is a prerequisite for reading the Bible. In countries with low literacy rates due to limited educational opportunities, access is restricted not by availability but by the capacity to engage with the content.

Poor Infrastructure: Weak infrastructure—such as limited access roads, transportation options, or bridges—can make physical distribution of Bibles to remote or rural areas exceedingly difficult.

These socio-economic factors are collectively referred to as **Block 2 Socio-economic Indicators**. They contribute to access challenges in ways that may be less visible but are no less critical than government-imposed restrictions.

2.4.3 Relative Weight of Block 1 and Block 2 Indicators

Block 1 indicators assess restrictions imposed through formal rules, laws, or measures enforced by governments, religious extremist groups, religious authorities or other actors. These constraints are often embedded in legal or societal frameworks, making them particularly difficult to change. In countries where Bible access is regulated or prohibited, individuals may face severe consequences such as fines, arrest, imprisonment or even death—for attempting to obtain a Bible.

In contrast, Block 2 indicators reflect socio-economic conditions that, while serious, are generally more responsive to external support and investment. Challenges like poverty, illiteracy, and poor infrastructure may limit Bible access but are typically mitigable over time through financial or in-

kind assistance from external sources or policy interventions, development programs, and improved access to services.

Reflecting this distinction, the BAL assigns a **weighting ratio of 75:25 to Block 1 and Block 2 indicators**, respectively. **The maximum score a country can receive on the Bible Restrictions list is 100 points, with up to 75 points derived from Block 1 and up to 25 points from Block 2.**

For more information and a sample of scoring indicators please refer to section 2.4.6

2.4.4 Scoring Block 1 Indicators

To enable a consistent scoring approach for each country, a Country Access Restrictions Scoring Overview (**CARSO**) document has been developed. It serves as a comprehensive record of scores assigned to each country based on their performance across all the access Restrictions Indicators. This documentation not only facilitates accountability but also provides valuable insights into areas requiring improvement or intervention.

2.4.4.1 Scoring Physical Access Restrictions Indicators

The first five indicators of Block 1—referred to as the **Physical Access Restrictions Indicators**—are scored across four distinct dimensions. The final score for each indicator is calculated as the average of the sub-scores across these dimensions:

1. **Proportion of the Christian population affected by Bible access restrictions**
2. **Severity for the Christian population**
3. **Proportion of the non-Christian population affected**
4. **Severity for the non-Christian population**

Each dimension is scored on a scale from 0 to 4. For indicators with restricted access, both the affected population and severity levels are evaluated separately for Christian and non-Christian populations.

2.4.4.2 Scoring Grid: Physical Access Restrictions

The scoring grid for each dimension includes a “No” column (0 points) and four “Yes” categories, scaled to reflect different levels of severity and coverage (see Diagram 1). Each response is assessed, and if restrictions exist, their severity is further scored. Explanatory comments are included in the CARSO document to justify scores when needed.

Diagram 1: Scoring Grid for Physical Access Restrictions Indicators

Points	Proportion of Christian Population	Severity (Christians)	Proportion of Non-Christian Population	Severity (Non-Christians)
0	None	None	None	None
1	>0% – 25%	Low	>0% – 25%	Low
2	26% – 50%	Medium	26% – 50%	Medium
3	51% – 75%	High	51% – 75%	High
4	76% – 100%	Very High	76% – 100%	Very High

Additional Information on Dimensions

Proportion of Christians Affected: This evaluates how widespread the restrictions are among Christians. For example, if Bible access restrictions apply to all Christians in a country like Afghanistan, a score of 4 (76–100%) would be applied. Or in Malaysia the ownership restrictions apply to Muslim population only. Muslims make up 55% of the country hence a score of 3 (51-75%) would be applied. WCD data and survey inputs are used to estimate affected percentages.

Scoring Severity of Restrictions: Severity considers both the intensity and frequency of a restriction's impact.

The answer options for this element are defined as follows:

- **None –** When there are no consequences.
- **Low –** Despite (the formal) existence of the restriction, people are able to get around it quite easily and without any negative repercussions.
- **Medium –** Despite the restrictions in place, people can get around it, but they would encounter some challenges and creativity to overcome the restriction and if caught it would have some impact on the personal safety of the person(s) involved.
- **High -** If despite the restrictions in place, Christians or seekers ignore the restrictions, and in order to access Bibles, they need to overcome significant difficulty. Further, if caught, it would likely have severe repercussions for their personal safety and could include fines, possibly imprisonment, or other sentences.
- **Very high –** Similar to high, but the implications are more severe, and these would likely stretch beyond the individual and may also impact their families and/or networks they belong to, and may include death as well.

Factors assessed include personal risk, ease of workaround, harassment, and surveillance. These are scored using the matrix below.

Diagram 2: Severity Assessment Criteria

Severity	Risk/Danger	Hindrance	Harassment/Abuse	Monitoring
None	None	None	None	None
Low	Minimal or no consequences	Minor hindrances with easy workarounds	Mild or occasional harassment	Infrequent or non-serious
Medium	Some consequences	More complex workarounds needed	Moderate harassment, bearable	Noticeable but manageable
High	Severe: fines, imprisonment, etc.	Very difficult to bypass, severe consequences	Severe harassment or abuse	Widespread monitoring
Very High	Severe + extends to family or networks	Extremely difficult, high personal risk	Very severe and persistent harassment or abuse	Intensive and invasive

Note: A restriction may qualify for a severity level even if not all criteria are present. Choose the level that best fits the overall impact.

Proportion of Non-Christian Population Affected: This assesses whether seekers or religious minorities are also impacted. If Bible restrictions apply broadly across the population, as in Afghanistan, a score of 4 is warranted for this dimension as well.

2.4.4.3 Scoring Internet Safety Indicator

In addition to the physical access indicators, the sixth indicator in Block 1 assesses the **safety of accessing Bibles via the internet**. This indicator is scored using two dimensions:

1. **The extent to which internet use is monitored by the government or other actors**
2. **The degree of safety (or risk) perceived by individuals when accessing Bible content online**

While some countries may not formally restrict Bible content, the general atmosphere of digital surveillance or fear of reprisal can severely hinder access. Even if individuals are not prosecuted for viewing online Bibles, the perception that such access is being monitored often leads to self-censorship. To determine the score, both formal policies and public perceptions are assessed using qualitative research and validated with local survey responses. In cases where there is a discrepancy between legal texts and lived experience, perceived risk may carry more weight, as it ultimately shapes user behavior.

2.4.4.4 Scoring Grid: Internet Safety Indicator

Scoring Grid: Internet Safety and Access to Online Bibles

The scoring grid below outlines how the BAL assesses safe digital access to the Bible, as part of the Block 1 indicators. It evaluates both the technical feasibility and safety of accessing Scripture online, based on three dimensions:

1. Whether internet access is technically available,
2. The degree of government surveillance, and
3. The perceived safety of reading the Bible online.

Each response is weighted and contributes proportionally to the total Internet Safety Indicator score (maximum of 12.5 points per dimension).

The more restrictive the digital environment, the higher the country scores on this indicator.

Diagram 3: Scoring Grid for Internet Safety Indicator

Internet Access Scoring Grid	Possible Answers	Weight of Answer
Technically feasible to access the internet? *	1. Yes 2. No	0% 15%
Is the government monitoring the internet?	1. No 2. Yes, limited impact** 3. Yes, dangerous**	0% 20% 42.5%
Is it safe to read Bible on the internet?	1. Safe** 2. Somewhat safe** 3. Somewhat unsafe** 4. Unsafe**	0% 15% 25% 42.5%

** Freely for the general population, both Christians and non-Christians*
***Recommendation made by BAL analyst based on input received. Rationale explained in CARSO, and for approval by BAL Scoring Team*

Example Calculation

For example, in a country where:

- Internet access is technically possible: this scores **0% of 12.5 points = 0.00**
- The government monitors internet use and is **dangerous** → **42.5% of 12.5 points = 5.31**
- It is considered **somewhat unsafe** to read the Bible online → **25% of 12.5 points = 3.12**

These partial scores are added together: **0.00 + 5.31 + 3.12 = 8.43 points**

This final score, which is well beyond 50% of the maximum possible score, then reflects a significantly restricted and risky digital access environment for Christians.

2.4.4.5 Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees often face unique challenges regarding Bible access due to specific restrictions that apply to them. To ensure the overall score accurately reflects access restrictions for both IDPs/Refugees and other population segments, it is important to consider the size of this group, the number of Christians among them, and the specific issues they face.

While a separate indicator could highlight these challenges, the BAL team has determined that the existing Country Access Restrictions Scoring Overview (CARSO) framework offers sufficient flexibility to include restrictions and their impact on IDPs and refugees. The first dimension of CARSO assesses the portion of the Christian population affected by a specific restriction. Therefore, any restriction impacting IDPs/Refugees can be indicated with the appropriate percentage. Next, the appropriate severity level can be selected. Similarly, when restrictions apply to non-Christian IDPs/Refugees, these can be captured in the third and fourth dimensions of the CARSO for each of the indicators.

In summary, the current framework is flexible enough to capture diverse scenarios and population groups—including IDPs and refugees, so separate indicators for these groups are not needed at this time.

2.4.5 Scoring Block 2 Indicators

The evaluation of Block 2 indicators follows a systematic approach based on reference data from various World Bank databases, which provide comprehensive and reliable information for assessing country performance.

Reference Data and Thresholds – Each Block 2 indicator is scored based on clearly defined thresholds, which classify conditions from extremely poor to excellent. These thresholds are based on reference data, ensuring that the scores are meaningful and contextually appropriate.

Assessment of Country Performance - Country-specific data are compared against these thresholds to assign scores that reflect performance relative to global standards and benchmarks.

Documentation of Results - Scores for Block 2 indicators, like those for Block 1, are recorded in the Country Access Restrictions Overview (CARSO). CARSO offers a detailed summary of all indicator scores across both blocks. It provides a view of a country's socio-economic and access-related status. For further details and examples, see section 2.4.6.

2.4.5.1 Poverty Indicator and Thresholds

Scores are assigned based on each country's income level, following the World Bank classification into low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high-income groups. The rationale is that extreme poverty limits resource availability for Bible acquisition compared to wealthier countries. Each income category corresponds to a specific score (see table).

Poverty Level	
Score/Threshold	**Points**
Lower Class	5
Lower Middle Class	4
Upper Middle Class	2
Higher Class	0

2.4.5.2 Internet Access Indicator and Thresholds

Scores depend on the percentage of the population with internet access. Data was sourced from the World Bank. Lower access results in higher points, reflecting the challenge of accessing free online Bibles without internet connectivity. Thresholds define the point allocation (see table).

% of the Population	
Score/Threshold	**Points**
<10%	5
10-25%	4
>25-50%	3
>50-75%	2
>75-90%	1
>90%	0

2.4.5.3 Logistics Indicator and Thresholds

Points are allocated based on the overall quality of infrastructure, assessed using the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index. Poor infrastructure (roads, bridges, transport) leads to higher points, as it impedes Bible distribution, especially in remote areas. Thresholds translate infrastructure levels into scores (see table).

Logistics / Infrastructure	
Score/Threshold	**Points**
<2.4	5
2.4 - 2.7	3.75
2.7 - 3.2	2.5
>3.2	0

2.4.5.4 Electricity Access Indicator and Thresholds

Scores are based on the percentage of the population with electricity access. Data was sourced from the World Bank. Lower electricity availability results in higher points, since lack of electricity restricts the use of online Bibles even if internet access exists. Thresholds determine point allocation (see table).

Electricity Access	
Score/Threshold	**Points**
<50%	5
50 - 70%	2.5
>70 - 90%	1.25
>90%	0

2.4.5.5 Literacy Indicator and Thresholds

Points are assigned according to the literacy rate for the population aged 15 and above. Lower literacy rates lead to higher points, as non-literate populations require alternative Bible access methods (e.g., audio Bibles), which may be more complex and costly. Thresholds define the scoring ranges (see table).

Literacy Rate	
Score/Threshold	**Points**
<50%	5
50 - 70%	2.5
>70 - 90%	1.25
>90%	0

2.4.6 Sample Country Access Restrictions Scoring Overview (CARSO)

The Country Access Restrictions Scoring Overview **(CARSO)** is the final step in synthesizing data and expert input into a unified scoring framework. For each country included in the Bible Restrictions list, a CARSO is developed using the indicators, scoring grids, and validation steps detailed in sections 2.4.1 to 2.4.5.

The images below provide a sample CARSO. This template summarizes both the quantitative data from external sources, aggregated survey results and expert judgment that contribute to the country's total Access Restrictions score. It comprises of 3 sections:

Section 1: Country Overview and Summary Scoring

This section includes reference data for population and Christian population, the number of surveys completed, and scoring status. It also contains approval notes, review summaries, and the final scores for:

- Block 1: Restrictions imposed by government, religious extremists, or other non-state actors
- Block 2: Socio-Economic challenges
- Combined access restrictions score
- Tentative country ranking

The sample below shows the total score for Block 1 indicators is 46 points, and the total score for Block 2 indicators is 12 points. The detailed scoring for each indicator is shown on the next pages.

Please be informed that certain sections of the CARSO have been redacted to ensure confidentiality.

[redacted] Country Access Restriction Scoring Overview

Country	[redacted]	[redacted] Surveys	20	WWL 2025 Surveys	408	[redacted] Data Points	428
Population				[redacted]			
Christians #						CARSO Status	Approved - changes applied during Summit #2
Christians %						Comments / Follow up:	Further reviewed with a Country Expert who also confirmed the findings as stated in this analysis
<< < click "+" to expand section and see key country stats							
Block 1 - Access Restrictions indicator score	46						
Block 2 - Other Limiting indicators score	12						
Total Access Restrictions Score	58						
[redacted] Access Restrictions Rank (tentative)	[redacted]						

Section 2: Scoring of Block 1 Indicators

This section presents the scoring for each of the six Block 1 indicators, as outlined in Section 2.4.4. The first five indicators are evaluated using four dimensions: the proportion of Christians affected, the severity for Christians, the proportion of non-Christians affected, and the severity for them. The sixth indicator, Internet safety, is assessed using two dimensions: surveillance and access safety. Each score is accompanied by a summary of findings and explanatory comments, with references to relevant BAL survey responses and World Watch List data. Please note that the "rationale/comments" provide a high-level summary; detailed incidents and country-specific findings are documented separately in individual country files.

Block 1 - Access Restrictions	Answers	Sub Score	Overall Score	Rationale / Comments	WWL additional insights
1. Can the Bible be imported freely?	**Yes, with (some) restrictions**		**7.81**	According to the P[redacted] approval from gov't. This applies to Bible societies and other org. or individuals. Some specific reports on restrictions as well: report from USCIRF where import of 10k Bibles was refused, and another from another orgnanization where import of smaller numbers were refused. These restrictions impacts all people, Christians and others however, impact for Christians is low as there are ways to work thru the restrictions. For Non Christian population the same restriction applies, severity same as well.	**Q5.13 rating:** **No score PA**
Proportion of Christians impacted	*76 - 100%*	12.50			***Comments:*** Q5.13 - aligns with BWL data points; more details[redacted]
Severity	*Low*	3.13			
Proportion of Non Christian Population impacted	*76 - 100%*	12.50			
Severity	*Low*	3.13			
2. Can the Bible be printed freely?	**Yes, with (some) restrictions**		**7.81**	Allowed, with note that only Bible Societies registered with the Gov't can print. Technically the registration of the Bible society would be considered a ''limitation'' however, in practice this has not been a limiting factor negatively impacting Bible print hence severity for Christians as ''low'' and for Non Christian population in the same manner.	**Q5.12 rating:** **No score PA**
Proportion of Christians impacted	*76 - 100%*	12.50			
Severity	*Low*	3.13			
Proportion of Non Christian Population impacted	*76 - 100%*	12.50			
Severity	*Low*	3.13			
3. Can the Bible be stored freely?	**Yes, with (some) restrictions**		**9.38**	The comments explain the nature of limitations which mostly apply for converts: significant pressure and intimidation from Muslims towards espc. converts (MBB, HBB, BBB) hence severity is high for this group, however it is a small group. For Christians from traditional churches the restriction is there to some extent but can be managed by being careful. To balance the realities for 2 groups of Christians the scoring Christians is set to 76-100% and Medium.	No specific references found
Proportion of Christians impacted	*76 - 100%*	12.50			
Severity	*Medium*	6.25			
Proportion of Non Christian Population impacted	*76 - 100%*	12.50			
Severity	*Medium*	6.25			
4. Can the Bible be owned freely?	**Yes, with (some) restrictions**		**9.69**	The comments explain that all Christians experience restrictions. Converts experience pressure from Muslims and family members and intensity is very high - but this is a small % of the Christians hence opted for 0-10% and very high. For other Christians they can typically own a Bible but have to be wise. For non Christians to own a Bible would result in suspicion and questions and pressure from Muslims and when it happens it would be very high severity as well	**Q5.14**[redacted] is not allowed to non Christians implying further difficulties/limitations to own a Bible for them
Proportion of Christians impacted	*0-10%*	1.25			
Severity	*Very High*	12.50			
Proportion of Non Christian Population impacted	*76 - 100%*	12.50			
Severity	*Very High*	12.50			
5. Can the Bible be distributed freely?	**Yes, with (some) restrictions**		**8.13**	Distribution to Christians can be done but with care and within the churches. However, the exception are the converts and for them more dangerous. Similarly for seekers it is dangerous. The comments explain the issues faced by converts and seekers. So for the smaller portion of converts (0-10% of the believers) the severity is set to high.	**Q5.14rating:** **4, 4, 2, 3**
Proportion of Christians impacted	*0-10%*	1.25			[redacted] ther comments explain that distribution to non Christians would result in police intervention illustrating the restrictions if distribution is pursued
Severity	*High*	9.38			
Proportion of Non Christian Population impacted	*76 - 100%*	12.50			
Severity	*High*	9.38			
6. Is the Internet safe?			**3.13**	The government monitors internet use to some extent. T[redacted]es over online activity, and the government controls some content (safety and social), most internet use is not heavily restricted, some sensitive websites might be blocked. However, it is not dangerous for local believers to access the Bible online because religious websites,are usually not blocked or targeted by the authorities.	
Is the government monitoring internet use?	Yes, limited impact	3.125			
Is it considered safe to access Bible online?	Safe	0			

The sample above illustrates how each of the six indicators have scored for the 4 dimensions. In this sample the country scores 46 out of a maximum of 75 points. Based on this: ownership restrictions score the highest which means that ownership has most restrictions in that country, relative to the others.

Section 3: Scoring of Block 2 Indicators

The final section shows the socio-economic scores derived from external datasets (primarily the World Bank). Each indicator displays the actual value for the country (e.g., poverty rate, literacy level) along with its corresponding score from the methodology in section 2.4.5.

Together, these three components provide an auditable summary of how each country's access restrictions are assessed and ranked.

Block 2 - Other Limiting Factors

Question	Actual Score	Range	Indicator Score
1. Poverty level	Lower middle	n/a	4
2. Internet availability	45%	26-50%	3
3. Logistics / Infrastructure	2.4-2.7	n/a	3.75
4. Electricity access	99	>90%	0
5. Literacy	76	71-90%	1.25

The sample above illustrates how each of the five indicators have scored for this country. In this sample, the total score for Block 2 is 12 points out of a maximum of 25 points. Poverty is a significant factor in this country prohibiting free access to Bibles as it scores 4 out of 5 points.

2.5 Bible Shortage list: Indicators, Rationale, and Scoring

2.5.1 Bible Shortage Estimation Based on Key Indicators

To assess the prevalence of Bible shortages within a specific country, this research relies on four core survey-based indicators:

1. **What percentage of Christians currently own a Bible, as measured across the principal denominations present within the country?**
   This indicator quantifies current Bible ownership among Christians and provides a baseline for evaluating ownership across different denominational groups.
2. **What percentage of Christians who express a desire for a Bible do not currently own one, categorized by each of the main denominations?**

This question identifies the gap between desire and ownership. It highlights the unmet need for Bibles among individuals who actively want one but do not currently possess it.

3. **What is the tradition of Bible ownership among individual Christians within each denomination?**
   This item captures cultural and denominational norms around Bible ownership. Understanding these traditions is critical for interpreting ownership data in context.

4. **Is there an existing need for Bibles among Christians or seekers? If so, please explain and quantify this need where feasible.**
   This open-ended question captures both current and anticipated demand for Bibles, including among new Christians and seekers. In addition to providing valuable qualitative context, the narrative responses allow for cross-referencing with the responses to Question 2, helping to identify potential anomalies or confirm patterns in the reported data. This step supports data consistency checks and enhances confidence in the survey findings.

Together, these four indicators provide a structured framework for estimating Bible shortages. They allow the survey data to be analyzed in a systematic and comparative manner, forming the basis for calculating a proposed shortage range per country.

Each country's proposed shortage estimate underwent review by experts. These experts validated findings, flagged potential anomalies, and contributed contextual insights based on their localized knowledge. This review process is intended to ensure that the final estimates used in the BAL are as accurate, credible, and relevant as possible.

2.5.2 Bible Shortage Estimates and Use of Ranges

While the BAL uses a structured and data-driven process to estimate Bible shortages in each country, the methodology includes a critical review and validation phase with country experts. After initial estimates are generated based on quantitative inputs and data sources, these results are reviewed collaboratively with experts familiar with the specific context. This validation step helps to confirm the accuracy of the data, identify potential outliers or inconsistencies, and make corrections where necessary.

Despite this thorough process, other inherent uncertainties—such as population fluidity, inconsistent data availability among all denominations, and conflicting data reported by various survey respondents—even expert-reviewed estimates are best understood as indicative rather than definitive.

Therefore, to responsibly reflect the magnitude of need while accounting for these variables, the BAL presents shortage estimates in ranges. This approach maintains the integrity of the calculation process while acknowledging that exact precision is not always feasible.

The following ranges are used to categorize estimated shortages:

Range Labels	Estimated Shortage
<10k	Less than 10,000
10 – 25k	Between 10,000 and 25,000
>25 – 50k	More than 25,000 and up to 50,000
50 – 100k	More than 50,000 and up to 100,000
>100 – 250k	More than 100,000 and up to 250,000
>250 – 500k	More than 250,000 and up to 500,000
>500k – 1 million	More than 500,000 and up to 1 million
>1 – 3 million	More than 1 million and up to 3 million
>3 – 5 million	More than 3 million and up to 5 million
>5 – 10 million	More than 5 million and up to 10 million
>10 million	More than 10 million

2.5.3 Bible Ownership among Christians Estimation

Denominational traditions regarding Bible ownership are taken into account during analysis. These contextual insights provided in the surveys help identify whether reported ownership levels are consistent with typical practices—for example, if a certain denomination generally favors shared household Bibles rather than individual ownership or vice versa. Where survey results conflict with known patterns, such anomalies are flagged for further review.

To estimate Bible ownership levels among Christians in each country, the BAL methodology uses a structured, multi-step process that combines quantitative survey data with expert validation. Below is a description of the process, and a sample is provided in section 2.5.6.

Step 1: Aggregation of Survey Responses

Survey responses are consolidated from the raw data collection into a central database. Each respondent indicates a percentage range representing Bible ownership within their denomination (e.g., 0–20%, 21–35%, etc.). These responses are plotted in a summary table that shows the frequency of each ownership range by denomination (e.g., Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant).

Step 2: Calculation of Average Ownership per Denomination

Each ownership range is assigned a numerical value using a standardized scoring formula. The weighted responses are then used to calculate an average estimated ownership percentage for each major denominational group. In cases where responses are inconsistent or unclear (e.g., responses labeled “Unknown”), these are excluded from the valid count used in the final average calculation.

Step 3: Extrapolation to National Denominational Populations

The calculated average ownership percentage is then applied to the estimated number of Christians in each denomination, derived from the World Christian Database. This step generates an estimated number of Bible-owning individuals per denomination and an overall national average.

Step 4: Analyst Recommendation
An analyst reviews the calculated ownership estimates and assigns a corresponding ownership range (based on the predefined ownership bands used in the survey, e.g., 51–70%). This preliminary recommendation forms the basis for further review.

Step 5: Review by the BAL Expert Team and Approval
The BAL Expert Team—comprising of experts in Bible ownership and distribution from the various partner organizations—conduct a validation session to review the preliminary findings. Adjustments may be made to the recommended range based on contextual knowledge, previous research, or identification of data anomalies. If the approved ownership percentage deviates from the calculated estimate or analyst recommendation, a rationale must be documented to ensure transparency and traceability.

This process ensures that Bible ownership estimates are both **data-driven and contextually verified**, allowing it to be used in subsequent calculations of Bible shortages.

2.5.4 Bible Shortage among Christians calculation

Perceived need data—captured in response to Question 4 of the survey—is used as a secondary validation tool. Analysts compare the calculated shortage ranges with the narratives provided by the survey respondents to ensure consistency. When respondent perceptions significantly deviate from the quantitative estimates, these instances prompt further investigation and may lead to refinement of the proposed range.

The calculation of Bible shortages among Christians follows a similar structure to the ownership estimation process but is specifically focused on identifying **unmet need**—that is, the proportion of Christians who desire but do not currently own a Bible. Below is a description of the process, and a sample is provided in section 2.5.6

Step 1: Survey Data Aggregation
Respondents are asked to estimate the percentage of Christians in their denomination who want a Bible but do not have one. Their responses are categorized into pre-defined percentage ranges (e.g., 0–20%, 21–35%, etc.) and plotted by denomination to summarize the perceived level of need.

Step 2: Scoring and Average Needs Estimation
A standardized scoring system is applied to convert these ranges into numerical values. From these values, an average “Bible needs percentage” is calculated for each denominational group (e.g., Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant), excluding incomplete or “Unknown” responses. This provides a quantitative estimate of the share of the population within each denomination that is in need of a Bible.

Step 3: Extrapolation to Denominational Population
The average need percentage is applied to the total estimated number of Christians in each denomination. This yields a raw total of individuals assumed to be in need of a Bible. However, this total includes all individuals, regardless of age.

Step 4: Adjustment for Adults Using Household Size
Since the survey question targets adult needs, an adjustment is made to account for children and non-adult household members. To do this, the number of Bible-needing individuals per denomination is divided by the country's average household size and then multiplied by 2—based on the assumption that each household typically includes two adults. This adjusted figure represents a more accurate estimate of adult Bible needs.

Step 5: Analyst Recommendation and BAL Panel Validation
The adjusted totals are reviewed by an analyst, who assigns the appropriate range based on the results. The range corresponds with the predefined ranges (e.g., 500k–1 million). This is followed by a review session with the BAL expert panel, during which adjustments may be made based on field knowledge, data concerns, or other considerations. Any changes from the initial recommendation are documented with a rationale.

Step 6: Country Expert Validation
Following the BAL expert panel's approval of the estimated Bible shortage range, the findings are then reviewed with a country-specific expert. This expert is ideally based within the country or has extensive, recent knowledge of its religious and social dynamics. During this consultation, the overall synthesis and conclusions are presented, offering a final opportunity to validate assumptions, flag potential blind spots, or apply context-specific corrections. This additional step helps confirm that the estimates are technically sound and reflect the local context based on available information and expert input.

The calculated shortage estimates are further cross-checked against qualitative responses gathered in the survey—specifically, the tradition of Bible ownership per denomination (Question 3 in section 2.5.1) and perceptions of Bible need (Question 4 in section 2.5.1). This perception data helps confirm that the numeric estimates align with reported need and does not exhibit significant anomalies or inconsistencies across denominational contexts.

This calculation method ensures that estimates of Bible shortage are both **quantitatively grounded** and **contextually refined**, leading to realistic and actionable data that informs distribution planning and advocacy.

2.5.5 Synthesis and Validation Summary

The BAL methodology relies on multiple, triangulated data points—including direct survey indicators, denominational traditions, and perceptions of need—to form a coherent estimate of Bible ownership and shortage. Throughout the process, findings are cross validated with expert panels and local country experts to ensure both quantitative accuracy and contextual relevance. This layered approach is used to improve the consistency of the proposed ranges and to account for uncertainty in the underlying data.

2.5.6 Sample Illustration of Bible Ownership and Bible Shortage Estimation

To enhance transparency and understanding of the estimation process, this section provides a **sample walkthrough** of how Bible ownership (Section 2.5.3) and Bible shortage (Section 2.5.4) are

calculated in practice. The following example is drawn from one of the 88 countries assessed, anonymized here for privacy and neutrality.

Each illustration corresponds to specific steps in the methodology previously outlined, offering a visual snapshot of how survey responses, demographic data, and validation processes work together to produce a country-level estimate.

Reference Data

Country	Population	% Christian	# of Christians	Catholics	Protestant	Orthodox
[redacted]			44,852,000	7,036,000	37,423,000	392,000

This first visual provides the **baseline demographic and denominational data** for the country. This includes total population, percentage of Christians, number of Christians by major denomination, and breakdowns for Catholics, Protestants, and Orthodox Christians. These figures serve as the denominational base for both ownership and need estimates.

Sample of Bible Ownership Estimation (see section 2.5.3)

Steps 1 & 2: Survey Response Consolidation and Ownership Score Calculation

The ownership chart below visualizes the distribution of survey responses by ownership band (e.g., 0–20%, 21–35%, etc.) for each denomination. It also includes the average ownership percentage per group based on a standardized scoring method.

Denomination	0-20%	21-35%	36-50%	51-70%	71-90%	>90%	Unknown	# Surveys	[redacted]	Avg %
Catholics	11	6	2	7	5	0	13	44		38
Orthodox	8	6	2	6	0	0	21	43		32
Protestants		6	9	10	12	0	3	40		57

Step 3: National Ownership Estimate by Denomination

The next chart applies the average ownership percentages to the denominational populations shown in the reference table. The output is the estimated number of individuals with a Bible in each group and the national total.

Denominational Ownership	[redacted]	% with Bible
Catholic Assumption		38
Orthodox Assumption		32
Protestant Assumption		57
Total Ownership		**54**

Step 4 & 5: Analyst Recommendation and BAL Expert Validation

The next table shows final steps to estimate Bible Ownership. First, a row in the table indicates the **ownership range recommendation** made by the analyst (e.g., 51–70%) based on the calculated

average and informed by data patterns or anomalies. There is also a row that displays the **approved ownership range** after review by the BAL expert panel. If the approved range differs from the initial recommendation, a rationale is recorded. This step reflects consensus-based validation informed by expertise from the BAL team and as needed country experts.

Bible Ownership Level Decision	
Ownership Recommendation:	**51-70%**
Ownership Approval:	**51-70%**
Rationale / Comments:	
Approved Summit #1 - Jan 2025	

Sample of Bible Shortage Estimation (see section 2.5.4)

Steps 1 & 2: Aggregation and Average Need Calculation

The initial Bible need chart shows how respondents estimated the percentage of Christians who desire but do not currently own a Bible. These are grouped by ownership bands and averaged for each denomination.

Denomination	0-20%	21-35%	36-50%	51-70%	71-90%	>90%	Unknown	[redacted]	Avg %	Range
Catholics	5	8	4	0	0	0	13		26	21-35%
Orthodox	6	6	3	0	0	0	19		24	21-35%
Protestants	4	3	15	0	0	0	5		35	21-35%

Step 3: Application to Denominational Populations

The next illustration multiplies the need percentage by each denominational population to yield a **raw estimate of Bible need** among Christians.

Denominational Needs estimate	# Bibles	% of the denom.
Catholics Needs Estimate	1,970,080	28
Orthodox Needs Estimate	109,760	28
Protestants Needs Estimate	10,478,440	28
Estimated Needs Believers	**12,558,280**	**28%**

Step 4: Adjustment for Adult Need Using Household Size

Because the need estimate must focus on adults (not total population), this step adjusts the total by using the average household size and assuming two adults per household. The revised table reflects a more accurate, adult-focused Bible need estimate.

Steps 5 & 6: Analyst Proposal and Final Validation

The image above presents the **analyst's proposed Bible shortage range.** The next step is to do a review of the proposed range with a Country expert, followed by the final review of the BAL expert

panel. If the finally approved range differs from the initial recommendation, the rationale is recorded.

The approved range is expressed using BAL's predefined need-based intervals (e.g., 500k–1 million or 5 – 10 million as in the sample above).

Together, these illustrations show how the BAL process combines structured methods—such as survey data, demographic modeling, and expert review—to estimate Bible ownership and need in a consistent and replicable way.

2.6 Plausibility Review

Before the Bible Restrictions and Bible Shortage lists are finalized and published, a **plausibility review** is conducted. This process serves as a critical and final step in ensuring the validity, reliability, and strategic relevance of the BAL findings.

As part of the review, a preliminary version of the ranking per country is shared with a select group of internal and external experts. These include each country's total score, individual block scores, and corresponding rank. Reviewers are asked to assess whether the outcomes align with their understanding of the local context and broader regional dynamics.

Feedback may include validation, requests for clarification, or the identification of potential inconsistencies or alternative interpretations. In such cases, the BAL team engages in follow-up analysis and, if warranted, conducts additional research or data refinement. This can result in adjustments prior to final publication.

The experts consulted during this review contribute country-specific knowledge and subject matter expertise. Their input helps align the BAL findings with local realities and available field insights. This plausibility review is intended to support the use of BAL results in strategic planning, advocacy, and resource allocation within the global Bible movement.

2.7 Country Profiles: Format and Purpose

Each country included in the BAL is accompanied by a **dedicated country profile**, and presents key findings in a structured, accessible, and visually engaging format. These profiles translate complex scoring and estimation processes into clear, country-specific insights, enabling both strategic use and spiritual engagement.

The **first page** of every profile opens with a header displaying the country name, its ranking on the Bible Restrictions list and the Bible Shortage list, and a location map. The layout balances narrative and visual content: a left-hand **text block** titled ***"An Overview of Bible Access in [Country]"*** offers a concise summary of the country's Bible access landscape, while a **right-hand infographic** visualizes the primary constraints. This infographic is organized into three sections:

- **Access Restrictions** – a descriptor plus icons for relevant restriction indicators
- **Other Limiting Factors** – a descriptor plus icons for relevant socio-economic indicators

- **Bible Status Snapshot** – population, church demographics, Bible ownership, and shortage estimates

Each profile also includes a prominent **"How Can I Pray for [Country]?"** section. This feature highlights actionable prayer requests based on the data, inviting readers to respond and intercede for Christians and seekers in that country.

Subsequent pages provide a structured narrative unpacking the key challenges in greater detail:

- ***"What's Blocking Bible Access in [Country]?"*** outlines legal, political, or social restrictions, often with samples of specific incidents or country specific examples.
- ***"Unmasking the Forces that Restrict Bible Access"*** explores the main persecution drivers and systemic pressures shaping access dynamics.
- ***"The Urgent Need for Bibles in [Country]"*** quantifies estimated Bible need, and prioritizes preferred Bible formats.
- The final section, ***"The Clarion Call,"*** summarizes the country's Bible access and shortage situation in a call to action, accompanied by an infographic distilling the findings for easy reference.

Country profiles serve as both **analytical briefings** and **mobilization tools**, enabling agencies, churches, and partners to respond to Bible needs in a targeted, informed, and prayerful manner.

2.8 Bible Access List 2025 Results

2.8.1 Communicating Results: Ranks, Descriptors, and Clusters

As part of the BAL methodology, results are communicated through multiple complementary lenses. These allow users to understand and interpret the findings in ways that support both strategic planning and contextual insight.

To balance numerical accuracy with qualitative meaning, the BAL presents country results through three primary formats:

1. **Ranked Lists**
   Countries are ranked based on their final scores for both Bible Restrictions and Bible Shortage. These rankings provide a clear view from highest to lowest restriction or unmet need.

2. **Descriptive Groupings**
   Each score—whether for individual blocks or overall totals—is translated into a qualitative descriptor (e.g., "Extreme Access Restrictions," "Some Other Factors"). These categories are based on predefined score intervals and help summarize levels of access or shortage without relying solely on raw numbers.

3. **Issue-Based Clusters**
   Beyond ranking or scoring, the BAL also identifies **clusters of countries** that share similar patterns of restriction or access challenges. These clusters group countries facing

comparable challenges, such as government restrictions, violent opposition, severe poverty, or technological limitations. This view helps practitioners identify shared dynamics across contexts and facilitates regionally or thematically aligned interventions.

These three perspectives—**ranking, descriptors, and clusters**—offer different ways to examine patterns in Bible access. They allow for comparative analysis across countries and support more tailored interpretation of the data.

2.8.2 Ranked Lists

As one of the core presentation formats of the BAL, **ranked lists** offer a direct and comparative view of countries based on their level of Bible Restrictions and estimated Bible Shortage.

Building on the multi-lens approach outlined in the previous section, ranked lists provide the most straightforward way to assess how countries compare in terms of restriction and need. Two primary lists are generated at the end of the scoring and estimation process:

- **The Bible Restrictions list** ranks countries from highest to lowest based on their combined total score from Block 1 (Restrictions from government, religious extremists, or other actors) and Block 2 (Other Limiting Factors).
- **The Bible Shortage list** ranks countries by the estimated number of people in need of a Bible. These figures are presented as ranges (e.g., 100k–250k) to reflect the estimation methodology and the inherent uncertainty in projecting unmet need. As noted in Section 2.5, not all countries appear on this list, as inclusion depends on meeting specific data quality and validation criteria.

Both ranked lists are complemented by detailed **Country Profiles** (see Section 2.7), which provide narrative interpretation, visual summaries, and additional contextual data to support the scores and rankings.

A copy of the **BAL 2025 Bible Restrictions list** and the **BAL 2025 Bible Shortage list** is provided in **Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 respectively**.

2.8.3 Descriptive Groupings

In addition to ranked lists, the BAL presents scores using **descriptive groupings**—standardized labels that summarize the level of restriction, need, or ownership in qualitative terms. These descriptors provide an accessible way to interpret results, especially for users less familiar with the technical scoring framework.

Whereas rankings show **relative position**, descriptors communicate **severity or prevalence** based on predefined thresholds. They are applied at multiple levels across the scoring system: individual blocks, combined scores, and Bible ownership percentages.

The following tables summarize the categories used in BAL descriptive groupings:

A. Block 1 Score Descriptors – Restrictions from Government, Religious Extremists or Other Actors

(Score range: 0 – 75 points)

Score	Range Descriptor
0	No Access Restrictions
1–44	Minimal Access Restrictions
45–54	Some Access Restrictions
55–64	Considerable Access Restrictions
65–70	Severe Access Restrictions
71–75	Extreme Access Restrictions

B. Block 2 Score Descriptors – Socio-economic or Other Factors

(Score range: 0 to 25 points)

Score	Range Descriptor
0	No Other Factors
1–9	Some Other Factors
10–14	Considerable Other Factors
15–19	Severe Other Factors
20–25	Extreme Other Factors

C. Combined Score Descriptors – Total Access Restrictions

(Combined maximum score: 100 points)

Score	Range Descriptor
0	No Access Restrictions
1–44	Minimal Access Restrictions
45–54	Some Access Restrictions
55–64	Considerable Access Restrictions
65–74	Severe Access Restrictions
75–100	Extreme Access Restrictions

These descriptors are applied consistently across BAL country profiles and analysis to ensure that the qualitative summaries align with the underlying numerical data. Appendix 4 provides a country-by-country listing that includes each nation's score per block and the corresponding descriptors.

D. Bible Ownership Descriptors

In addition to access-related scores, the BAL assigns descriptive labels to Bible ownership levels, based on national averages derived from survey responses and validated through expert review.

Score	Range Descriptor
0–20%	Bible ownership is extremely low.
21–35%	Bible ownership is very low.
36–50%	Bible ownership is low.
51–70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
71–90%	Bible ownership is high.
>90%	Bible ownership is very high.

These ownership descriptors give a general indication of how widely Scripture is owned among a country's Christian population and help put the level of unmet need into context. Appendix 5 includes the Bible Shortage list along with the associated ownership ranges and descriptors.

Interpreting the Descriptors

The scale used in all descriptors reflects the BAL's commitment to expressing **degrees of access and need**, rather than relying on binary classifications. As introduced in Section 1.3, this approach acknowledges the reality of **multiple lived experiences** within each country.

A descriptor such as "Severe" or "Extreme" does not imply that everyone faces identical challenges, but rather that significant and persistent challenges are present. These groupings help partners quickly understand Bible access conditions and use that understanding to guide their planning and response.

Descriptive labels are applied across all major BAL outputs—including ranked tables, country profiles, dashboards, and reports—creating a common interpretive language for both technical and non-technical audiences.

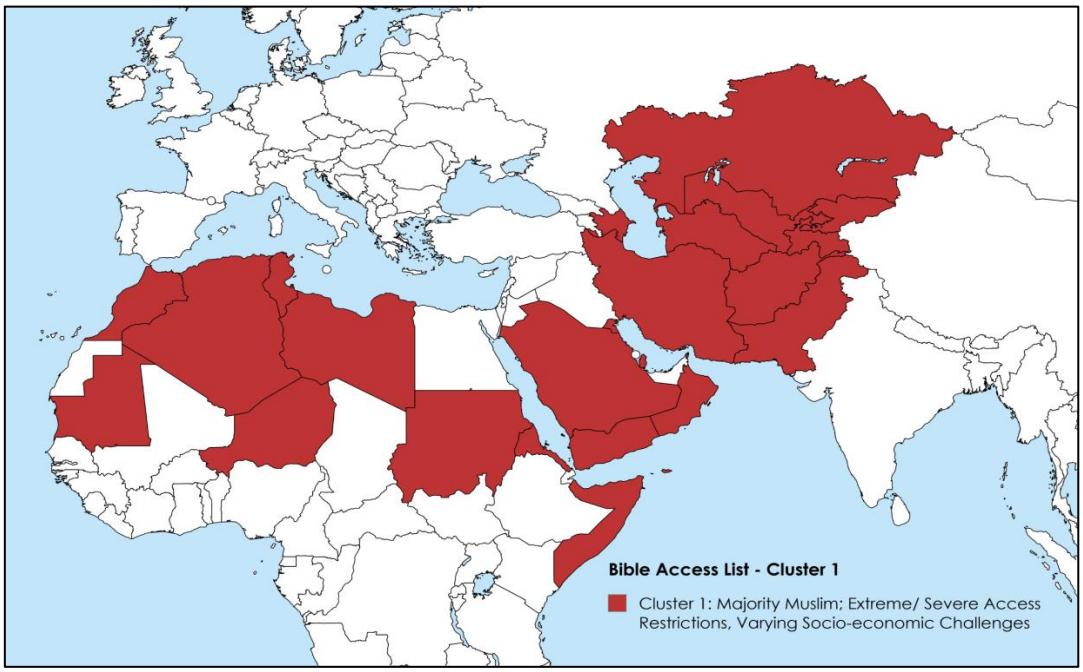
2.8.4 Issue-based Clusters

In addition to rankings and descriptors, the BAL also offers a third interpretive lens: **issue-based clustering**. This approach groups countries according to shared patterns in access restrictions, allowing for a more thematic understanding of the obstacles facing Scripture distribution and use.

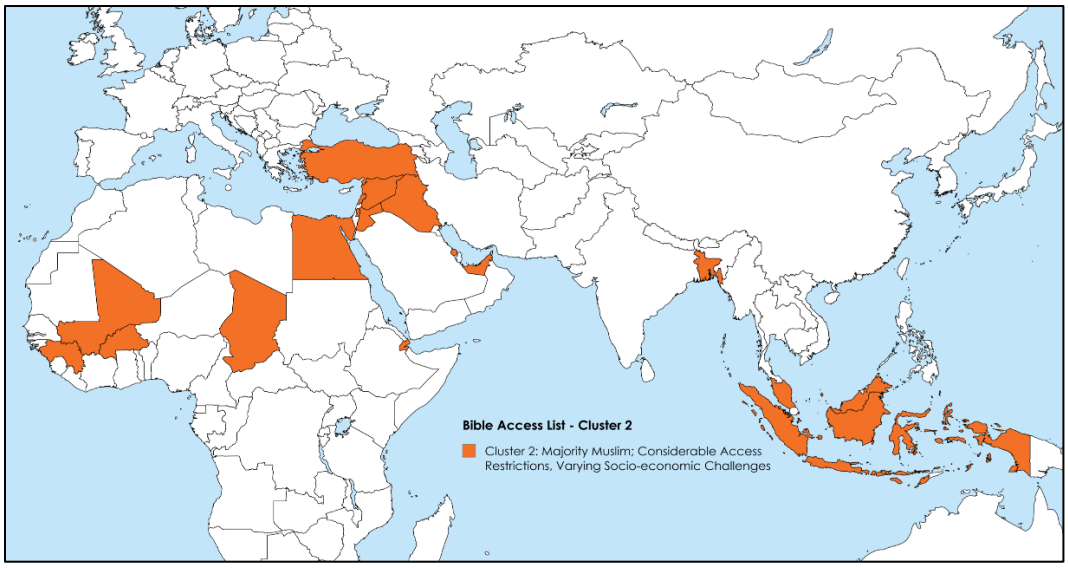
While rankings and descriptors highlight where countries fall individually, **clusters emphasize shared characteristics**, regional dynamics, and typologies of restriction. This framework helps partners identify cross-cutting challenges and align responses across countries facing similar challenges.

Based on analysis of scores, context narratives, and expert validation, the BAL identifies **five global clusters**, each defined by a dominant religious demographic and access environments:

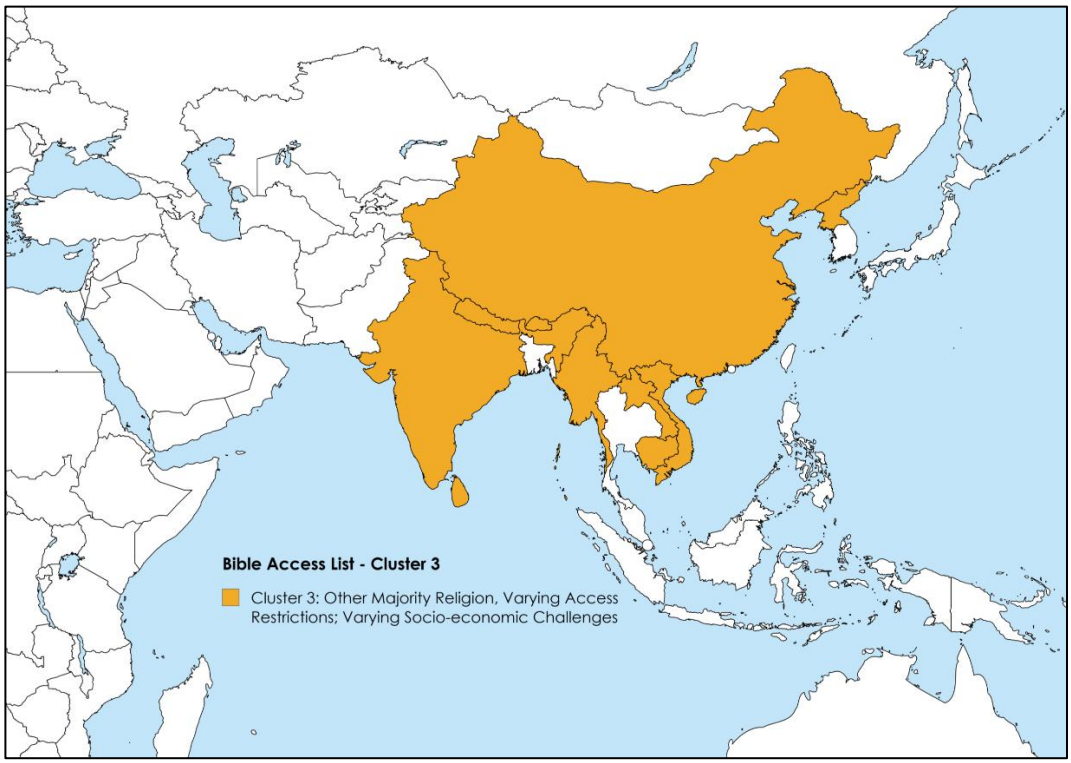
Cluster 1: Muslim-Majority Countries with **Extreme or Severe Access Restrictions and Varying Levels of Socio-economic Challenges**



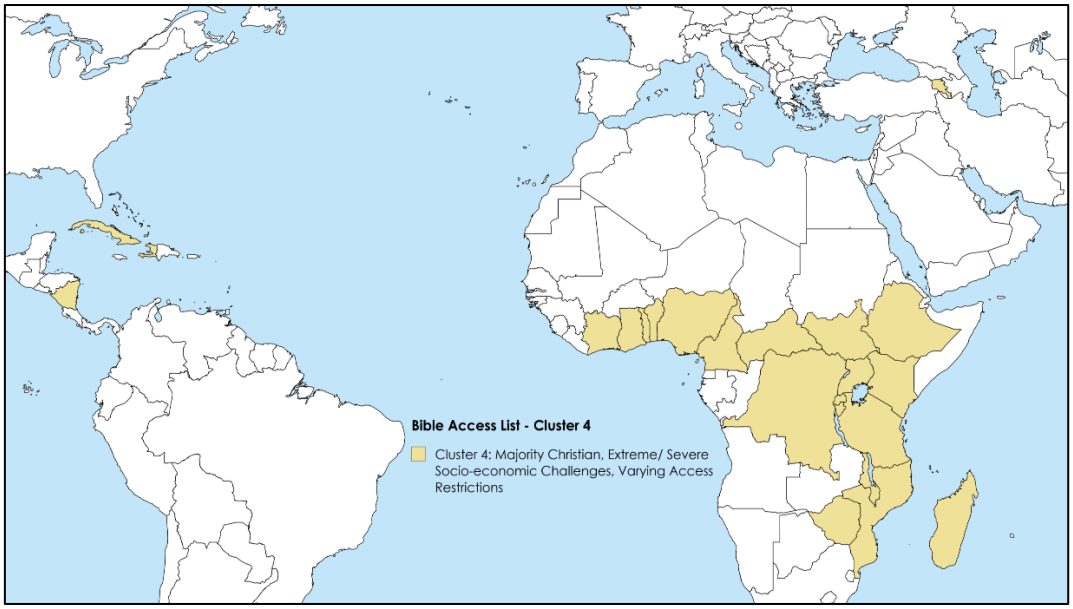
Cluster 2: Muslim-Majority Countries with **Considerable, Minimal, or Some Access Restrictions and Varying Levels of Socio-economic Challenges**



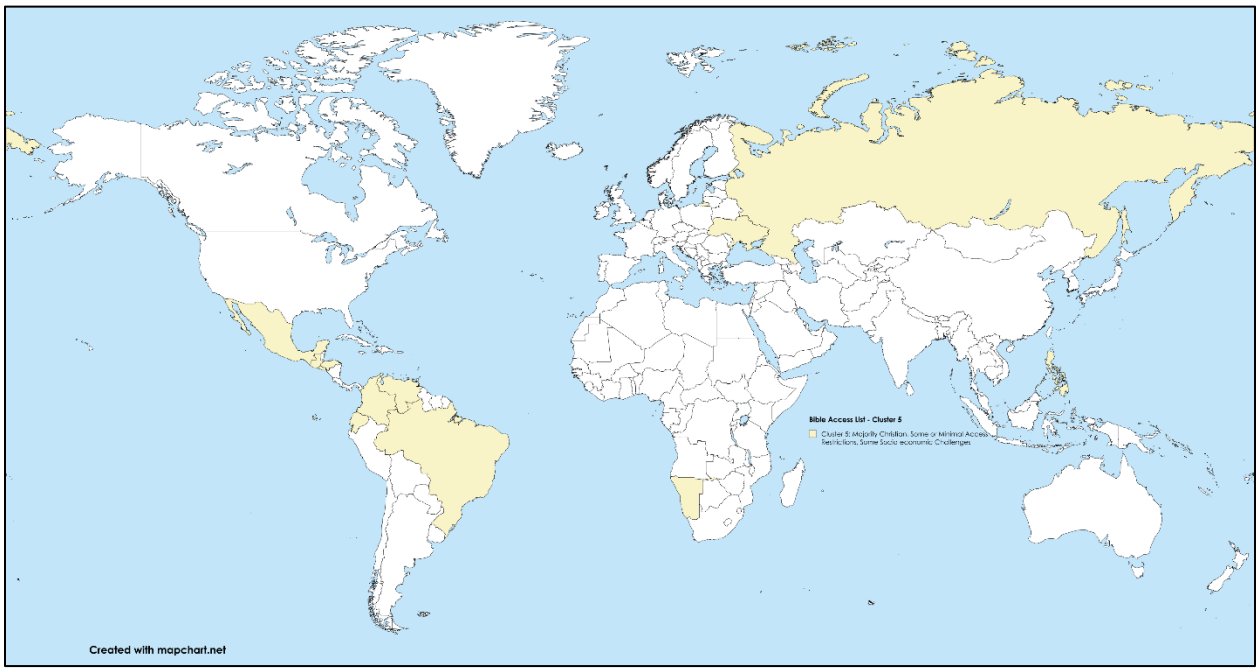
Cluster 3: Other Religion-Majority Countries with **Varying Levels of Access Restrictions Socio-economic Challenges**



Cluster 4: Christian-Majority Countries with **Extreme, Severe, or Considerable Socio-economic Challenges** and **Mostly Some, Minimal, or Considerable Access Restrictions**



Cluster 5: Christian-Majority Countries with **Some Socio-economic Challenges** and **Minimal Access Restrictions**



These clusters provide an additional way to view the global data—moving beyond score-based comparisons toward deeper insight into **shared access environments and structural constraints**.

A full overview of countries per cluster, along with their access restrictions scores and Bible shortage classifications, is available in **Appendix 6.**

2.9 Limitations and Ethical Considerations

While the BAL methodology strives for rigor, transparency, and contextual accuracy, certain limitations and ethical considerations must be acknowledged.

2.9.1 Methodological Limitations

- **Data Availability and Quality**: In some countries—particularly those with severe restrictions or limited connectivity—reliable data is difficult to collect. Estimates may rely more heavily on expert judgment or secondary sources.
- **Subjectivity in Scoring**: Though structured scoring grids and validation processes are applied, some indicators inherently require subjective interpretation (e.g., severity of restriction). Validation by local experts reduces but does not eliminate this subjectivity.
- **Survey Representativeness**: Respondent samples are not statistically randomized. While geographically and denominationally diverse respondents are targeted, bias in survey response patterns may persist.

- **Estimation Ranges**: Bible shortage estimates are based on context specific data expressed as ranges to accommodate uncertainty, but these still depend on assumptions (e.g., household size, adult population estimates) that may vary by context.

2.9.2 Ethical Safeguards

- **Anonymity and Confidentiality**: Survey participants, expert reviewers, and field observers are not publicly named. Identifying details are excluded to protect individuals, especially in high-risk or surveillance-heavy contexts.
- **Informed Consent**: All contributors to surveys or interviews participated voluntarily, were informed about the purpose of the research, and could decline or withdraw at any time.
- **Sensitive Country Data Handling**: In cases where publication of specific data may compromise security or dignity of individuals or churches, the BAL either omits such data or anonymizes it in consultation with local experts.
- **Missional Responsibility**: All data use and reporting decisions are guided by the missional intent to serve the Church and advance Bible access without endangering communities.

The BAL team acknowledges these constraints openly, not to undermine confidence in the findings, but to encourage informed and cautious use of the data for prayer, strategy, and advocacy.

2.10 Future Methodology Development

The BAL methodology is designed to evolve over time. The current version reflects extensive consultation, field testing, and validation. However, the BAI acknowledges several areas for future refinement and development:

- **Inclusion of Seekers:** While the current shortage estimates focus solely on existing Christians, future editions aim to explore methodologies to responsibly include seekers — individuals interested in accessing the Bible but not yet identifying as Christian.
- **Improved Data Precision:** Bible shortage estimates are currently expressed in ranges to reflect uncertainty and variation. Future refinements may include narrower bands or probabilistic models to improve precision while maintaining transparency.
- **Expanded Country Coverage:** The 2025 edition covers 88 countries, up from 67 from the list in 2024. Ongoing efforts aim to expand global reach while maintaining methodological integrity.
- **Enhanced Digital Access Indicators:** As internet-based Bible access grows in importance, future editions may further refine the scoring of online risks, censorship, and digital literacy.
- **Refinement of Socio-Economic Indicators:** Current poverty scoring is based on World Bank income-level categories. Future enhancements will explore integrating more granular data, such as the number of people — and specifically Christians — living below national or global poverty lines, to improve accuracy and relevance.

- **Estimation for Children and Youth:** The current methodology focuses on adult Bible ownership and need. Future development will assess whether separate estimates for children's and youth Bibles should be included, recognizing their critical role in the life of the Church.
- **Granular Scoring for Minorities:** While minority access restrictions are captured within current indicators, future versions aim to more explicitly identify and quantify Bible access challenges and needs among minority populations within each country.
- **Increased Local Ownership:** Continued investment will be made in expanding the base of local contributors, including more grassroots respondents and in-country experts, to improve contextual accuracy and diversity of insight.

Appendix 1: Bible Access List 2025 Survey Questions

The Bible Availability and Restrictions Survey was used to gather first-hand insights from local respondents and experts across 88 countries. The survey has been translated into Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic, and Russian.

The questions below formed the foundation for calculating Access Restriction scores (Section 2.4), Bible ownership and shortage estimates (Section 2.5), and expert validations (Section 2.6).

1. Access Restrictions to the Bible

These questions correspond to the **Block 1 indicators** used in Section 2.4.1.

For each of the five physical access areas, respondents were asked:

- Can the Bible be **imported, printed, stored, owned, and distributed freely** in your country **in any quantity**?
- If there are limitations, what is their **nature, severity, geographic scope**, and which groups are affected (e.g., entire population, Christians, minorities)?

In addition, follow-up questions assessed:

- Whether restrictions differ for **expats or guest workers**
- If **non-legal challenges** (e.g., corruption, poverty, lack of paper) further restrict access

2. Online Bible Access & Safety

Corresponds to the **Internet Safety Indicator** (Section 2.4.4.3–4).

Respondents answered:

- Is it technically possible to access the Bible online?
- Are there **security risks** due to surveillance or monitoring?
- How safe is it to access Bibles through websites, apps, or SD cards?

3. Bible Ownership and Shortage Estimation

Used in calculating shortage ranges (Section 2.5.1–2.5.4).

Respondents provided:

- **Estimated ownership percentages** by denomination (Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Converts)
- Traditions regarding **Bible ownership practices**
- Estimated **percentage of Christians who want a Bible but don't own one**
- Preferred **Bible formats** (print, audio, app, SD card)
- Input on **Bible needs for seekers**

Respondents were also asked to describe:

- The **current Bible shortage** in their country
- Estimated quantities needed per format and denomination

4. Contextual Input on Movements and Outreach

Relevant for **validation and triangulation** (Section 2.6).

Questions explored:

- Presence and scale of **Church Planting Movements (CPMs)** and **Discipleship Making Movements (DMMs)**
- Their reported impact on new Christians and expanding access

Appendix 2: Bible Restrictions list – Scores and Ranking

This table presents a ranked list of the 88 countries included in the BAL 2025, sorted by their total Access Restrictions score. Each score is based on a weighted combination of legal and socio-economic challenges, as described in **Section 2.4**. The full scoring methodology, including how indicators are assessed and combined into a total access score, is detailed in **Sections 2.4.1 through 2.4.6**.

Country	Access Rank	Total Access Points	Overall Access Restriction Description
Somalia	1	94.72	Extreme Access Restrictions
Afghanistan	2	94.47	Extreme Access Restrictions
Yemen	3	91.75	Extreme Access Restrictions
North Korea	4	91.72	Extreme Access Restrictions
Mauritania	5	88.72	Extreme Access Restrictions
Eritrea	6	88.63	Extreme Access Restrictions
Libya	7	86.75	Extreme Access Restrictions
Algeria	8	83.69	Extreme Access Restrictions
Iran	9	83.47	Extreme Access Restrictions
Turkmenistan	10	81.94	Extreme Access Restrictions
Sudan	11	81.59	Extreme Access Restrictions

Maldives	12	80.97	Extreme Access Restrictions
Comoros	13	80.59	Extreme Access Restrictions
Tunisia	14	77.09	Extreme Access Restrictions
Tajikistan	15	76.69	Extreme Access Restrictions
Bhutan	16	74.38	Severe Access Restrictions
Morocco	17	73.91	Severe Access Restrictions
Saudi Arabia	18	70.31	Severe Access Restrictions
Oman	19	69.22	Severe Access Restrictions
Pakistan	20	69.19	Severe Access Restrictions
Laos	21	68.81	Severe Access Restrictions
Brunei	22	68.44	Severe Access Restrictions
Niger	23	68.38	Severe Access Restrictions
Uzbekistan	24	68.13	Severe Access Restrictions
China	25	67.84	Severe Access Restrictions
Kyrgyzstan	26	67.03	Severe Access Restrictions
Kazakhstan	27	67.00	Severe Access Restrictions
Central African Republic	28	66.56	Severe Access Restrictions
Burkina Faso	29	66.19	Severe Access Restrictions
Azerbaijan	30	65.66	Severe Access Restrictions
Mozambique	31	65.56	Severe Access Restrictions
Kuwait	32	65.31	Severe Access Restrictions
Qatar	33	65.16	Severe Access Restrictions
Iraq	34	64.88	Considerable Access Restrictions
Syria	35	64.88	Considerable Access Restrictions
Djibouti	36	63.97	Considerable Access Restrictions
Bahrain	37	63.75	Considerable Access Restrictions
Nigeria	38	63.41	Considerable Access Restrictions
Nepal	39	63.25	Considerable Access Restrictions
Cuba	40	62.91	Considerable Access Restrictions
Vietnam	41	62.81	Considerable Access Restrictions
India	42	62.47	Considerable Access Restrictions
Mali	43	62.22	Considerable Access Restrictions
United Arab Emirates	44	61.25	Considerable Access Restrictions
Malaysia	45	61.22	Considerable Access Restrictions
Myanmar	46	60.59	Considerable Access Restrictions
Bangladesh	47	57.94	Considerable Access Restrictions
Chad	48	57.34	Considerable Access Restrictions
Jordan	49	56.81	Considerable Access Restrictions
Indonesia	50	56.34	Considerable Access Restrictions
Egypt	51	53.97	Some Access Restrictions
Democratic Republic of Congo	52	53.94	Some Access Restrictions
Ethiopia	53	52.13	Some Access Restrictions

Cameroon	54	50.44	Some Access Restrictions
Palestine	55	48.59	Some Access Restrictions
Guinea	56	43.72	Minimal Access Restrictions
South Sudan	57	42.19	Minimal Access Restrictions
Togo	58	41.75	Minimal Access Restrictions
Türkiye	59	40.81	Minimal Access Restrictions
Uganda	60	40.31	Minimal Access Restrictions
Kenya	61	39.19	Minimal Access Restrictions
Madagascar	62	39.00	Minimal Access Restrictions
Tanzania	63	37.31	Minimal Access Restrictions
Lebanon	64	37.28	Minimal Access Restrictions
Malawi	65	37.06	Minimal Access Restrictions
Colombia	66	33.53	Minimal Access Restrictions
Russia	67	33.44	Minimal Access Restrictions
Benin	68	32.63	Minimal Access Restrictions
Ivory Coast	69	32.31	Minimal Access Restrictions
Nicaragua	70	31.00	Minimal Access Restrictions
Ukraine	71	30.81	Minimal Access Restrictions
Cambodia	72	29.75	Minimal Access Restrictions
Venezuela	73	29.31	Minimal Access Restrictions
Mexico	74	28.16	Minimal Access Restrictions
Sri Lanka	75	26.22	Minimal Access Restrictions
Burundi	76	24.38	Minimal Access Restrictions
Haiti	77	22.63	Minimal Access Restrictions
Philippines	78	17.88	Minimal Access Restrictions
Rwanda	79	17.38	Minimal Access Restrictions
Ghana	80	15.38	Minimal Access Restrictions
Zimbabwe	81	13.25	Minimal Access Restrictions
Honduras	82	12.72	Minimal Access Restrictions
Guatemala	83	12.13	Minimal Access Restrictions
Namibia	84	12.13	Minimal Access Restrictions
El Salvador	85	10.88	Minimal Access Restrictions
Ecuador	86	7.75	Minimal Access Restrictions
Armenia	87	6.75	Minimal Access Restrictions
Brazil	88	6.13	Minimal Access Restrictions

Appendix 3: Bible Shortage list – Scores and Ranking

This table ranks countries by the estimated number of Christians who want to have a Bible but currently do not have one, using shortage ranges rather than exact figures. These ranges reflect levels of unmet need, based on survey data, ownership trends, and expert validation. The estimation process is described in detail in Sections 2.5.1 to 2.5.6, which outline how shortages are calculated, validated, and categorized. (Note: This is a sample display of top-ranking shortage countries.)

Country	Bible Shortage Rank	Shortage Range
Democratic Republic of Congo	1	>10 million
Nigeria	2	>10 million
Ethiopia	3	>10 million
India	4	>10 million
China	5	5 - 10 million
Tanzania	6	5 - 10 million
Uganda	7	3 - 5 million
Mozambique	8	3 - 5 million
Indonesia	9	3 - 5 million
Madagascar	10	1 - 3 million
Malawi	11	1 - 3 million
Zimbabwe	12	1 - 3 million
Cameroon	13	1 - 3 million
Rwanda	14	1 - 3 million
Burundi	15	1 - 3 million
Haiti	16	1 - 3 million
Cuba	17	1 - 3 million
Burkina Faso	18	1 - 3 million
Kenya	19	1 - 3 million
Pakistan	20	500k - 1 million
Central African Republic	21	500k - 1 million
South Sudan	22	500k - 1 million
Togo	23	500k - 1 million
Vietnam	24	500k - 1 million
Egypt	25	500k - 1 million
Chad	26	500k - 1 million
Ghana	27	500k - 1 million
Ivory Coast	28	500k - 1 million
Benin	29	250 - 500k
Nicaragua	30	250 - 500k
Sudan	31	250 - 500k
Myanmar	32	250 - 500k
Nepal	33	100 - 250k
Bangladesh	34	100 - 250k
Eritrea	35	100 - 250k
Malaysia	36	100 - 250k
Iran	37	100 - 250k
Armenia	38	100 - 250k
Sri Lanka	39	50 - 100k

Saudi Arabia	40	50 - 100k
Syria	41	50 - 100k
Cambodia	42	50 - 100k
Guinea	43	50 - 100k
Kazakhstan	44	50 - 100k
North Korea	45	50 - 100k
Mali	46	25 - 50k
Qatar	47	25 - 50k
Türkiye	48	25 - 50k
Azerbaijan	49	25 - 50k
Uzbekistan	50	25 - 50k
Kuwait	51	25 - 50k
Lebanon	52	25 - 50k
United Arab Emirates	53	25 - 50k
Bahrain	54	10 - 25k
Laos	55	10 - 25k
Jordan	56	10 - 25k
Niger	57	10 - 25k
Kyrgyzstan	58	10 - 25k
Iraq	59	10 - 25k
Turkmenistan	60	<10k
Algeria	61	<10k
Bhutan	62	<10k
Oman	63	<10k
Brunei	64	<10k
Libya	65	<10k
Tajikistan	66	<10k
Palestine	67	<10k
Tunisia	68	<10k
Morocco	69	<10k
Mauritania	70	<10k
Afghanistan	71	<10k
Yemen	72	<10k
Djibouti	73	<10k
Comoros	74	<10k
Maldives	75	<10k
Somalia	76	<10k

Appendix 4: Descriptors for Access Restrictions

This appendix summarizes the qualitative descriptors assigned to each country's Access Restriction score, broken down into:

- Overall Access Restriction (total score),
- Block 1 (restrictions imposed by government, religious extremists or other actors),
- Block 2 (socio-economic challenges).

These descriptors help translate numerical scores into more intuitive categories, such as *Extreme*, *Severe*, or *Minimal Access Restrictions*. The descriptor system is explained in Section 2.8.3, and aligns with the scoring intervals presented throughout Chapter 2.4 and 2.5.

Country	Access Rank	Total Access Points	Overall Access Restriction Description	Total Block 1 Access Points	Block 1 Access Restriction Description	Total Block 2 Other Limiting Points	Other Factors description
Somalia	1	94.72	Extreme Access Restrictions	74.22	Extreme Access Restrictions	20.50	Extreme Other Factors
Afghanistan	2	94.47	Extreme Access Restrictions	74.22	Extreme Access Restrictions	20.25	Extreme Other Factors
Yemen	3	91.75	Extreme Access Restrictions	75.00	Extreme Access Restrictions	16.75	Severe Other Factors
North Korea	4	91.72	Extreme Access Restrictions	74.22	Extreme Access Restrictions	17.50	Severe Other Factors
Mauritania	5	88.72	Extreme Access Restrictions	69.22	Severe Access Restrictions	19.50	Severe Other Factors
Eritrea	6	88.63	Extreme Access Restrictions	71.88	Extreme Access Restrictions	16.75	Severe Other Factors
Libya	7	86.75	Extreme Access Restrictions	75.00	Extreme Access Restrictions	11.75	Considerable Other Factors
Algeria	8	83.69	Extreme Access Restrictions	73.44	Extreme Access Restrictions	10.25	Considerable Other Factors
Iran	9	83.47	Extreme Access Restrictions	74.22	Extreme Access Restrictions	9.25	Some Other Factors
Turkmenistan	10	81.94	Extreme Access Restrictions	72.19	Extreme Access Restrictions	9.75	Some Other Factors
Sudan	11	81.59	Extreme Access Restrictions	64.84	Considerable Access Restrictions	16.75	Severe Other Factors
Maldives	12	80.97	Extreme Access Restrictions	74.22	Extreme Access Restrictions	6.75	Some Other Factors
Comoros	13	80.59	Extreme Access Restrictions	64.84	Considerable Access Restrictions	15.75	Severe Other Factors
Tunisia	14	77.09	Extreme Access Restrictions	64.84	Considerable Access Restrictions	12.25	Considerable Other Factors
Tajikistan	15	76.69	Extreme Access Restrictions	65.94	Severe Access Restrictions	10.75	Considerable Other Factors
Bhutan	16	74.38	Severe Access Restrictions	64.38	Considerable Access Restrictions	10.00	Considerable Other Factors
Morocco	17	73.91	Severe Access Restrictions	67.66	Severe Access Restrictions	6.25	Some Other Factors
Saudi Arabia	18	70.31	Severe Access Restrictions	70.31	Extreme Access Restrictions	0.00	No Other Factors
Oman	19	69.22	Severe Access Restrictions	69.22	Severe Access Restrictions	0.00	No Other Factors
Pakistan	20	69.19	Severe Access Restrictions	57.19	Considerable Access Restrictions	12.00	Considerable Other Factors
Laos	21	68.81	Severe Access Restrictions	57.81	Considerable Access Restrictions	11.00	Considerable Other Factors
Brunei	22	68.44	Severe Access Restrictions	65.94	Severe Access Restrictions	2.50	Some Other Factors
Niger	23	68.38	Severe Access Restrictions	46.88	Some Access Restrictions	21.50	Extreme Other Factors
Uzbekistan	24	68.13	Severe Access Restrictions	59.38	Considerable Access Restrictions	8.75	Some Other Factors

Country	Access Rank	Total Access Points	Overall Access Restriction Description	Total Block 1 Access Points	Block 1 Access Restriction Description	Total Block 2 Other Limiting Points	Other Factors description
China	25	67.84	Severe Access Restrictions	64.84	Considerable Access Restrictions	3.00	Some Other Factors
Kyrgyzstan	26	67.03	Severe Access Restrictions	57.03	Considerable Access Restrictions	10.00	Considerable Other Factors
Kazakhstan	27	67.00	Severe Access Restrictions	62.50	Considerable Access Restrictions	4.50	Some Other Factors
Central African Republic	28	66.56	Severe Access Restrictions	45.31	Some Access Restrictions	21.25	Extreme Other Factors
Burkina Faso	29	66.19	Severe Access Restrictions	42.19	Minimal Access Restrictions	24.00	Extreme Other Factors
Azerbaijan	30	65.66	Severe Access Restrictions	58.91	Considerable Access Restrictions	6.75	Some Other Factors
Mozambique	31	65.56	Severe Access Restrictions	45.31	Some Access Restrictions	20.25	Extreme Other Factors
Kuwait	32	65.31	Severe Access Restrictions	65.31	Severe Access Restrictions	0.00	No Other Factors
Qatar	33	65.16	Severe Access Restrictions	65.16	Severe Access Restrictions	0.00	No Other Factors
Iraq	34	64.88	Considerable Access Restrictions	56.88	Considerable Access Restrictions	8.00	Some Other Factors
Syria	35	64.88	Considerable Access Restrictions	50.63	Some Access Restrictions	14.25	Considerable Other Factors
Djibouti	36	63.97	Considerable Access Restrictions	50.47	Some Access Restrictions	13.50	Considerable Other Factors
Bahrain	37	63.75	Considerable Access Restrictions	63.75	Considerable Access Restrictions	0.00	No Other Factors
Nigeria	38	63.41	Considerable Access Restrictions	47.66	Some Access Restrictions	15.75	Severe Other Factors
Nepal	39	63.25	Considerable Access Restrictions	55.00	Considerable Access Restrictions	8.25	Some Other Factors
Cuba	40	62.91	Considerable Access Restrictions	53.91	Some Access Restrictions	9.00	Some Other Factors
Vietnam	41	62.81	Considerable Access Restrictions	57.81	Considerable Access Restrictions	5.00	Some Other Factors
India	42	62.47	Considerable Access Restrictions	54.22	Some Access Restrictions	8.25	Some Other Factors
Mali	43	62.22	Considerable Access Restrictions	42.97	Minimal Access Restrictions	19.25	Severe Other Factors
United Arab Emirates	44	61.25	Considerable Access Restrictions	61.25	Considerable Access Restrictions	0.00	No Other Factors
Malaysia	45	61.22	Considerable Access Restrictions	59.22	Considerable Access Restrictions	2.00	Some Other Factors
Myanmar	46	60.59	Considerable Access Restrictions	46.09	Some Access Restrictions	14.50	Considerable Other Factors
Bangladesh	47	57.94	Considerable Access Restrictions	45.94	Some Access Restrictions	12.00	Considerable Other Factors
Chad	48	57.34	Considerable Access Restrictions	33.59	Minimal Access Restrictions	23.75	Extreme Other Factors
Jordan	49	56.81	Considerable Access Restrictions	52.81	Some Access Restrictions	4.00	Some Other Factors
Indonesia	50	56.34	Considerable Access Restrictions	49.84	Some Access Restrictions	6.50	Some Other Factors
Egypt	51	53.97	Some Access Restrictions	46.72	Some Access Restrictions	7.25	Some Other Factors
DR Congo	52	53.94	Some Access Restrictions	35.94	Minimal Access Restrictions	18.00	Severe Other Factors
Ethiopia	53	52.13	Some Access Restrictions	33.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	19.00	Severe Other Factors
Cameroon	54	50.44	Some Access Restrictions	35.94	Minimal Access Restrictions	14.50	Considerable Other Factors
Palestine	55	48.59	Some Access Restrictions	39.84	Minimal Access Restrictions	8.75	Some Other Factors
Guinea	56	43.72	Minimal Access Restrictions	24.22	Minimal Access Restrictions	19.50	Severe Other Factors
South Sudan	57	42.19	Minimal Access Restrictions	17.19	Minimal Access Restrictions	25.00	Extreme Other Factors
Togo	58	41.75	Minimal Access Restrictions	25.00	Minimal Access Restrictions	16.75	Severe Other Factors

Country	Access Rank	Total Access Points	Overall Access Restriction Description	Total Block 1 Access Points	Block 1 Access Restriction Description	Total Block 2 Other Limiting Points	Other Factors description
Türkiye	59	40.81	Minimal Access Restrictions	37.81	Minimal Access Restrictions	3.00	Some Other Factors
Uganda	60	40.31	Minimal Access Restrictions	20.31	Minimal Access Restrictions	20.00	Extreme Other Factors
Kenya	61	39.19	Minimal Access Restrictions	29.69	Minimal Access Restrictions	9.50	Some Other Factors
Madagascar	62	39.00	Minimal Access Restrictions	18.75	Minimal Access Restrictions	20.25	Extreme Other Factors
Tanzania	63	37.31	Minimal Access Restrictions	20.31	Minimal Access Restrictions	17.00	Severe Other Factors
Lebanon	64	37.28	Minimal Access Restrictions	29.53	Minimal Access Restrictions	7.75	Some Other Factors
Malawi	65	37.06	Minimal Access Restrictions	20.31	Minimal Access Restrictions	16.75	Severe Other Factors
Colombia	66	33.53	Minimal Access Restrictions	27.03	Minimal Access Restrictions	6.50	Some Other Factors
Russia	67	33.44	Minimal Access Restrictions	29.69	Minimal Access Restrictions	3.75	Some Other Factors
Benin	68	32.63	Minimal Access Restrictions	15.63	Minimal Access Restrictions	17.00	Severe Other Factors
Ivory Coast	69	32.31	Minimal Access Restrictions	20.31	Minimal Access Restrictions	12.00	Considerable Other Factors
Nicaragua	70	31.00	Minimal Access Restrictions	18.75	Minimal Access Restrictions	12.25	Considerable Other Factors
Ukraine	71	30.81	Minimal Access Restrictions	25.31	Minimal Access Restrictions	5.50	Some Other Factors
Cambodia	72	29.75	Minimal Access Restrictions	18.75	Minimal Access Restrictions	11.00	Considerable Other Factors
Venezuela	73	29.31	Minimal Access Restrictions	20.31	Minimal Access Restrictions	9.00	Some Other Factors
Mexico	74	28.16	Minimal Access Restrictions	22.66	Minimal Access Restrictions	5.50	Some Other Factors
Sri Lanka	75	26.22	Minimal Access Restrictions	16.72	Minimal Access Restrictions	9.50	Some Other Factors
Burundi	76	24.38	Minimal Access Restrictions	3.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	21.25	Extreme Other Factors
Haiti	77	22.63	Minimal Access Restrictions	3.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	19.50	Severe Other Factors
Philippines	78	17.88	Minimal Access Restrictions	11.88	Minimal Access Restrictions	6.00	Some Other Factors
Rwanda	79	17.38	Minimal Access Restrictions	3.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	14.25	Considerable Other Factors
Ghana	80	15.38	Minimal Access Restrictions	3.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	12.25	Considerable Other Factors
Zimbabwe	81	13.25	Minimal Access Restrictions	0.00	No Access Restrictions	13.25	Considerable Other Factors
Honduras	82	12.72	Minimal Access Restrictions	5.47	Minimal Access Restrictions	7.25	Some Other Factors
Guatemala	83	12.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	3.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	9.00	Some Other Factors
Namibia	84	12.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	3.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	9.00	Some Other Factors
El Salvador	85	10.88	Minimal Access Restrictions	3.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	7.75	Some Other Factors
Ecuador	86	7.75	Minimal Access Restrictions	0.00	No Access Restrictions	7.75	Some Other Factors
Armenia	87	6.75	Minimal Access Restrictions	0.00	No Access Restrictions	6.75	Some Other Factors
Brazil	88	6.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	3.13	Minimal Access Restrictions	3.00	Some Other Factors

Appendix 5: Bible Ownership Ranges per Country

This table displays estimated national Bible ownership ranges among Christians and the corresponding descriptive categories (e.g., *Very Low*, *Over 50%*, *High*). These estimates are based on survey responses and expert review, following the methodology detailed in **Section 2.5.3**. They provide critical context for understanding Bible shortage calculations and are used in tandem with shortage estimates presented in Appendix 3.

Country	Ownership Range	Ownership Descriptor
Afghanistan	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Algeria	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Armenia	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Azerbaijan	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Bahrain	71-90%	Bible ownership is high (over 70%).
Bangladesh	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Benin	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Bhutan	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Brazil	Cluster 5	Not scored.
Brunei	71-90%	Bible ownership is high (over 70%).
Burkina Faso	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Burundi	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Cambodia	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Cameroon	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Central African Republic	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Chad	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
China	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Colombia	Cluster 5	Not scored.
Comoros	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Democratic Republic of Congo	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Cuba	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Djibouti	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Ecuador	Cluster 5	Not scored.
Egypt	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
El Salvador	Cluster 5	Not scored.
Eritrea	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Ethiopia	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Ghana	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Guatemala	Cluster 5	Not scored.
Guinea	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Haiti	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Honduras	Cluster 5	Not scored.
India	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Indonesia	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Iran	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Iraq	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Ivory Coast	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Jordan	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Kazakhstan	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Kenya	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.

Country	Ownership Range	Ownership Descriptor
Kuwait	71-90%	Bible ownership is high (over 70%).
Kyrgyzstan	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Laos	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Lebanon	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Libya	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Madagascar	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Malawi	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Malaysia	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Maldives	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Mali	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Mauritania	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Mexico	Cluster 5	Not scored.
Morocco	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Mozambique	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Myanmar	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Namibia	Cluster 5	Not scored.
Nepal	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Nicaragua	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Niger	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Nigeria	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
North Korea	0-20%	Bible ownership is extremely low.
Oman	71-90%	Bible ownership is high (over 70%).
Pakistan	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Palestine	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Philippines	Cluster 5	Not scored.
Qatar	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Russia	Cluster 5	Not scored.
Rwanda	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Saudi Arabia	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Somalia	0-20%	Bible ownership is extremely low.
South Sudan	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Sri Lanka	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Sudan	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Syria	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Tajikistan	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Tanzania	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Togo	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Tunisia	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Türkiye	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Turkmenistan	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.

Country	Ownership Range	Ownership Descriptor
Uganda	36-50%	Bible ownership is low.
Ukraine	Cluster 5	Not scored.
United Arab Emirates	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Uzbekistan	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.
Venezuela	Cluster 5	Not scored.
Vietnam	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Yemen	21-35%	Bible ownership is very low.
Zimbabwe	51-70%	Bible ownership is over 50%.

Appendix 6: Issue-based Clusters

As referenced in section 2.8.4. below is an overview of countries per cluster, along with their Bible Restrictions rank and scores and Bible Shortage classifications as well.

Cluster 1: Muslim-Majority Countries with **Extreme or Severe Access Restrictions and Varying Socio-Economic Challenges**

Country	Access Rank	Total Access Points	Overall Access Restriction Description	Bible Shortage Rank	Bible Shortage Range	Bible Shortage Description
Afghanistan	2	94.47	Extreme Access Restrictions	71	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Algeria	8	83.69	Extreme Access Restrictions	61	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Brunei	24	68.44	Severe Access Restrictions	64	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Comoros	13	80.59	Extreme Access Restrictions	74	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Eritrea	6	88.63	Extreme Access Restrictions	35	100 - 250k	Between one hundred and two hundred fifty thousand
Iran	9	83.47	Extreme Access Restrictions	37	100 - 250k	Between one hundred and two hundred fifty thousand
Kuwait	32	65.31	Severe Access Restrictions	51	25 - 50k	Between twenty-five and fifty thousand
Libya	7	86.75	Extreme Access Restrictions	65	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Maldives	12	80.97	Extreme Access Restrictions	75	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Mauritania	5	88.72	Extreme Access Restrictions	70	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Morocco	17	73.91	Severe Access Restrictions	69	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Oman	21	69.22	Severe Access Restrictions	63	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Qatar	33	65.16	Severe Access Restrictions	47	25 - 50k	Between twenty-five and fifty thousand
Saudi Arabia	19	70.31	Severe Access Restrictions	39	50 - 100k	Between fifty and one hundred thousand
Somalia	1	94.72	Extreme Access Restrictions	76	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Sudan	11	81.59	Extreme Access Restrictions	31	250 - 500k	Between two hundred fifty and five hundred thousand
Tajikistan	15	76.69	Extreme Access Restrictions	66	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Tunisia	14	77.09	Extreme Access Restrictions	68	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Turkmenistan	10	81.94	Extreme Access Restrictions	60	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Yemen	3	91.75	Extreme Access Restrictions	72	<10k	Less than ten thousand

Cluster 2: Muslim-Majority Countries with **Considerable, Minimal or Some Access Restrictions and Varying Socio-Economic Challenges**

Country	Access Rank	Overall Access Restriction Description	Bible Shortage Rank	Bible Shortage Range	Bible Shortage Description
Azerbaijan	30	Severe Access Restrictions	49	25 - 50k	Between twenty-five and fifty thousand
Bahrain	37	Considerable Access Restrictions	54	10 - 25k	Between ten and twenty-five thousand
Bangladesh	47	Considerable Access Restrictions	34	100 - 250k	Between one hundred and two hundred fifty thousand
Burkina Faso	29	Severe Access Restrictions	18	1 - 3 million	Between one and three million
Chad	48	Considerable Access Restrictions	26	500k - 1 million	Between five hundred thousand and one million
Djibouti	36	Considerable Access Restrictions	73	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Egypt	51	Some Access Restrictions	25	500k - 1 million	Between five hundred thousand and one million
Guinea	56	Minimal Access Restrictions	43	50 - 100k	Between fifty and one hundred thousand
Indonesia	50	Considerable Access Restrictions	9	3 - 5 million	Between three and five million
Iraq	34	Considerable Access Restrictions	59	10 - 25k	Between ten and twenty-five thousand
Jordan	49	Considerable Access Restrictions	56	10 - 25k	Between ten and twenty-five thousand
Kazakhstan	27	Severe Access Restrictions	44	50 - 100k	Between fifty and one hundred thousand
Kyrgyzstan	26	Severe Access Restrictions	58	10 - 25k	Between ten and twenty-five thousand
Lebanon	64	Minimal Access Restrictions	52	25 - 50k	Between twenty-five and fifty thousand
Malaysia	45	Considerable Access Restrictions	36	100 - 250k	Between one hundred and two hundred fifty thousand
Mali	43	Considerable Access Restrictions	46	25 - 50k	Between twenty-five and fifty thousand
Niger	23	Severe Access Restrictions	57	10 - 25k	Between ten and twenty-five thousand
Pakistan	20	Severe Access Restrictions	20	500k - 1 million	Between five hundred thousand and one million
Palestine	55	Some Access Restrictions	67	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Syria	35	Considerable Access Restrictions	41	50 - 100k	Between fifty and one hundred thousand
Türkiye	59	Minimal Access Restrictions	48	25 - 50k	Between twenty-five and fifty thousand
United Arab Emirates	44	Considerable Access Restrictions	53	25 - 50k	Between twenty-five and fifty thousand
Uzbekistan	24	Severe Access Restrictions	50	25 - 50k	Between twenty-five and fifty thousand

Cluster 3: Other Religion-Majority Countries with **Varying Levels of Access Restrictions and Varying Socio-Economic Challenges**

Country	Access Rank	Overall Access Restriction Description	Bible Shortage Rank	Bible Shortage Range	Bible Shortage Description
Bhutan	16	Severe Access Restrictions	62	<10k	Less than ten thousand
Cambodia	70	Minimal Access Restrictions	41	50 - 100k	Between fifty and one hundred thousand
China	26	Severe Access Restrictions	5	5 - 10 million	Between five and ten million
India	42	Considerable Access Restrictions	4	>10 million	More than ten million
Laos	23	Severe Access Restrictions	55	10 - 25k	Between ten and twenty-five thousand
Myanmar	46	Considerable Access Restrictions	32	250 - 500k	Between two hundred fifty and five hundred thousand

Country	Access Rank	Overall Access Restriction Description	Bible Shortage Rank	Bible Shortage Range	Bible Shortage Description
Nepal	39	Considerable Access Restrictions	33	100 - 250k	Between one hundred and two hundred fifty thousand
North Korea	4	Extreme Access Restrictions	45	50 - 100k	Between fifty and one hundred thousand
Sri Lanka	74	Minimal Access Restrictions	38	50 - 100k	Between fifty and one hundred thousand
Vietnam	41	Considerable Access Restrictions	24	500k - 1 million	Between five hundred thousand and one million

Cluster 4: Christian-Majority Countries with **Extreme, Severe or Considerable Socio-economic Challenges** and **mostly Some, Minimal, or Considerable Access Restrictions**

Country	Access Rank	Overall Access Restriction Description	Bible Shortage Rank	Bible Shortage Range	Bible Shortage Description
Armenia	87	Minimal Access Restrictions	42	100-250k	Between one hundred and two hundred fifty thousand
Benin	79	Minimal Access Restrictions	29	250 - 500k	Between two hundred fifty and five hundred thousand
Burundi	75	Minimal Access Restrictions	15	1 - 3 million	Between five hundred thousand and one million
Cameroon	53	Some Access Restrictions	13	1 - 3 million	Between one and three million
Cen. Afr. Rep.	29	Severe Access Restrictions	21	500k - 1 million	Between five hundred thousand and one million
Congo DR	55	Minimal Access Restrictions	1	>10 million	More than ten million
Cuba	40	Considerable Access Restrictions	17	1 - 3 million	Between one and three million
Ethiopia	52	Some Access Restrictions	3	>10 million	More than ten million
Ghana	80	Minimal Access Restrictions	27	500k - 1 million	Between five hundred thousand and one million
Haiti	76	Minimal Access Restrictions	16	1 - 3 million	Between one and three million
Ivory Coast	73	Minimal Access Restrictions	28	500k - 1 million	Between five hundred thousand and one million
Kenya	58	Minimal Access Restrictions	19	1 - 3 million	Between one and three million
Madagascar	59	Minimal Access Restrictions	10	1 - 3 million	Between one and three million
Malawi	64	Minimal Access Restrictions	11	1 - 3 million	Between one and three million
Mozambique	20	Severe Access Restrictions	8	3 - 5 million	Between three and five million
Nicaragua	68	Minimal Access Restrictions	30	250 - 500k	Between two hundred fifty and five hundred thousand
Nigeria	38	Considerable Access Restrictions	2	>10 million	Bore than ten million
Rwanda	78	Minimal Access Restrictions	14	1 - 3 million	Between one and three million
South Sudan	65	Minimal Access Restrictions	22	500k - 1 million	Between five hundred thousand and one million
Tanzania	62	Minimal Access Restrictions	6	5 - 10 million	Between five and ten million
Togo	60	Minimal Access Restrictions	23	500k - 1 million	Between five hundred thousand and one million
Uganda	61	Minimal Access Restrictions	7	3 - 5 million	Between five hundred thousand and one million
Zimbabwe	81	Minimal Access Restrictions	12	1 - 3 million	Between one and three million

Note: Cluster 4 primarily includes countries where Christianity is the majority religion and where access restrictions are some, minimal or considerable.

However, there are two exceptions where the following countries where included in Cluster 4 as they align between with the context and typology of cluster 4:

- **In Benin, Ivory Coast, and Nigeria,** Christianity is the largest religious group but does not form an absolute majority of the population.
- **In Central African Republic and Mozambique, countries face severe access restrictions** but based on other characteristics — such as socio-economic context and typology fit — they align best with the profile of Cluster 4.

Cluster 5: Christian-Majority Countries with **Some Socio-economic Challenges** and **Minimal Access Restrictions**

Country	Access Rank	Overall Access Restriction Description	Bible Shortage Rank	Bible Shortage Range	Bible Shortage Description
Brazil	88	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Colombia	66	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Ecuador	86	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
El Salvador	85	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Guatemala	83	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Honduras	82	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Mexico	72	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Namibia	84	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Philippines	77	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Russia	67	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Ukraine	69	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored
Venezuela	71	Minimal Access Restrictions	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored

Note: please refer to section 1.4 and 2.8.4. for additional information why no range or rank has been published for this group of countries.

Appendix 7: Glossary of Definitions and Terms Used in the BAL

Term	Definition
Bible Access List	A ranked list of countries based on barriers to Bible access, due to limitations imposed by governments, religious extremist or other actors and socio-economic limitations. (Section 2.4)
Bible Access	The ability to obtain or read a Bible through physical, digital, or shared means, whether at home, in church, or a public setting. (See Section 2.1)
Bible Ownership	Personal possession of a Bible. Ownership implies individual access and choice and may be affected by availability or legal constraints. (Section 2.1)
Bible Shortage	The estimated number of Christians who desire but do not own a personal Bible. Calculated using survey data, demographic modeling, and expert review. (Section 2.5.1)
Bible Shortage list	A list ranking countries based on estimated numbers of Bible-deprived Christians. Presented in ranges. (Section 2.5.2)

Term	Definition
Block 1 Indicators	Bible access restrictions imposed by government, religious extremist groups or other actors. Assigned 75% weight. (2.4.1)
Block 2 Indicators	Socio-economic conditions that hinder access. Assigned 25% weight in scoring. (Section 2.4.2)
CARSO (Country Access Restrictions Scoring Overview)	A standardized scoring sheet summarizing how each country scores across all access indicators and dimensions. (Section 2.4.6)
Cluster Typology	Grouping of countries based on shared access barriers (e.g. Muslim-majority with severe restrictions and varying socio-economic challenges). Supports thematic strategy. (Section 2.8.4)
Country Profiles	Visual summaries of each country's ranking, Bible access environment, and prayer needs. Based on results and narrative context. (Section 2.7)
Expert Validation	Review of findings by experts with country-level knowledge, ensuring scoring accuracy and contextual alignment. (Section 2.5.6)
Plausibility Review	A final expert consultation phase to validate country scores and ensure they align with local realities. (Section 2.6)
Range-Based Estimates	Bible shortage values are presented in ranges (e.g. 1–3 million) to account for data gaps, fluid populations, and reporting variance. (Section 2.5.2)
Scoring Grid	A table assigning points to different levels of coverage or severity for each indicator, used for calculating scores across countries. (Section 2.4.4.2–2.4.4.4)
Seeker	An individual interested in accessing the Bible but not yet identifying as Christian. (Sections: Executive Summary, 1.4, 2.2, 2.4.4.2, 2.5.1, 2.10 and Appendix 1)
Severity	A rating of how dangerous or difficult it is to access a Bible under restriction, including personal risk and consequences. (2.4.4.2)

Appendix 8: Glossary of Abbreviations Used in the BAL

Abbreviation	Definition
BAI	Bible Access Initiative
BAL	Bible Access List
BRL	Bible Restrictions list
BSL	Bible Shortage List
CARSO	Country Access Restrictions Scoring Overview
CPM	Church Planting Movement
DBS	Digital Bible Society
DMM	Discipleship Making Movement
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ODI	Open Doors International
WCD	World Christian Database
WWL	World Watch List