



TRANSLATORS
WITHOUT BORDERS



Humanitarian language support in north-east Nigeria Translators without Borders

About Translators without Borders



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- Translators without Borders (TWB) envisions a world where knowledge knows no language barriers
- We are a non-profit organization giving people access to vital knowledge in their language



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TWB's mission

- Providing aid in humanitarian response through **translation** (over **50 million words** in more than 190 language pairs since 2011)
- Providing **translation and simplification services** that are culturally appropriate, accessible and open-access
- Building **translation and interpreting capacity** at the local level
- Raising **awareness** globally of language barriers

Language and vulnerability

Speakers of 'minority' languages often experience multiple layers of disadvantage

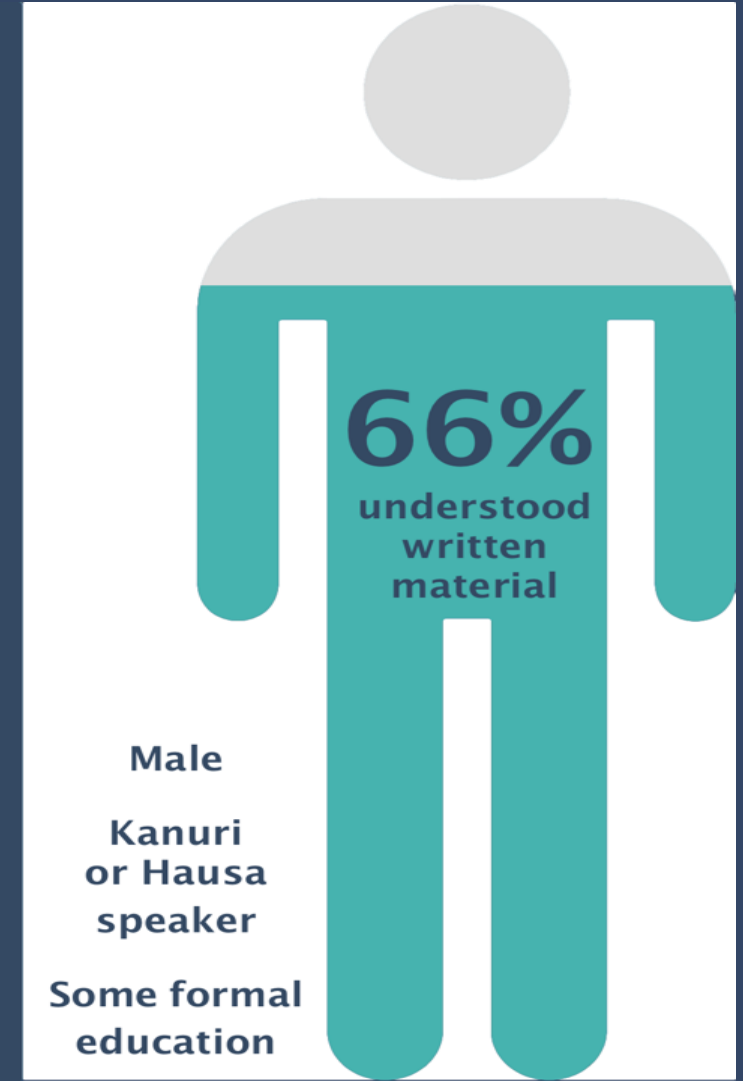
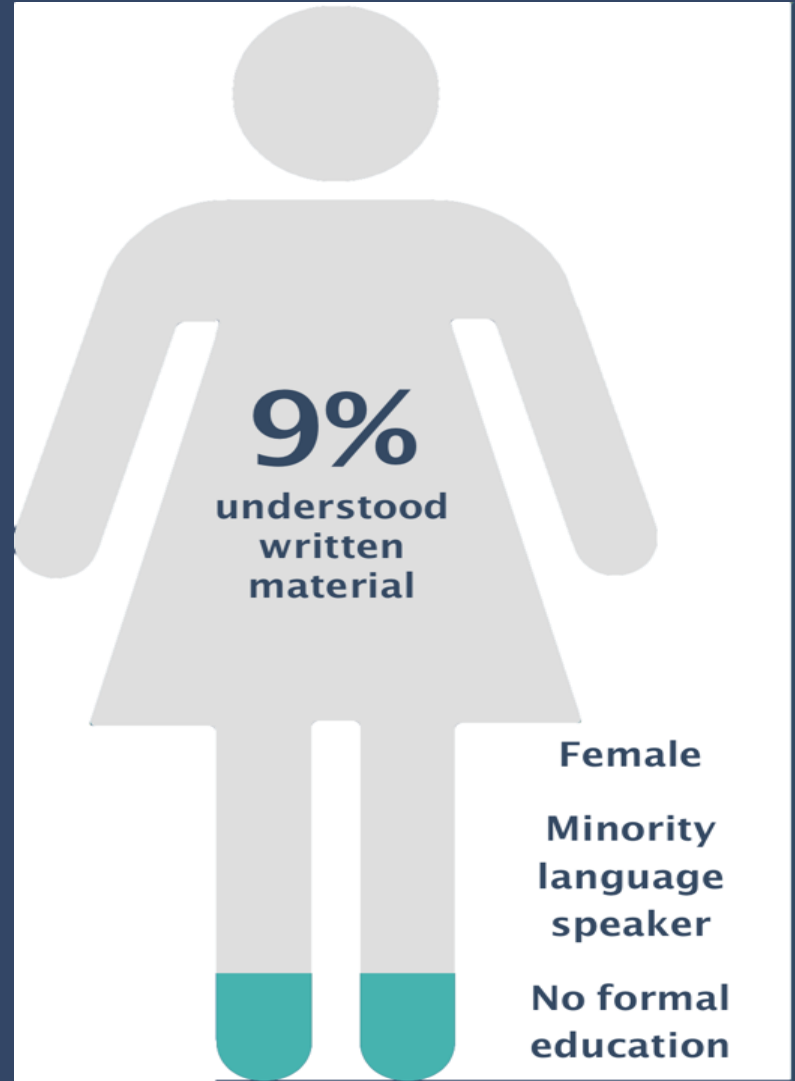
For humanitarian organizations, that can make them both some of the **most important people to reach** in an emergency – and **some of the hardest**



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Do you read me?

Comprehension of simple text in Hausa or Kanuri



Source: TWB/
Oxfam/Girl Effect
2017

Where are the gaps?

- **Lack of data**
 - No consistent data collection on languages spoken and understood
- **Resource gaps**
 - Core staff speak predominantly English or Hausa, some Kanuri
 - Most translation and interpreting done in-house, by untrained non-professionals: quality control is a challenge – and few female interpreters
 - Technical terminology support lacking for translation into vocabulary-poor languages

'In a focus group discussion, we may hear that somebody only speaks Marghi, but then we have no way to respond to them.' NGO program manager

Proposed solutions

KNOWLEDGE

- Map languages spoken and understood across all operational areas
- Understand the communication needs of target groups
- Raise the profile of language in the humanitarian response

CAPACITY

- Expand access to professional translation services in the relevant languages
- Build up a pool of trained translators and interpreters in minority languages

RESOURCES

- Develop multilingual terminology for the humanitarian response
- Establish a body of high-quality materials in key languages of the north-east

#LanguageMatters



Please get in touch!

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Download the draft glossary & help to expand it at:

<http://app.translatorswb.org>

www.translatorswithoutborders.org/twb-response-nigeria/