



Language Name: Population: Country: Cou

## **DRAGONS, HOBBITS, AND GIANT RATS**

In the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, Portuguese traders arrived at , renaming it from , or \_\_\_\_\_\_. But centuries before their arrival was occupied by a

The remains of giant rats in the same cave were almost as interesting, accounting for more than eighty percent of identifiable bones at the site. In addition to the hobbits and giant rats, they also found giant storks, cow-sized elephant relatives, and ancient Komodo dragons.

Today the giant rats and Komodo dragons continue to survive on

But the Komodo dragon isn't alone in the world today. Satan is the dragon, looking for another soul to devour. Even though has a sizeable Catholic presence, many still do not know Jesus. That's why partnerships with church planters and mission groups make it possible to spread God's love, snapping the neck of the dragon.

## THREE PARTNERS LEAD TO JESUS

In 2019, after meeting with and the

**Operation Snap Dragon** orchestrated launching four language projects. In the end, each language would get its own **JESUS** film. Like other **Operation Snap Dragon** projects, everything seemed to be going according to plan, including translation consultant checks scheduled to begin in January 2020. Conflicts with the January date postponed the translation check to March 2020.

And then COVID-19 started spreading.

At first, **Operation Snap Dragon's** staff thought the delays were related to COVID-19. Unmet expectations on all sides resulted in a communication breakdown that remained unresolved until August of 2021. After reconciling their partnership and resolving the communication issues, the translation consultant met with the state translators, approving their script draft. Now the state team could schedule the recording with the consultant's approval.

## **TWO RECORDINGS, ONE LOCATION**

The **second** language started auditioning simultaneously with another language, proving tricky for the **second** field team. More than fifty people gathered, observing the recording team in action. When each participant finished their vocal tests, the team politely asked them to go home.

SNAP DRAGON



"They were so excited about the process they didn't want to go home until we completed the recording," Bima shared.

The recording started with two voice actors portraying Jesus and the Narrator. In five days, the team finished with both characters.

"I was inside," Bima said, "when I felt the ground start to shake. The rest of the team was taking a five-minute snack break outside. I wasn't sure what was happening, so I walked outside and saw everyone was on open ground, away from the buildings."

Bima previously experienced a significant earthquake that interrupted a recording in 2018. Then God kept everyone safe thorough a scary ordeal. And now this 7.2 magnitude earthquake shook the ground for almost four long minutes.

"Walking outside the compound, many people were crying and panicking. I stopped, comforting some and offering water to others."

Thankfully there was no damage to any buildings that our team had been using.

"Until we made sure everyone was safe, we stopped recording." The team also reconfigured the recording control room, making access to both exits safer. "In case there was another earthquake, we made sure nothing blocked a quick escape."

Completion of the **second** recording happened on the tenth day, with many pastors excitedly knowing they could share the **second JESUS** film with their friends and neighbors. Reaching their neighbors strengthens their community so much that their church has grown thirty percent in five years.

"JESUS will be a powerful tool, increasing their faith in Christ."

Now the people can see and hear Jesus speak in their heart language. Now they can see followers of Jesus have nothing to fear – he has and will defeat the dragon!

## HOW YOU CAN PRAY

- God, we pray the local churches on will transform and influence their neighbors, bringing more people to understand Jesus' love for them.
- Jesus, reach one more person in **Section**'s East Nusa Tenggara region. We ask for one more person to come to love you and spread your love to their community.
- Pray for missionaries and church planters to make more disciples who are willing to risk it all to share the love of Jesus.