

# Ethnologue: Languages of Afghanistan

## Twenty-sixth edition data

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## List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
SOV	Subject-Object-Verb
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

## How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Afghanistan that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 47 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Afghanistan. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

**Primary language name** [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. *Map*: Map page. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

The “Language Map” (page 25) shows the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 26) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 30) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by

Province” (page 37) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Afghanistan and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 39) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 41) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 42) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 201 unique names are associated with the 47 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 47). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author’s or editor’s surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source’s first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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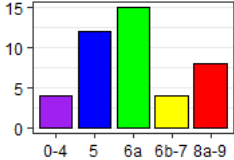
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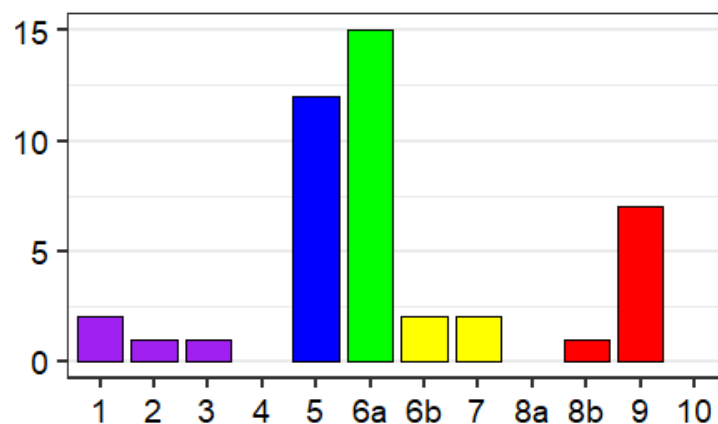
## Country Overview

Name of country	Afghanistan												
Other names	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan												
Population	38,347,000 (2022 World Factbook)												
Principal languages	Dari, Southern Pashto												
Literacy rate	43% (2018 UNESCO)												
International conventions	CDE (2010), CPPDCE (2009), CSICH (2009), ICCPR (1993), UNCRPD (2012), UNDRIP (2007)												
General references	Bashir 2003, Dupree 1980, Farhadi and Raven 1967, Grjunberg 1968, Morgenstierne 1974, Payne 1987, Sebeok 1970, Strand 1973, Strand 2001												
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Afghanistan is 43. All are living languages. Of these, 35 are indigenous and 8 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 4 are institutional, 12 are developing, 15 are vigorous, 4 are in trouble, and 8 are dying. Also listed are 4 unestablished languages.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Language Vitality Counts for Afghanistan</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Vitality Category</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6a</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6b-7</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8a-9</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Vitality Category	Count	0-4	4	5	12	6a	15	6b-7	4	8a-9	8
Vitality Category	Count												
0-4	4												
5	12												
6a	15												
6b-7	4												
8a-9	8												

See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

## Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Afghanistan with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 30) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

## Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Afghanistan. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Afghanistan and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

### Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Afghanistan by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 26) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

**Table 1:** Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	6	14.0	14.0%	29,970,000	92.77460	92.77460%
100,000 to 999,999	7	16.3	30.2%	1,946,000	6.02400	98.79860%
10,000 to 99,999	11	25.6	55.8%	342,400	1.05993	99.85853%
1,000 to 9,999	10	23.3	79.1%	44,900	0.13899	99.99752%
100 to 999	1	2.3	81.4%	750	0.00232	99.99985%
10 to 99	1	2.3	83.7%	50	0.00015	100.00000%
0	7	16.3	100.0%		0.00000	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	43	100.0		32,304,100	100.00000	

## Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Afghanistan by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 30) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Afghanistan. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

**Table 2:** Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers				
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
1	2	4.7	4.7%	18,500,000	57.2683	57.2683%	9,250,000	9,250,000
2	1	2.3	7.0%	3,120,000	9.6582	66.9265%	3,120,000	3,120,000
3	1	2.3	9.3%	3,830,000	11.8561	78.7826%	3,830,000	3,830,000
5	12	27.9	37.2%	4,849,950	15.0134	93.7960%	404,162	84,000
6a	15	34.9	72.1%	1,977,100	6.1203	99.9163%	131,807	28,000
6b	2	4.7	76.7%	18,500	0.0573	99.9735%	9,250	9,250
7	2	4.7	81.4%	8,500	0.0263	99.9998%	4,250	4,250
8b	1	2.3	83.7%	50	0.0002	100.0000%	50	50
9	7	16.3	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	43	100.0		32,304,100	100.0000			

## Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 6 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

**Table 3:** Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Afro-Asiatic	1	2.3	16,000	0.0	16,000	16,000
Dravidian	1	2.3	200,000	0.6	200,000	200,000
Indo-European	35	81.4	28,044,350	86.8	801,267	15,000
Mongolic	1	2.3		0.0		
Sign language	1	2.3	190,000	0.6	190,000	190,000
Turkic	4	9.3	3,853,750	11.9	963,438	366,875
<i>Totals</i>	43	100.0	32,304,100	100.0		

## Alphabetical Listing of Languages

**Afghan Sign Language** [afg] (AFSL, Afghan Sign). *Users*: 190,000 (2021). Estimated 115,000–230,000 signing deaf (0.3%–0.6% of the total population), depending on incidence of deafness, availability of education, and impact of war. *Location*: Balkh province: Mazar-e Sharif; Bamyan province: Bamiyan city; Herat province: Herat city; Kabul province: Kabul city; Kandahar province: Kandahar city; Laghman province; Nangarhar province: Jalalabad city and many surrounding districts; Parwan province; Takhar province: Faizabad. Most live in Kabul and Jalalabad. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Influenced by American Sign Language [ase] used by foreign workers in some of the deaf schools in Afghanistan. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, university, work. Used by all. *Lg Dev*: Taught in at least 3 schools for the deaf in Afghanistan. Taught in primary and secondary schools. Videos. Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim.

**Aimaq** [aiq] (Barbari, Berberi, Chahar-Aimaq, Char Aimaq). *Users*: 1,400,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Badghis, Ghor, and Herat provinces; Farah and Faryab provinces: smaller border areas; west of Hazara. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Dialects*: Taimuri (Taimouri, Teimuri, Timuri), Taimani, Zohri (Zuri), Jamshidi (Djamchidi, Dzhemshid, Jamshedi, Yemchidi), Firozkohi, Maliki, Mizmast, Chinghizi, Zainal. Dialect names could well be ethnic names, probably dialect of Dari [prs], at least Jamshidi is not much different from the Herati dialect of Dari. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Some also use Dari [prs]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,891,900. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also established in: Iran, Turkmenistan. Unestablished in: Tajikistan.

**Arabic, Tajiki Spoken** [abh] (Arabi). *Users*: 16,000 in Afghanistan (2017), decreasing. *Location*: Balkh province: Dawlatabad district, Khushalabad, Yakhdan; Jawzjan province: Mingajik district, Sultan Arigh; Sheberghan district, Hasanabad. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialect*: Balkh Arabic. *Lg Use*: Home, Community. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [prs]. Also use Tajik [tgk]. *Lg Dev*: Some can read traditional Arabic, but unlikely any literature exists in this variety. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: While no others speak this dialect of Arabic, it is highly possible that some other people use a mixture of Arabic and Dari [prs] when communicating with mother tongue speakers of Tajiki Arabic. Muslim. *Map*: 25:26. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 17,300. Also indigenous in: Tajikistan.

**Ashkun** [ask] (Ashkund, Ashkuni, Ashkunu viri, Wamais, Wamayi). *Users*: 40,000 (2011), increasing. 4,000 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 40,000. *Location*: Nuristan province: Wama district, Pech valley; Duab and Nurgaram districts, east side of lower Alingar valley; Bajagal, Kolatan, Malil wa Mushfa, and Titin valleys; Kunar province: Chapa Dara district. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Nuristani. *Dialects*: Ashuruviri (Kolata, Titin Bajaygul), Gramsukraviri, Suruviri (Wamai). Not intelligible with the other

Nuristani languages. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Spoken in the central and western Nuristan valleys, which also divide divergent dialects. Muslim. *Map*: 25:2.

**Azerbaijani, North** [azj]. Autonym: Azərbaycan dili, Azərbaycanca. *Users*: 13,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 24 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1891–2009. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1920s. Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Dagestan. Latin script, official usage in Azerbaijan since 1992. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,110,020. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia. Also established in: Russian Federation. Unestablished in: Estonia, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

**Balochi, Western** [bgn] (Baloci, Baluchi, Baluci). *Users*: 415,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Helmand, Kandahar, and Nimroz, provinces: Zaranj city and Helmand river areas. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Statutory language of provincial identity in Southwest Desert Region (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi. *Dialect*: Rakhshani (Raxshani). *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Also use Brahui [brh], with a high degree of bilingualism. Also use Dari [prs], with a high degree of bilingualism. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 5%–10%. Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Literacy in Pashto and Dari. The Afghanistan Ministry of Education has produced Western Balochi language textbooks for first through twelfth grades. But as of November 2021, these books had not yet been distributed to schools. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1984–2005. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Cyrillic script, used in Turkmenistan. *Other*: Largely nomadic. Muslim. *Map*: 25:31. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,283,350. Also indigenous in: Iran, Pakistan. Also established in: Turkmenistan. Unestablished in: Tajikistan.

**Brahui** [brh] (Birahui, Biravi, Brahuiki, Kur Galli, Kurd Gali). *Users*: 200,000 in Afghanistan (Dupree 1980), increasing. *Location*: Helmand and Kandahar provinces: Chakhansoor to Shorawak among the Balochi [bgn]. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Dravidian, Northern. *Type*: SOV; noun head final; case-marking (10 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; 27 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal. *Lg Use*: Not used in trading with other ethnic groups or in official government domain. Home, business. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Southern Pashto [pbt], especially for trading and government relations. Used as L2 by Western Balochi [bgn]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 20% (men only). Newspapers. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1998. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Latin script, used in one newspaper. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,865,000. Global EGIDS level: 5

(Developing). Also indigenous in: Pakistan. Also established in: Iran. Unestablished in: Turkmenistan.

**Dari** [prs] (Afghan Persian, Eastern Farsi, Parsi, Persian). *Users*: 28,660,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L1 users: 8,660,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc), increasing. L2 users: 20,000,000 (2020). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2004, Constitution, Article 16(1)). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. A member of macrolanguage Persian [fas] (Iran). *Dialects*: Tangshew (Tangshuri), Darwazi. Mutually intelligible with Iranian Persian [pes] and Tajiki [tgk]. Radio Afghanistan broadcasts promote a standardized pronunciation of the literary language based on the old dictional tradition of the country, with archaic phonetic characteristics. Phonological and lexical differences between Iran and Afghanistan cause little difficulty in comprehension. Most Afghan dialects are reportedly more similar to literary Persian than Iranian dialects are. Lexical similarity: 86%–90% among Dari dialects. *Type*: SOV; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; causatives; 23 consonants, 7 vowels, 2 diphthongs. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 28%. Taught in all primary and secondary schools in predominantly Dari-speaking regions; taught as subject in primary schools in some other regions. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2008. *DLS*: Ascending (0.46). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:4. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 30,291,510 (as L1: 10,277,510; as L2: 20,014,000). Also established in: Iran, Pakistan. Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

**Degano** [wsv] (Wotapuri-Katarqalai). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Last known speaker survived into the late 1950s. Ethnic population: 30 (2017 D. Miller). *Location*: Scattered in Kunar province: Watapur district, Katar Qala and Watapur villages. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Kohistani. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**English** [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 1,812,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L1 users: 12,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). L2 users: 1,800,000 (2021 World Factbook). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1,076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

- Gawar-Bati** [gwt] (Arandui, Gowari, Narisati, Narsati, Satre). *Users*: 32,000 in Afghanistan (2017). *Ethnic population*: 32,000 (2017). *Location*: Kunar province: Konar river valley. 8 or 9 villages. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Kunar. *Dialects*: None known. *Lexical similarity*: 47% with Shumashti [sts], 44% with Dameli [dml], 42% with Savi [sdg] and Grangali [nli]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Also use Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:5. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 36,000. Also indigenous in: Pakistan.
- Grangali** [nli] (Gelangali, Jumiaki). *Users*: 5,000 (1994). *Location*: Kunar province: Grangali and Zemiaki; Kandai on south Pech river, 2 small valleys; Nangarhar province: Dara-I-Nur district; Nangalami dialect in Ningalam village where Waigal and Pech rivers meet. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Kunar. *Dialects*: Nangalami (Ningalami), Zemiaki (Zamyaki). Zemiaki may be related to Waigali [wbk]. *Lexical similarity*: 63% with Shumashti [sts], 42% with Gawar-Bati [gwt]. *Lg Use*: Nangalami may have no remaining speakers. Shifting to Dari [prs]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:6.
- Gujari** [gju] (Gojari, Gojri, Gujuri Rajasthani). *Users*: 15,000 in Afghanistan (2015). *Location*: Scattered. Nomadic, traveling in summer in eastern valleys. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Rajasthani, Unclassified. *Lg Use*: Used by all. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Below 5%. Literature. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Devanagari script, plans for future development using this script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,696,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan.
- Hazaragi** [haz] (Azargi, Hazara, Hazaraghi, Hezareh). *Users*: 3,120,000 in Afghanistan (2017). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Dialects*: None known. Related to Dari [prs]; possibly distinct. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Also use Dari [prs]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Possibly 10%–20%. Radio. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2008–2015. *DLS*: Ascending (0.24). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Other*: Ethnic group names are Dai Kundi, Dai Zangi, Behsud, Yekaulang, Polada, Urusgani, Jaguri, Ghazni Hazaras, Dai Miradad. Muslim. *Map*: 25:7. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,660,000. Also established in: Iran, Pakistan. Unestablished in: Australia, Tajikistan.
- Inku** [jat] (Enku, Jakati, Jat, Jataki, Jati, Jatu, Kayani, Musali). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Last speakers probably survived into the 1990s. *Location*: Balkh, Faryab, Herat, and Kunduz provinces. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Panjabi, Western Panjabi. A member of macrolanguage Lahnda [lah] (Pakistan). *Dialects*: None known. Related to Western Punjabi [pnb]. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Dari [prs]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Different from Jadgali [jdg] of Pakistan.

Nomadic. Muslim.

**Ishkashimi** [isk] (Eshkashimi, Ishkashim, Ishkashmi). *Users*: 2,500 in Afghanistan (2009 S. Beck), decreasing. No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 2,500 (2009 S. Beck). *Location*: Badakhshan province: Ishkashim and Wakham districts; north of Ishkashim in Bahar Bazar, Darwan, Qaz Deh, Xermani, Zargaran, and Zayad villages. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pamir. *Dialects*: None known. Ishkashimi intelligible to Sanglechi [sgy] speakers, but Sanglechi not intelligible to Ishkashimi speakers. Lexical similarity: 70% with Sanglechi [sgy]. *Lg Use*: Some parents used Dari [prs] with their children to provide them with better chances in school. Only now do the people realize that this might cause the language to become endangered. About half the households use Ishkashimi with the younger generation. Home, village. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. All also use Dari [prs]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Most children now become literate in Dari [prs] because they attend school. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Most Sanglechi [sgy] have a positive attitude toward Ishkashimi and consider it closely related, whereas the Ishkashimi do not have a good attitude toward Sanglechi. Muslim. *Map*: 25:8. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,000. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Tajikistan.

**Kamviri** [xvi] (Kamdeshi, Kamik, Lamertiviri, Shekhani). *Users*: 18,000 in Afghanistan (2011), increasing. 3,600 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 18,000. *Location*: Nuristan province: Kamdesh and Kishtoz villages in lower Bashgal valley. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Nuristani. *Dialect*: Shekhani. Related to Kati [bsh]. *Lg Use*: Outside of language area, shifting towards majority language. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 10%. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:9. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,000. Also indigenous in: Pakistan.

**Kati** [bsh] (Bashgali, Kata viri, Kativiri, Kât'a-vari, Nuristani). *Users*: 128,000 in Afghanistan (2017), increasing. Ethnic population: 128,000 (2017). *Location*: Badakhshan, Kunar, and Nuristan provinces: smaller areas in Laghman and Panjsher provinces; Eastern Kativiri dialect: upper Bashgal valley (Barg-e-Matal); Mumviri dialect: Gabalgrom, Mangul, and Sasku villages in Bashgal valley; Western Kativiri dialect: Duab and Mondul districts, Ktivi (Kantiwo), Kulam, Paruk (Papruk), and Ramgal valleys. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Statutory language of provincial identity in Nuristan Province (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Nuristani. *Dialects*: Eastern Kativiri, Western Kativiri (Jadidi, Ramgulviri), Mumviri. Mumviri may be a separate language. Eastern and Western Kataviri are very similar dialects and almost completely mutually intelligible. *Type*: Agglutinative suffixes; CVC, CCVC, CV, CCCVC, CCVCC, CCCVCC. *Lg Use*: Outside of language area, shifting towards Dari [prs]. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [prs], especially in the west. Also use Southern Pashto [pbt], especially in the east. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 1%–3%. The Afghanistan Ministry of Education has produced Eastern Kati language textbooks for first through twelfth grades. But as of November 2021, these books had not yet been distributed to schools. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script,

Naskh variant, limited usage, in development. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Other*: Kati is different from Kamviri [xvi], but the two are significantly mutually intelligible and speakers may refer to them as the same language. Muslim. *Map*: 25:10. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 135,800. Also indigenous in: Pakistan.

**Khowar** [khw]. *Users*: 8,900 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Badakhshan province. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Chitral. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 578,100. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Pakistan. Also established in: India.

**Kyrgyz** [kir] (Kirghiz, Kirghizi, Kirgiz, Kyrgyz tili, Kyrgyzcha). *Users*: 750 in Afghanistan (2000). 450 in the Great Pamir; a few in Badakhshan. *Location*: Badakhshan province: Wakhan district, Great Pamir and Little Pamir valleys. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Turkic, Western, Aralo-Caspian. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 19 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony. *Lg Dev*: Afghan Kyrgyz do not read Cyrillic script. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1995–2004. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in China. Cyrillic script, not used in Afghanistan. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Map*: 25:11. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,154,500. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: China, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan. Also established in: Turkey. Unestablished in: Germany, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

**Mogholi** [mhj] (Moghol, Mogol, Mogul, Mongul). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Known to be in use in the 1970s by some older adults (Weiers 2003). Ethnic population: 2,000. *Location*: Herat province: Karez-i-Mulla and Kundur. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Mongolic, Western. *Dialects*: Kundur, Karez-I-Mulla. Unintelligible to other Mongol speakers; linguistically relatively well explored. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Dari [prs]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim.

**Munji** [mnj] (Munjani, Munjigi, Munjiwar). *Users*: 5,300 (2008 D. Beyer and S. Beck). Very few monolinguals. Ethnic population: 5,300. *Location*: Badakhshan province: Kuran wa Munjan district, Mamalgha and Munjan valleys. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Statutory language of provincial identity in Badakhshan Province (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pamir. *Dialects*: Northern Munji, Southern Munji. Northern Munji and Southern Munji are mutually intelligible. The differences are found mostly in regular sound changes and some lexical items. Lexical similarity: 68% among dialects, 56%–80% with Yadgha [ydg] in Pakistan. *Lg Use*: Speakers view it as their secret language, and they perceive it as an advantage to have a language that is not commonly understood by outsiders. Home, community, at school. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [prs], especially adults (nearly all). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Literature.

Dictionary. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, in development. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Other*: Little contact with Yadgha [ydg]. Muslim. *Map*: 25:12.

**Ormuri** [oru] (Baraks, Bargista, Oormuri, Ormui). *Users*: 50 in Afghanistan (2011 SIL), decreasing. Ethnic population: 2,000. *Location*: Logar province: Charkh district, Baraki-Barak. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Ormuri-Parachi. *Dialect*: Logar. *Lg Use*: Elderly only. Shifted to Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Map*: 25:15. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,050. Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Pakistan.

**Pahlavani** [phv]. *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: 3,800 (2022 Joshua Project). *Location*: Nimroz province: Chakhansur district. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Dari [prs]. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Dari [prs]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim.

**Parachi** [prc]. *Users*: 3,500 (Kiefer 2009). *Location*: Kapisa province: Kabul area, Nijrau and Tagau villages; Hindu Kush valley (Pachaghan, Shutul, and Ghujulan). *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Ormuri-Parachi. *Dialects*: Shutul, Ghujulan, Pachaghan. Dialect diversity seems slight. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Dari [prs]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. Dictionary. Texts. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:16.

**Parya** [paq] (Afghana-Yi Nasfurush, Afghana-Yi Siyarui, Laghmani). *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Afghanistan. Ethnic population: 240. *Location*: Laghman province; Kabul and Nangarhar provinces small border areas. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Unclassified. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Dari [prs]. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,600. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Indigenous in: Tajikistan. Unestablished in: Uzbekistan.

**Pashai, Northeast** [aee] (Northeast Pashayi, Pashai). *Users*: 54,400 (2000). Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). *Location*: Kunar province: west of Asadabad, Konar and Pech rivers' valleys; Nangarhar province: Dara-I-Nur and Kuz Konar districts. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). Statutory language of national identity (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Pashai. *Dialects*: Aret, Chalas (Chilas), Kandak, Kurangal, Kordar. Unintelligible of other Pashai speakers. Lexical similarity: approximately 30% with Southeast Pashai [psi] and Southwest Pashai [psh]. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Many also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Kandak, Shemul, Aret, Shumasht, and Kordar villages belong to the Chugani people; Chalas and Kurangal are separate. Muslim. *Map*: 25:13.

**Pashai, Northwest** [glh] (Northwest Pashayi, Pashai). *Users:* 70,000 (2011 SIL). Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). *Location:* Kabul province: northwest of Kabul; Kapisa, Kunar, Laghman, and Nuristan provinces; some in Nangarhar and Parwan provinces; Alisheng valley and others north of Sarobi. *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Pashai. *Dialects:* Gulbahar, Kohnadeh, Laurowan, Sanjan, Shutul, Bolaghain, Pachagan, Alasai, Shamakot, Uzbin, Pandau, Najil, Parazhghan, Pashagar, Wadau, Nangarach. Unintelligible of other Pashai speakers. Lexical similarity: approximately 30% with Southeast Pashai [psi]. *Type:* SOV. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Many also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Muslim. *Map:* 25:14.

**Pashai, Southeast** [psi] (Pashai, Southeast Pashayi). *Users:* 180,000 (2011 Pashai Language Development Project), increasing. 75,000 Laghman, 95,000 Nangarhar, 10,000 Kunar. Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). 100,000 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 400,000. *Location:* Nangarhar province: north of Shewa; Laghman province; Alingar valley area; Upper and Lower Darrai Nur valley, Damench, Shale (Shari). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Statutory language of provincial identity in Nangarhar, Laghman provinces (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Pashai. *Dialects:* None known. Somewhat intelligible of Southwest Pashai [psh]; hardly intelligible of Northeast Pashai [aee] and Northwest Pashai [glh]. Lexical similarity: about 30% with Southwest Pashai [psh], Northeast Pashai [aee], and Northwest Pashai [psh]. *Type:* SOV. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, market, all informal settings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. Also use Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: Less than 20%. Many books for early readers have been produced by the Pashai people as part of their literacy program. The Afghanistan Ministry of Education has produced Southeast Pashai language textbooks for first through twelfth grades. But as of November 2021, these books had not yet been distributed to schools. Radio. Dictionary. Texts. *DLS:* Emerging (0.03). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Other:* Muslim. *Map:* 25:22.

**Pashai, Southwest** [psh] (Pashai, Southwest Pashayi). *Users:* 100,000 (2011 SIL). Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). *Location:* Northeast of Kabul, and in Kapisa province; north of Sarobi, Tagau (Tagab) valley. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Pashai. *Dialects:* Tagau, Ishpi, Isken. Not intelligible of other Pashai languages. Lexical similarity: Less than 30% with other Pashai languages. *Type:* SOV. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Many also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. *DLS:* Emerging (0.02). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Pashai peoples have rich folklore and songs preserved by oral tradition. Muslim. *Map:* 25:25.

**Pashto, Northern** [pbu] (Afghan, Eastern Afghan Pashto, Northwestern Pakhto, Pakhtoon, Pakhtun, Paktu, Pashtoon, Sharqi). *Users:* 5,190,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L1 users: 3,830,000 in Afghanistan (2017), increasing. L2 users: 1,360,000 (2021). *Location:* Nangarhar

province and surrounding regions; scattered. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pashto. *Dialects*: Ghilzai, Khogyani. *Type*: SOV; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; causatives. *Lg Use*: Pashto is 1 of 2 national languages taught in schools. Ghilzai are nomadic, 24% of the Pashto population. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [prs], in some communities, and educated people in all communities. Used as L2 by Ashkun [ask], Kamviri [xvi], Northeast Pashai [aee], Northwest Pashai [glh], Shumashti [sts], Southeast Pashai [psi], Southwest Pashai [psh], Tregami [trm], Waigali [wbk]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 5%–10%. Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Taught in all primary and secondary schools in predominantly Pashto-speaking regions; taught as subject in primary schools in some other regions. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2019. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Pashto clans include: Mohmandi, Ghilzai, Durani, Yusufzai, Afridi, Kandahari (Qandahari), Waziri, Chinwari (Shinwari), Mangal, and Wenetsi. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 30,251,740 (as L1: 28,883,240; as L2: 1,368,500). Indigenous in: Pakistan. Also established in: India, United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United States.

**Pashto, Southern** [pbt] (Kandahari Pashto, Qandahari Pashto, Southwestern Pashto). *Users*: 13,320,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L1 users: 9,840,000 in Afghanistan (2017). L2 users: 3,480,000 (2021). *Location*: Badghis, Farah, Helmand, Herat, Kandahar, Nimroz, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2004, Constitution, Article 16(1)). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pashto. A member of macrolanguage Pushto [pus] (Pakistan). *Dialect*: Durani. Lexical similarity: 80% between northern and southern varieties of Pashto. *Type*: SOV; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; causatives. *Lg Use*: Afghan government has worked since 1930s to standardize and publicize it. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use Dari [prs], especially those who are educated or have business in Dari-speaking provinces. A few also use Urdu [urd]. *Lg Dev*: Pashto is one of two national languages taught in schools. Low literacy rate, especially in non-urban locations and among women. Taught in all primary and secondary schools in predominantly Pashto-speaking areas; taught as subject in primary schools in some other regions. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2011–2019. *DLS*: Vital (0.70). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:23. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,871,430 (as L1: 16,391,430; as L2: 3,480,000). Also indigenous in: Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan. Unestablished in: Belgium, Finland, Germany, Sweden, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

**Prasuni** [prn] (Nuristani, Parun, Paruni, Prasun, Vasi vari, Veron, Verou, Veruni, Wasi-Veri, Wasi-

weri). *Users*: 8,000 (2011), increasing. 1,600 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 8,000. *Location*: Nuristan province: Sech, Shupu (Ishtivi, Shtevgrom), Ucu, Ushut, and Zumu villages; Prasun (Parun) valley on upper reaches of Pech river; small border area with Badakhshan province. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Nuristani. *Dialects*: Upper Wasi-Weri (Ishtivi), Central Prasun, Lower Prasun (Pashki, Ushut). Related to Kati [bsh] but more archaic. The most aberrant Nuristani language. No mutual intelligibility of other Nuristani languages. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [prs], traditionally with bilingualism. Also use Southern Pashto [pbt], with increasing bilingualism. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%. Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:17.

**Punjabi, Western** [pnb]. *Users*: 39,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Panjabi, Western Panjabi. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; 15 consonant and 24 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 tones: high, mid, low). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Grammar. NT: 1819–1931. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage, also called Shahmukhi. Khojki script. Lahnda (Landa) script, no longer in use. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 66,715,480. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Libya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

**Sanglechi** [sgy] (Dargi). *Users*: 2,200 (2009 S. Beck). Ethnic population: 2,200. *Location*: Badakhshan province: Zebok district, Dashte Rubat, Esketul, Faruq, Flaxmadek, Sar-Sanglech, and Takya villages in Sanglech valley. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pamir. *Dialects*: None known. Ishkashimi [isk] is moderately intelligible to Sanglechi speakers. Lexical similarity: 70% with Ishkashimi [isk]. *Lg Use*: Home, village. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [prs], exclusively in education, administration, media, travel, and trade, but only men have access to these domains. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:18.

**Savi** [sdg] (Sau, Sauji, Sawi). *Users*: 5,000 in Afghanistan (2017). *Location*: Kunar province: Sau village on Konar river. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Shina. *Dialects*: None known. Savi, Palula [phl], and Kalkoti [xka] form a cluster of closely related varieties within the Shina group. Lexical similarity: 56%–58% with Palula [phl]. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. All also use Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Over 50% in Southern Pashto [pbt]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:19. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,000. Also established in: Pakistan.

**Shughni** [sgh] (Khughnani, Khughni, Khughnoni, Khugnone, Shighnani, Shighni, Shughnani, Shughnoni, Shugni). Autonym: Khugnone. *Users*: 40,000 in Afghanistan (2009). Most are

monolingual. *Location*: Badakhshan province: both sides of Afghanistan-Tajikistan border, 50 km north of Ishkashim, Pamir mountains. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pamir, Shughni-Yazgulami. *Dialect*: Rushani (Oroshani, Roshan, Roshani, Rushan). *Lg Use*: All domains; in Faizabad city, home only. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Dari [prs]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Over 60%. Shughni are highly interested in literature in their own language. The Afghanistan Ministry of Education has produced Shughni language textbooks for first through twelfth grades. But as of November 2021, these books had not yet been distributed to schools. *Literature*. *Dictionary*. *Texts*. *Bible portions*: 2015. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Afghanistan. Cyrillic script, used in Tajikistan. Latin script, used in Tajikistan. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:20. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 80,000. Also indigenous in: Tajikistan.

**Shumashti** [sts] (Shumasht). *Users*: 1,000 (1994). *Location*: Kunar province: Konar valley west side between Pech valley and Jalalabad city. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Kunar. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 63% with Grangali [nli], 47% with Gawar-Bati [gwt]. Heavily influenced by Northeast Pashai [aee]. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Most also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:21.

**Sindhi** [snd]. *Users*: 21,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Sindhi. *Type*: SOV; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); case-marking (8 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; 24 consonant and 15 vowel phonemes. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. *Dictionary*. *Grammar*. *Bible*: 1954. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Devanagari script, used in India. Gurmukhi script, used in India. Khojki script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,214,680 (as L1: 33,211,620; as L2: 3,060). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Philippines, Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Belize, Canada, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United States.

**Tirahi** [tra]. *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: 5,000. *Location*: Nangarhar province: Nangarhar village southeast of Jalalabad, west of Khyber Pass. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Kohistani. *Dialects*: None known. Most closely related to Kohistani languages of Pakistan. *Lg Use*: Most shifted to Southern Pashto [pbt]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: The Tirahi are ‘a group of unclear origin, almost completely assimilated by Pashtun’ (Pstrusinska and Gray 1990). Muslim.

**Tregami** [trm] (Katar Gambir, Trigami). *Users*: 3,500 (2011), increasing. 700 monolinguals. *Location*: Kunar province: Gambir and Katar villages in Tregam valley. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Nuristani. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 76%–80% with Waigali [wbk]. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Most also use Northern Pashto [pbu],

especially men. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: It is not clear whether Tregami is a separate language or a dialect of Waigali [wbk]. Muslim. *Map*: 25:27.

**Turkmen** [tuk] (Turkman, Turkmencha, Turkmeni, Türkmen dili, Türkmençe). *Users*: 733,000 in Afghanistan (2021 World Factbook). *Location*: Badghis, Balkh, Faryab, Herat, Jawzjan, and Kunduz provinces; most live outside cities, including Kabul; northern border of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). Statutory language of provincial identity in Turkmenistan border areas (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkmenian. *Dialects*: Ärsare (Arsariy), Shirik, Teke (Taka), Yomut, Bayat, Xatap. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; no articles; case-marking (5 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 23 consonant and 9 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; vowel harmony; evidentials. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. In villages, all domains; in larger cities, home and among other Turkmen. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Southern Uzbek [uzs], and about 70%–80% can understand it. Also use Dari [prs], but only those living in large cities speak it. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Very low. Girls and women especially low. In remote areas, few children, especially girls, are able to attend school. Near cities, a sharp increase in the next generation attending school. The Afghanistan Ministry of Education has produced Turkmen language textbooks for first through twelfth grades. But as of November 2021, these materials had not yet distributed to the schools. Taught as subject in some primary schools in grades 1–3. Literature. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2017. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Afghanistan and Iran. Cyrillic script, used in Turkmenistan, not used in Afghanistan. Latin script, official usage in Turkmenistan since 1991. *Other*: Most Turkmen in Afghanistan use Ärsare. Muslim. *Map*: 25:28. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,562,260. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Iran, Turkmenistan. Also established in: Iraq, Russian Federation, Turkey. Unestablished in: Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

**Urdu** [urd]. *Users*: 733,000 in Afghanistan (2021 World Factbook). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Type*: SOV; postposition; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; direct and oblique cases; verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; 35 consonants, 21 vowels; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1843–1998. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Bangladesh (Bihari), Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, Nepal, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

**Uyghur** [uig] (Uighor, Uighur, Uiguir, Uyghuri, Wighor). *Users*: No known L1 speakers in

Afghanistan. Ethnic population: 3,500 (2022 Joshua Project). *Location*: Badakshan province: Baharak district, a few villages; Faizabad city; Kabul. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Turkic, Eastern. *Dialect*: Kashgar-Yarkand (Yarkandi). *Type*: SOV; postpositions; genitives, adjectives, numerals, relatives before noun heads; question words initial; word order distinguishes subjects and indirect objects, topic and comment; 8 noun cases shown by suffixes; verb suffixes mark subject person, number, second person marks plural and 3 levels of respect; passive, reflexive, reciprocal and causative; comparatives; 25 consonant and 15 vowel phonemes; CV, CVC, CVCC syllables; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony; evidentials. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Dari [prs]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Grammar. Bible: 1950–2022. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, official and primary usage in China, also used in Afghanistan. Cyrillic script, used in Kazakhstan, past usage in China. Latin script, used in China and Turkey. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,510,072 (as L1: 10,509,952; as L2: 120). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia. Also established in: India, Turkey. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, United States, Uzbekistan.

**Uzbek, Southern** [uzs] (O'zbek, Usbeki, Uzbek, Uzbeki). *Users*: 3,660,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L1 users: 3,120,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc), increasing. L2 users: 540,000 (2021 World Factbook). 1,000,000 monolinguals (2010). *Location*: Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Faryab, Ghor, Jawzjan, Kunduz, Samangan, and Takhar provinces; Aqcha, Maimana, Saripul, and Sheberghan towns. *Status*: 2 (Provincial). Statutory language of provincial identity in Fariab, Jawzjan, Saripul, other northern provinces (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Class*: Turkic, Eastern. A member of macrolanguage Uzbek [uzb] (Uzbekistan). *Dialects*: None known. Somewhat intelligible of, but differences in grammar from, Northern Uzbek [uzn]. Many loan words from Dari [prs]. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word final; one prefix in words borrowed from Dari [prs], many suffixes (agglutinative); verbal affixation marks of person and number for subject and object; verb tense and aspect marked by suffixes; nontonal; no vowel harmony (unlike some other, closely-related Turkic languages). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Dari [prs], especially in urban areas. Also use Southern Pashto [pbt]. Used as L2 by Turkmen [tuk]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%. Literacy rate in L2: 20% in Dari [prs]. L1 literacy in larger towns increasing among younger population. Taught as subject in some primary schools in grades 1–3, but without much success. The Afghanistan Ministry of Education has produced Southern Uzbek textbooks through twelfth grade. No use of these materials reported. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2004–2006. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:24. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,955,900 (as L1: 3,415,900; as L2: 540,000). Also established in: Turkey. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Pakistan.

**Waigali** [wbk] (Kalasha ala, Suki, Wai, Wai-Ala, Waigala, Waigalii, Waigeli, Zhonjigali). *Users*: 28,000 (2017), increasing. 2,300 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 28,000 (2017). *Location*:

Kunar province: north of Pech; Nuristan province: southeast; north Waigal valley (Varjan): Ameshdesh, Jamach, Waigal, Zonchigal villages, and east in Veligal valley villages; lower valley villages (Chima-Nishey). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Nuristani. *Dialects*: Varjan, Chima-Nishey. Lexical similarity: 76%–80% with Tregami [trm]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:29.

**Wakhi** [wbl] (Khik, Khikwar, Vakhan, Wakhani, Wakhigi). *Users*: 17,000 in Afghanistan (2011 S. Beck), increasing. Ethnic population: 17,000. *Location*: Badakhshan province: Wakhan district, Panj river area to Sarhad village; Khandud village is the center. 42 villages. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pamir. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use Dari [prs], especially men. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 3%–15%. Pilot L1 literacy project ongoing (2012). Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2001. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Afghanistan. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. Cyrillic script, used in Tajikistan. Latin script, used in Pakistan, preferred script, not firmly established. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:30. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 52,200. Also indigenous in: Pakistan, Tajikistan. Also established in: China.

# Language Map



## Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Afghanistan are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

### 1,000,000 to 9,999,999

**Pashto, Southern** [pbt] *Users:* 9,840,000 in Afghanistan (2017). 13,320,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L2 users: 3,480,000 (2021). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2004, Constitution, Article 16(1)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 19,871,430 (as L1: 16,391,430; as L2: 3,480,000).

**Dari** [prs] *Users:* 8,660,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc), increasing. 28,660,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L2 users: 20,000,000 (2020). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2004, Constitution, Article 16(1)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 30,291,510 (as L1: 10,277,510; as L2: 20,014,000).

**Pashto, Northern** [pbu] *Users:* 3,830,000 in Afghanistan (2017), increasing. 5,190,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L2 users: 1,360,000 (2021). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 30,251,740 (as L1: 28,883,240; as L2: 1,368,500).

**Hazaragi** [haz] *Users:* 3,120,000 in Afghanistan (2017). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,660,000.

**Uzbek, Southern** [uzs] *Users:* 3,120,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc), increasing. 3,660,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L2 users: 540,000 (2021 World Factbook). 1,000,000 monolinguals (2010). *Status:* 2 (Provincial). Statutory language of provincial identity in Fariab, Jawzjan, Saripul, other northern provinces (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,955,900 (as L1: 3,415,900; as L2: 540,000).

**Aimaq** [aiq] *Users:* 1,400,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,891,900.

### 100,000 to 999,999

**Turkmen** [tuk] *Users:* 733,000 in Afghanistan (2021 World Factbook). *Status:* 5 (Dispersed). Statutory language of provincial identity in Turkmenistan border areas (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 6,562,260.

**Urdu** [urd] *Users:* 733,000 in Afghanistan (2021 World Factbook). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

**Balochi, Western** [bgn] *Users:* 415,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Statutory language of provincial identity in Southwest Desert Region (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,283,350.

**Brahui** [brh] *Users:* 200,000 in Afghanistan (Dupree 1980), increasing. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).  
*Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,865,000.

**Afghan Sign Language** [afg] *Users:* 190,000 (2021). Estimated 115,000–230,000 signing deaf (0.3%–0.6% of the total population), depending on incidence of deafness, availability of education, and impact of war. *Status:* 5 (Developing).

**Pashai, Southeast** [psi] *Users:* 180,000 (2011 Pashai Language Development Project), increasing. 75,000 Laghman, 95,000 Nangarhar, 10,000 Kunar. Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). 100,000 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 400,000. *Status:* 5 (Developing). Statutory language of provincial identity in Nangahar, Laghman provinces (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)).

**Kati** [bsh] *Users:* 128,000 in Afghanistan (2017), increasing. Ethnic population: 128,000 (2017). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Statutory language of provincial identity in Nuristan Province (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 135,800.

**Pashai, Southwest** [psh] *Users:* 100,000 (2011 SIL). Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

## 10,000 to 99,999

**Pashai, Northwest** [glh] *Users:* 70,000 (2011 SIL). Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous).

**Pashai, Northeast** [ace] *Users:* 54,400 (2000). Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). Statutory language of national identity (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)).

**Ashkun** [ask] *Users:* 40,000 (2011), increasing. 4,000 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 40,000. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

**Shughni** [sgh] *Users:* 40,000 in Afghanistan (2009). Most are monolingual. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 80,000.

**Punjabi, Western** [pnb] *Users:* 39,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 66,715,480.

**Gawar-Bati** [gwt] *Users:* 32,000 in Afghanistan (2017). Ethnic population: 32,000 (2017). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 36,000.

**Waigali** [wbk] *Users:* 28,000 (2017), increasing. 2,300 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 28,000 (2017). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

**Sindhi** [snd] *Users:* 21,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,214,680 (as L1: 33,211,620; as L2: 3,060).

**Kamviri** [xvi] *Users:* 18,000 in Afghanistan (2011), increasing. 3,600 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 18,000. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 20,000.

**Wakhi** [wbl] *Users:* 17,000 in Afghanistan (2011 S. Beck), increasing. Ethnic population: 17,000. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,200.

**Arabic, Tajiki Spoken** [abh] *Users:* 16,000 in Afghanistan (2017), decreasing. *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,300.

**Gujari** [gju] *Users:* 15,000 in Afghanistan (2015). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,696,000.

**Azerbaijani, North** [azj] *Users:* 13,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,110,020.

**English** [eng] *Users:* 12,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). 1,812,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L2 users: 1,800,000 (2021 World Factbook). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

### 1,000 to 9,999

**Khowar** [khw] *Users:* 8,900 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 578,100.

**Prasuni** [prm] *Users:* 8,000 (2011), increasing. 1,600 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 8,000. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

**Munji** [mnj] *Users:* 5,300 (2008 D. Beyer and S. Beck). Very few monolinguals. Ethnic population: 5,300. *Status:* 5 (Developing). Statutory language of provincial identity in Badakhshan Province (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)).

**Grangali** [nli] *Users:* 5,000 (1994). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

**Savi** [sdg] *Users:* 5,000 in Afghanistan (2017). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,000.

**Parachi** [prc] *Users:* 3,500 (Kiefer 2009). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

**Tregami** [trm] *Users:* 3,500 (2011), increasing. 700 monolinguals. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

**Ishkashimi** [isk] *Users:* 2,500 in Afghanistan (2009 S. Beck), decreasing. No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 2,500 (2009 S. Beck). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,000.

**Sanglechi** [sgy] *Users:* 2,200 (2009 S. Beck). Ethnic population: 2,200. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

**Shumashti** [sts] *Users:* 1,000 (1994). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

### 100 to 999

**Kyrgyz** [kir] *Users:* 750 in Afghanistan (2000). 450 in the Great Pamir; a few in Badakhshan. *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,154,500.

**10 to 99**

**Ormuri** [[oru](#)] *Users:* 50 in Afghanistan (2011 SIL), decreasing. Ethnic population: 2,000. *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,050.

**0**

**Degano** [[wsv](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Last known speaker survived into the late 1950s. Ethnic population: 30 (2017 D. Miller). *Status:* 9 (Dormant).

**Inku** [[jat](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Last speakers probably survived into the 1990s. *Status:* 9 (Dormant).

**Mogholi** [[mhj](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Known to be in use in the 1970s by some older adults (Weiers 2003). Ethnic population: 2,000. *Status:* 9 (Dormant).

**Pahlavani** [[phv](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: 3,800 (2022 Joshua Project). *Status:* 9 (Dormant).

**Parya** [[paq](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Afghanistan. Ethnic population: 240. *Status:* 9 (Dormant). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,600.

**Tirahi** [[tra](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: 5,000. *Status:* 9 (Dormant).

**Uyghur** [[uig](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Afghanistan. Ethnic population: 3,500 (2022 Joshua Project). *Status:* 9 (Dormant). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,510,072 (as L1: 10,509,952; as L2: 120).

## Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Afghanistan are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

### 1 (National)

**Dari** [prs] *Users:* 28,660,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L1 users: 8,660,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc), increasing. L2 users: 20,000,000 (2020). *Status:* Statutory national language (2004, Constitution, Article 16(1)). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2008. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 30,291,510 (as L1: 10,277,510; as L2: 20,014,000).

**Pashto, Southern** [pbt] *Users:* 13,320,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L1 users: 9,840,000 in Afghanistan (2017). L2 users: 3,480,000 (2021). *Status:* Statutory national language (2004, Constitution, Article 16(1)). *Lg Use:* Afghan government has worked since 1930s to standardize and publicize it. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use Dari [prs], especially those who are educated or have business in Dari-speaking provinces. A few also use Urdu [urd]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2011–2019. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 19,871,430 (as L1: 16,391,430; as L2: 3,480,000).

### 2 (Provincial)

**Uzbek, Southern** [uzs] *Users:* 3,660,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L1 users: 3,120,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc), increasing. L2 users: 540,000 (2021 World Factbook). 1,000,000 monolinguals (2010). *Status:* Statutory language of provincial identity in Fariab, Jawzjan, Saripul, other northern provinces (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Dari [prs], especially in urban areas. Also use Southern Pashto [pbt]. Used as L2 by Turkmen [tuk]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2004–2006. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,955,900 (as L1: 3,415,900; as L2: 540,000).

### 3 (Wider communication)

**Pashto, Northern** [[pbu](#)] *Users:* 5,190,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L1 users: 3,830,000 in Afghanistan (2017), increasing. L2 users: 1,360,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* Pashto is 1 of 2 national languages taught in schools. Ghilzai are nomadic, 24% of the Pashto population. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [[prs](#)], in some communities, and educated people in all communities. Used as L2 by Ashkun [[ask](#)], Kamviri [[xvi](#)], Northeast Pashai [[aee](#)], Northwest Pashai [[glh](#)], Shumashti [[sts](#)], Southeast Pashai [[psi](#)], Southwest Pashai [[psh](#)], Tregami [[trm](#)], Waigali [[wbk](#)]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 30,251,740 (as L1: 28,883,240; as L2: 1,368,500).

### 5 (Developing)

**Afghan Sign Language** [[afg](#)] *Users:* 190,000 (2021). Estimated 115,000–230,000 signing deaf (0.3%–0.6% of the total population), depending on incidence of deafness, availability of education, and impact of war. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, university, work. Used by all. *Lg Dev:* Videos. Dictionary.

**Balochi, Western** [[bgn](#)] *Users:* 415,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Statutory language of provincial identity in Southwest Desert Region (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Lg Use:* Home, community. Used by all. Also use Brahui [[brh](#)], with a high degree of bilingualism. Also use Dari [[prs](#)], with a high degree of bilingualism. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Cyrillic script, used in Turkmenistan. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,283,350.

**Hazaragi** [[haz](#)] *Users:* 3,120,000 in Afghanistan (2017). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Used by all. Also use Dari [[prs](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2008–2015. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,660,000.

**Kati** [[bsh](#)] *Users:* 128,000 in Afghanistan (2017), increasing. Ethnic population: 128,000 (2017). *Status:* Statutory language of provincial identity in Nuristan Province (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Lg Use:* Outside of language area, shifting towards Dari [[prs](#)]. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [[prs](#)], especially in the west. Also use Southern Pashto [[pbt](#)], especially in the east. *Lg Dev:* TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, limited usage, in development. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 135,800.

**Munji** [[mnj](#)] *Users:* 5,300 (2008 D. Beyer and S. Beck). Very few monolinguals. Ethnic population: 5,300. *Status:* Statutory language of provincial identity in Badakhshan Province (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Lg Use:* Speakers view it as their secret language, and they perceive it as an advantage to have a language that is not commonly understood by outsiders. Home, community, at school. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [[prs](#)], especially adults (nearly all). *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, in

development. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles.

**Pashai, Southeast** [psi] *Users:* 180,000 (2011 Pashai Language Development Project), increasing. 75,000 Laghman, 95,000 Nangarhar, 10,000 Kunar. Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). 100,000 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 400,000. *Status:* Statutory language of provincial identity in Nangarhar, Laghman provinces (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, market, all informal settings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. Also use Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. Texts. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in print. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles.

**Shughni** [sgh] *Users:* 40,000 in Afghanistan (2009). Most are monolingual. *Lg Use:* All domains; in Faizabad city, home only. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Dari [prs]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Afghanistan. Cyrillic script, used in Tajikistan. Latin script, used in Tajikistan. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 80,000.

**Wakhi** [wbl] *Users:* 17,000 in Afghanistan (2011 S. Beck), increasing. Ethnic population: 17,000. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, community, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use Dari [prs], especially men. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2001. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Afghanistan. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in handwriting and for book titles. Cyrillic script, used in Tajikistan. Latin script, used in Pakistan, preferred script, not firmly established. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,200.

## 5 (Dispersed)

**English** [eng] *Users:* 1,812,000 in Afghanistan, all users. L1 users: 12,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). L2 users: 1,800,000 (2021 World Factbook). *Writing:* Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1,076,766,120).

**Khowar** [khw] *Users:* 8,900 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 578,100.

**Kyrgyz** [kir] *Users:* 750 in Afghanistan (2000). 450 in the Great Pamir; a few in Badakhshan. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in China. Cyrillic script, not used in Afghanistan. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,154,500.

**Turkmen** [tuk] *Users:* 733,000 in Afghanistan (2021 World Factbook). *Status:* Statutory language of provincial identity in Turkmenistan border areas (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Lg Use:* Vigorous. In villages, all domains; in larger cities, home and among other Turkmen. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Southern Uzbek [uzs], and about 70%–80% can understand it. Also use Dari [prs], but only those living in large cities speak it. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Afghanistan and Iran. Cyrillic script, used in Turkmenistan, not

used in Afghanistan. Latin script, official usage in Turkmenistan since 1991. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,562,260.

## 6a (Vigorous)

**Aimaq** [aiq] *Users*: 1,400,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Some also use Dari [prs]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,891,900.

**Ashkun** [ask] *Users*: 40,000 (2011), increasing. 4,000 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 40,000. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Brahui** [brh] *Users*: 200,000 in Afghanistan (Dupree 1980), increasing. *Lg Use*: Not used in trading with other ethnic groups or in official government domain. Home, business. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Southern Pashto [pbt], especially for trading and government relations. Used as L2 by Western Balochi [bgn]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Latin script, used in one newspaper. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,865,000.

**Gawar-Bati** [gwt] *Users*: 32,000 in Afghanistan (2017). Ethnic population: 32,000 (2017). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Also use Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 36,000.

**Gujari** [gju] *Users*: 15,000 in Afghanistan (2015). *Lg Use*: Used by all. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Devanagari script, plans for future development using this script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,696,000.

**Kamviri** [xvi] *Users*: 18,000 in Afghanistan (2011), increasing. 3,600 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 18,000. *Lg Use*: Outside of language area, shifting towards majority language. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,000.

**Pashai, Northeast** [ace] *Users*: 54,400 (2000). Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). *Status*: Statutory language of national identity (2004, Constitution, Article 16(2)). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Many also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Pashai, Northwest** [glh] *Users*: 70,000 (2011 SIL). Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Many also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Pashai, Southwest** [psh] *Users*: 100,000 (2011 SIL). Total Pashai speakers in Afghanistan: 366,000 (2020 World Factbook). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Many also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Prasuni** [prm] *Users*: 8,000 (2011), increasing. 1,600 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 8,000. *Lg*

*Use:* All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [prs], traditionally with bilingualism. Also use Southern Pashto [pbt], with increasing bilingualism. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Unwritten.

**Sanglechi** [sgy] *Users:* 2,200 (2009 S. Beck). Ethnic population: 2,200. *Lg Use:* Home, village. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [prs], exclusively in education, administration, media, travel, and trade, but only men have access to these domains. *Writing:* Unwritten.

**Savi** [sdg] *Users:* 5,000 in Afghanistan (2017). *Lg Use:* Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. All also use Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,000.

**Shumashti** [sts] *Users:* 1,000 (1994). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Most also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

**Tregami** [trm] *Users:* 3,500 (2011), increasing. 700 monolinguals. *Lg Use:* Used by all. Most also use Northern Pashto [pbu], especially men. *Writing:* Unwritten.

**Waigali** [wbk] *Users:* 28,000 (2017), increasing. 2,300 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 28,000 (2017). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Northern Pashto [pbu]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

## 6b (Threatened)

**Arabic, Tajiki Spoken** [abh] *Users:* 16,000 in Afghanistan (2017), decreasing. *Lg Use:* Home, Community. Positive attitudes. Also use Dari [prs]. Also use Tajik [tgk]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,300.

**Ishkashimi** [isk] *Users:* 2,500 in Afghanistan (2009 S. Beck), decreasing. No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 2,500 (2009 S. Beck). *Lg Use:* Some parents used Dari [prs] with their children to provide them with better chances in school. Only now do the people realize that this might cause the language to become endangered. About half the households use Ishkashimi with the younger generation. Home, village. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. All also use Dari [prs]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,000.

## 7 (Shifting)

**Grangali** [nli] *Users:* 5,000 (1994). *Lg Use:* Nangalami may have no remaining speakers. Shifting to Dari [prs]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

**Parachi** [prc] *Users:* 3,500 (Kiefer 2009). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Dari [prs]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Texts. *Writing:* Unwritten.

## 8b (Nearly extinct)

**Ormuri** [oru] *Users:* 50 in Afghanistan (2011 SIL), decreasing. Ethnic population: 2,000. *Lg Use:*

Elderly only. Shifted to Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,050.

## 9 (Dormant)

**Degano** [wsv] *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Last known speaker survived into the late 1950s. Ethnic population: 30 (2017 D. Miller). *Lg Use*: Shifted to Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Inku** [jat] *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Last speakers probably survived into the 1990s. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Dari [prs]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Mogholi** [mhj] *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Known to be in use in the 1970s by some older adults (Weiers 2003). Ethnic population: 2,000. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Dari [prs]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Pahlavani** [phv] *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: 3,800 (2022 Joshua Project). *Lg Use*: Shifted to Dari [prs]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Parya** [paq] *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Afghanistan. Ethnic population: 240. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Dari [prs]. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,600.

**Tirahi** [tra] *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: 5,000. *Lg Use*: Most shifted to Southern Pashto [pbt]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

**Uyghur** [uig] *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Afghanistan. Ethnic population: 3,500 (2022 Joshua Project). *Lg Use*: Shifted to Dari [prs]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, official and primary usage in China, also used in Afghanistan. Cyrillic script, used in Kazakhstan, past usage in China. Latin script, used in China and Turkey. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,510,072 (as L1: 10,509,952; as L2: 120).

## Unestablished

**Azerbaijani, North** [azj] *Users*: 13,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used until 1920s. Braille script. Cyrillic script, official usage in Dagestan. Latin script, official usage in Azerbaijan since 1992. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,110,020.

**Punjabi, Western** [pnb] *Users*: 39,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage, also called Shahmukhi. Khojki script. Lahnda (Landa) script, no longer in use. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 66,715,480.

**Sindhi** [snd] *Users*: 21,000 in Afghanistan (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Devanagari script, used in India. Gurmukhi script, used in India. Khojki script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,214,680 (as L1: 33,211,620; as L2: 3,060).

**Urdu** [[urd](#)] *Users:* 733,000 in Afghanistan (2021 World Factbook). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Southern Pashto [[pbt](#)]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

## Languages by Province

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Afghanistan. Under the name of each province is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

### Badakhshan

Ishkashimi [isk], 15  
 Kati [bsh], 15  
 Khowar [khw], 16  
 Kyrgyz [kir], 16  
 Munji [mnj], 16  
 Prasuni [prn], 19  
 Sanglechi [sgy], 20  
 Shughni [sgh], 20  
 Wakhi [wbl], 24

### Badghis

Aimaq [aiq], 11  
 Pashto, Southern [pbt], 19  
 Turkmen [tuk], 22  
 Uzbek, Southern [uzs], 23

### Baghlan

Uzbek, Southern [uzs], 23

### Balkh

Afghan Sign Language [afg], 11  
 Arabic, Tajiki Spoken [abh], 11  
 Inku [jat], 14  
 Turkmen [tuk], 22  
 Uzbek, Southern [uzs], 23

### Bamyan

Afghan Sign Language [afg], 11

### Farah

Aimaq [aiq], 11  
 Pashto, Southern [pbt], 19

### Faryab

Aimaq [aiq], 11  
 Inku [jat], 14  
 Turkmen [tuk], 22  
 Uzbek, Southern [uzs], 23

### Ghor

Aimaq [aiq], 11  
 Uzbek, Southern [uzs], 23

### Helmand

Balochi, Western [bgn], 12  
 Brahui [brh], 12  
 Pashto, Southern [pbt], 19

### Herat

Afghan Sign Language [afg], 11  
 Aimaq [aiq], 11  
 Inku [jat], 14  
 Mogholi [mhj], 16  
 Pashto, Southern [pbt], 19  
 Turkmen [tuk], 22

### Jawzjan

Arabic, Tajiki Spoken [abh], 11  
 Turkmen [tuk], 22  
 Uzbek, Southern [uzs], 23

### Kabul

Afghan Sign Language [afg], 11  
 Parya [paq], 17  
 Pashai, Northwest [glh], 18  
 Pashai, Southwest [psh], 18

### Kandahar

Afghan Sign Language [afg], 11  
 Balochi, Western [bgn], 12  
 Brahui [brh], 12  
 Pashto, Southern [pbt], 19

### Kapisa

Parachi [prc], 17  
 Pashai, Northwest [glh], 18  
 Pashai, Southwest [psh], 18

### Kunar

Ashkun [ask], 11

Degano [wsv], 13  
Gawar-Bati [gwt], 14  
Grangali [nli], 14  
Kati [bsh], 15  
Pashai, Northeast [aee], 17  
Pashai, Northwest [glh], 18  
Savi [sdg], 20  
Shumashti [sts], 21  
Tregami [trm], 21  
Waigali [wbk], 23

**Kunduz**

Inku [jat], 14  
Turkmen [tuk], 22  
Uzbek, Southern [uzs], 23

**Laghman**

Afghan Sign Language [afg], 11  
Kati [bsh], 15  
Parya [paq], 17  
Pashai, Northwest [glh], 18  
Pashai, Southeast [psi], 18

**Logar**

Ormuri [oru], 17

**Nangarhar**

Afghan Sign Language [afg], 11  
Grangali [nli], 14  
Parya [paq], 17  
Pashai, Northeast [aee], 17  
Pashai, Northwest [glh], 18  
Pashai, Southeast [psi], 18  
Pashto, Northern [pbu], 18

Tirahi [tra], 21

**Nimroz**

Balochi, Western [bgn], 12  
Pahlavani [phv], 17  
Pashto, Southern [pbt], 19

**Nuristan**

Ashkun [ask], 11  
Kamviri [xvi], 15  
Kati [bsh], 15  
Pashai, Northwest [glh], 18  
Prasuni [prn], 19  
Waigali [wbk], 23

**Panjsher**

Kati [bsh], 15

**Parwan**

Afghan Sign Language [afg], 11  
Pashai, Northwest [glh], 18

**Samangan**

Uzbek, Southern [uzs], 23

**Saripul**

Uzbek, Southern [uzs], 23

**Takhar**

Afghan Sign Language [afg], 11  
Uzbek, Southern [uzs], 23

**Uruzgan**

Pashto, Southern [pbt], 19

**Zabul**

Pashto, Southern [pbt], 19

## Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Afghanistan. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic**

Arabic, Tajiki Spoken [abh], [11](#)

### **Dravidian, Northern**

Brahui [brh], [12](#)

### **Indo-European, Germanic, West, English**

English [eng], [13](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Panjabi, Western Panjabi**

Inku [jat], [14](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Rajasthani, Unclassified**

Gujari [gju], [14](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Unclassified**

Parya [paq], [17](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Chitral**

Khovar [khw], [16](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Kohistani**

Degano [wsv], [13](#)

Tirahi [tra], [21](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Kunar**

Gawar-Bati [gwt], [14](#)

Grangali [nli], [14](#)

Shumashti [sts], [21](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Pashai**

Pashai, Northeast [aee], [17](#)

Pashai, Northwest [glh], [18](#)

Pashai, Southeast [psi], [18](#)

Pashai, Southwest [psh], [18](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Dardic, Shina**

Savi [sdg], [20](#)

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pamir**

Ishkashimi [isk], 15

Munji [mnj], 16

Sanglechi [sgy], 20

Wakhi [wbl], 24

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pamir, Shugni-Yazgulami**

Shughni [sgh], 20

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Southeastern, Pashto**

Pashto, Northern [pbu], 18

Pashto, Southern [pbt], 19

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi**

Balochi, Western [bgn], 12

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Ormuri-Parachi**

Ormuri [oru], 17

Parachi [prc], 17

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian**

Aimaq [aiq], 11

Dari [prs], 13

Hazaragi [haz], 14

Pahlavani [phv], 17

**Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Nuristani**

Ashkun [ask], 11

Kamviri [xvi], 15

Kati [bsh], 15

Prasuni [prn], 19

Tregami [trm], 21

Waigali [wbk], 23

**Mongolic, Western**

Mogholi [mhj], 16

**Sign language, Deaf community sign language**

Afghan Sign Language [afg], 11

**Turkic, Eastern**

Uyghur [uig], 22

Uzbek, Southern [uzs], 23

**Turkic, Southern, Turkmenian**

Turkmen [tuk], 22

**Turkic, Western, Aralo-Caspian**

Kyrgyz [kir], 16

## Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 47 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

<b>abh</b>	Arabic, Tajiki Spoken, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>pbu</b>	Pashto, Northern, <a href="#">18</a>
<b>ae</b>	Pashai, Northeast, <a href="#">17</a>	<b>phv</b>	Pahlavani, <a href="#">17</a>
<b>afg</b>	Afghan Sign Language, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>pnb</b>	Punjabi, Western, <a href="#">20</a>
<b>aiq</b>	Aimaq, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>prc</b>	Parachi, <a href="#">17</a>
<b>ask</b>	Ashkun, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>prn</b>	Prasuni, <a href="#">19</a>
<b>azj</b>	Azerbaijani, North, <a href="#">12</a>	<b>prs</b>	Dari, <a href="#">13</a>
<b>bgn</b>	Balochi, Western, <a href="#">12</a>	<b>psh</b>	Pashai, Southwest, <a href="#">18</a>
<b>brh</b>	Brahui, <a href="#">12</a>	<b>psi</b>	Pashai, Southeast, <a href="#">18</a>
<b>bsh</b>	Kati, <a href="#">15</a>	<b>sdg</b>	Savi, <a href="#">20</a>
<b>eng</b>	English, <a href="#">13</a>	<b>sg</b>	Shughni, <a href="#">20</a>
<b>gju</b>	Gujari, <a href="#">14</a>	<b>sgy</b>	Sanglechi, <a href="#">20</a>
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## Language Name Index

This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

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