

Ethnologue: Languages of Benin

Twenty-sixth edition data

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Contents

List of Abbreviations	3
How to Use This Digest	4
Country Overview	6
Language Status Profile	7
Statistical Summaries	8
Alphabetical Listing of Languages	11
Language Map	25
Languages by Population	26
Languages by Status	30
Languages by Department	36
Languages by Family	38
Language Code Index	41
Language Name Index	42
Bibliography	49

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
ACHPR	African Charter on Human Peoples' Rights (1987)
<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
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<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)
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns
WFD	World Federation of the Deaf

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Benin 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 56 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Benin. 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

Department” (page 36) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Benin and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 38) 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 301 unique names are associated with the 56 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 49). 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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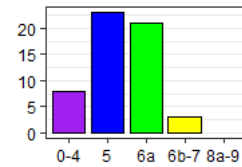
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Country Overview

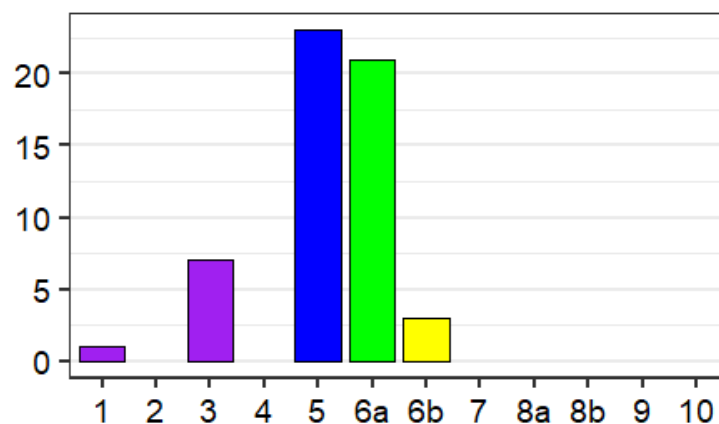
Name of country	Benin
Other names	Republic of Benin
Population	12,506,000 (2021 census)
Principal language	French
Literacy rate	42% (2018 World Bank)
Deaf population	12,500
International conventions	ACHPR (1986), CDE (1963), CPPDCE (2007), CSICH (2012), ICCPR (1992), UNCRPD (2012), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Bendor-Samuel and Hartell 1989, Vanderaa 1991
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Benin is 55. All are living languages. Of these, 50 are indigenous and 5 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 8 are institutional, 23 are developing, 21 are vigorous, and 3 are in trouble. Also listed is 1 unestablished language.</p>



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 Benin 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 Benin. 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 Benin 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 Benin 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	4	7.3	7.3%	5,420,000	44.27153	44.27153%
100,000 to 999,999	23	41.8	49.1%	5,942,000	48.53532	92.80686%
10,000 to 99,999	21	38.2	87.3%	860,900	7.03199	99.83884%
1,000 to 9,999	6	10.9	98.2%	19,730	0.16116	100.00000%
Unknown	1	1.8	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	55	100.0		12,242,630	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Benin 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 Benin. 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	1	1.8	1.8%	33,000	0.2695	0.2695%	33,000	33,000
3	7	12.7	14.5%	3,945,500	32.2276	32.4971%	563,643	263,500
5	23	41.8	56.4%	5,064,690	41.3693	73.8664%	220,204	113,000
6a	21	38.2	94.5%	3,194,440	26.0928	99.9592%	152,116	67,600
6b	3	5.5	100.0%	5,000	0.0408	100.0000%	1,667	1,500
<i>Totals</i>	55	100.0		12,242,630	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 5 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	1.8	Unknown			
Indo-European	1	1.8	33,000	0.3	33,000	33,000
Niger-Congo	51	92.7	11,901,130	97.2	233,355	100,000
Nilo-Saharan	1	1.8	296,000	2.4	296,000	296,000

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>
Sign language	1	1.8	12,500	0.1	12,500	12,500
<i>Totals</i>	55	100.0	12,242,630	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

- Aguna** [aug] (Aguna-gbe, Agunaco, Awuna). *Users*: 14,000 in Benin (2014 SIL). *Location*: Collines department: southern border areas; Coufou department: Aplahoue commune; Zou department: Djidja commune, Agouna village area. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra], to varying degrees according to education level. Also use Gen [gej]. Also use Ifè [ife]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 25:42. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 28,000. Also indigenous in: Togo.
- Aja** [ajg] (Adja, Hwè). Autonym: Ajagbe. *Users*: 1,090,000 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Coufou department: Aplahoué, Djakotomè, Dogbo, Klouékanmè, Lalo, and Tovinklin communes on Mono river; Mono department: Athiémè, Houéyogbé communes; Zou department: Agbangnizoun and Djidja communes; Cotonou and many southern mixed-language towns. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Aja. *Dialects*: Dogbo, Hwe (Ehoue), Tado (Tadou), Sikpi (Shikpi), Tala. The Hwe, Sikpi, and Tado dialects are linguistically very similar; Dogbo and Tala distinct from the other 3. Lexical similarity: 92% with Hwe-Sikpi dialect, 89% with Hwe-Dogbo dialect, Hwe-Tado dialect, and Hwe-Tala dialect. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, neighborhood, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gen [gej]. Used as L2 by Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1 and 2, in 5 schools (2014 SIL). Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 2010–2018. *DLS*: Ascending (0.14). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Tado and Tala speakers are mainly in Togo. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:32. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,280,000. Also indigenous in: Togo.
- Anii** [blo] (Baseca, Basila, Bassila, Gisida, “Ouinji-Ouinji” pej., “Winji-Winji” pej.). Autonym: Anii. *Users*: 43,500 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Donga department: Bassila commune northwest, on Togo border, and 18 area villages. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Nyo, Potou-Tano, Basila-Adele. *Dialects*: Gisida (Bassila), Gifolanga (Guiguissou), Frinyio ka gija (Frignion), Gikodowarja (Kodowari), Gipenesulja (Pénéssoulou), Gipenelanja (Pénélan), Naagayili ka gija (Nagayilé), Gibodija (Bodi), Gibayaakuja (Bayaku), Gideenguja (Dengou), Ngmeelang ka gija (Melan), Gisaramangaja (Saramanga), Agerendebu ka gija (Agéréndébou), Giborokoja (Mboroko), Yaari ka gija (Yarí). Gisida is the main dialect that adults understand. Higher intelligibility among the dialects in the north. Lexical similarity: 89% with the Bodi dialect and 74% with the Balanka dialect. *Type*: SVO; 14 noun classes; 23 consonant phonemes; tonal. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra]. Also use Southern Nago [nqg]. Also use Tem [kdh]. Varies with education level. *Lg Dev*: Literacy efforts since 1980. Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 1975. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:25. *Worldwide*: Total users in all

countries: 58,800. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Anufo [cko] (Chakosi, Chokosi, Chokossi, Tchokossi). Autonym: Anufo. *Users*: 13,800 in Benin (2002 SIL). *Location*: Atacora department: Boukoubée and Coby communes, a few villages. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Nyo, Potou-Tano, Tano, Central, Bia, Northern. *Lg Use*: Also use French [fra], to an extent varying with education levels. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2006. *Writing*: Latin script, used since 1993. *Other*: Traditional religion, Muslim. *Map*: 25:15. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 177,200. Also indigenous in: Ghana, Togo.

Baatonum [bba] (Baatombu, Baatonu, Barba, Barganchi, Bargawa, Bargu, Bariba, Baruba, Berba, Bogung, Burgu). Autonym: Baatõnum. *Users*: 1,040,000 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Alibori department: central and southeast; Atacora department: east; Borgou department: Bembereke, Kalale, N'Dali, Nikki, Parakou, Sinende, Perere, and east Tchaourou communes; Donga department: Djougou commune. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). Used as conquest language in 17th century. Widespread under European colonization beginning in the 1880s in northeast Benin and northwest Nigeria. Language of colonization, trade, and church. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Bariba. *Lg Use*: Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Boko [bqc], Ditammari [tbz], Mokole [mkl], Nateni [ntm], Waama [wwa], Yom [pil]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–30%. Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1 and 2, in 5 schools (2014 SIL). Dictionary. Bible: 1996. *DLS*: Ascending (0.18). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Distinct from Biali (Berba) [beh]. Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 25:8. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,140,000. Also indigenous in: Nigeria.

Benin ASL [ase] (ASL, American Sign Language, Benin Sign Language, LSAF, Langue des signes de l'Afrique francophone). *Users*: 12,500 in Benin (2008 WFD). Approximately 0.1% of the total population. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling system derived from French Sign Language [fsl]. SVO, topic comment structures; adjectives, numerals, genitives, question word initial or final, relative clause after noun head. *Lg Dev*: TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2020. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Although many people say they use ASL in Benin, they generally do not understand nor sign standard ASL from the United States. However, the sign language in Benin has not been separately recognized by ISO 639-3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 989,605 (as L1: 858,605; as L2: 131,000). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: United States (American Sign Language). Also established in 23 other countries and unestablished in 12 more.

Biali [beh] (Berba, Bialaba, Bieri, Bjerb, Bjeri). Autonym: Byali. *Users*: 179,000 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Atacora department: Coby, Materi, and Tanguieta communes; Collines department: Ouessi commune; Donga department: small border area west of Oueme river. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Eastern. *Dialects*: Dassari, Gouande, Materi, Pingou, Tihoun, Tangeta, Porga. *Type*: SVO; postpositions; 14 noun classes; Aspect, no tense; tonal. *Lg Use*: Used by

all. Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Notre [bly]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1–5%. Literacy rate in L2: 15–20% in French [fra]. Radio. NT: 2018. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Historical accounts claim they originated in the F’ada N’Gourma area of Burkina Faso. Different from Baatonum (Bariba) [bba]. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:12. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 183,080. Also indigenous in: Burkina Faso, Togo.

Boko [bqc] (Bo’o, Bokonya). Autonym: Bòó. *Users*: 100,000 in Benin (2013 R. Jones). 28,800 monolinguals. *Location*: Alibori and Borgou departments: Kalale and Segbana communes. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Eastern, Eastern, Busa. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 87% with Bisā [bqp], 89% with Bokobaru [bus], 62% with Shanga [sho], 59% with Kyanga [tye], 62% with Bisa [bib] in Burkina Faso and Ghana. *Type*: SOV; noun heads initial; up to 5 suffixes on verb; postpositions; logophoricity; 4 level tones; CV, CVV, CCV. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Hausa [hau]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. Used as L2 by Mokole [mkl]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%. Literacy rate in L2: 6%. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 1992–2010. *DLS*: Emerging (0.07). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 25:6. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 150,000. Also indigenous in: Nigeria.

Dendi [ddn] (Dandawa). Autonym: Songhay. *Users*: 296,000 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Alibori and Atacora departments: Djougou, Parakou, and other towns north along Medru and Niger rivers down to Kandi. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). The Dendi ethnic group came from Mali in 16th century and settled in north-central Benin. Now used as trade language across northern Benin. *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Songhai, Southern. *Dialects*: Closely related to Zarma [dje] and Songhay [hmb]. They form a dialect subgroup. *Lg Use*: Market. Also use French [fra]. Also use Yom [pil]. Used as L2 by Mokole [mkl], Yom [pil]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–30%. Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1 and 2, in 5 schools (2014 SIL). Radio. Dictionary. NT: 1995. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Djougou and Parakou speech varieties reportedly different from that in the northeast. Different from Dendi [deq] in Central African Republic. Muslim. *Map*: 25:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 440,050. Also indigenous in: Niger, Nigeria.

Ditamari [tbz] (Ditamari, Tamari, “Somba” pej.). Autonym: Ditamari. *Users*: 233,000 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Atacora department: Boukoumbé and Natitingou communes; Borgou and Donga departments: along Djougou-Parakou road. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Eastern. *Dialects*: Eastern Ditamari, Western Ditamari (Tamberma). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, neighborhood, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Yom [pil]. Used as L2 by Mbelime [mql], Waama [wwa]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1 and 2, in 5 schools (2014 SIL). Literature. Radio. Bible: 2001. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 25:17. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 267,300. Also indigenous in: Togo.

- Ede Cabe** [cbj] (Şabe, Caabe, Cabe, Ede-Cabe, Sábée, Tchabè, Tsábè). *Users*: 4,140 (2021). *Location*: Borgou department: Tchaourou commune; Collines department: Ouèssè and Savè communes along Okrara river west bank; north Plateau department: Ketou commune. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 76% with Yoruba of Porto-Novo [yor]. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use French [fra]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. Very high level of comprehension of Yoruba. Used as L2 by Tchumbuli [bqa]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:35.
- Ede Ica** [ica] (Ica, Itcha, Ìtsà). *Users*: 50,500 (2021). *Location*: Collines department: northwest Bante commune; Donga department; south border areas scattered. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Dialects*: Ica, Ilodji (Ife). Lexical similarity: 83% with Yoruba of Porto-Novo [yor]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Also use French [fra]. Also use Standard Arabic [arb]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 30%. Literacy rate in L2: 40% in French [fra]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 25:27.
- Ede Idaca** [idd] (Dasa, Idaaca, Idaasa, Idaatcha, Idaca, Idaşa, Idáitsà). Autonym: Ìdàáshà. *Users*: 187,000 (2021). *Location*: Collines department: Dassa-Zoume and Glazoué communes, west Ouémé river. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Dialects*: Idàáshà, Idàátchà. *Lg Use*: Vigorous: determined to keep their language from influences from outsiders. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 20%. Literacy rate in L2: 20%. Literacy program covers entire language area due to high motivation. Radio. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 25:40.
- Ede Ije** [ijj] (Ede-Ije, Hólí, Holi, Holli-Djé, Ije, Ìjè, Ohòrí). *Users*: 171,000 (2021). *Location*: Plateau department: Kétou and Pobè communes and rural districts; Zou department: Ouhni and Zogbodomey communes. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 85% with Yoruba of Porto-Novo [yor], 91% with Ede Nago [nqg]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Standard Arabic [arb]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. *Lg Dev*: Basic literacy program using Yoruba expanded to include post-literacy. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:38.
- Ede Nago, Kura** [nqk] (Kura, Nago). *Users*: 25,000 (2002 SIL). *Location*: Donga department: Bassila commune, Aledjo Koura village area on Togo border. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 78% with Ife [ife] of Tchetti, 76% with Northern Nago [xkb], 68% with Yoruba [yor] of Porto-Novo, 65% with Southern Nago [nqg]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Also use French [fra]. Also use Lukpa [dop]. Also use Tem [kdh]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 25:24.

Fon [fon] (Dahomeen, Fongbe). Autonym: Fɔ̀ngbè. *Users*: 2,210,000 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Widespread. Atlantique, Littoral and Zou departments. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). Used in early 17th century in the Fon kingdom of Dahomey (now Benin). Used as slave trade language in 18th century with arrival of European colonizers. After slave trade ended in 1848, became widespread in Southern Benin and Togo. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Fon. *Dialects*: Agbome, Arohun, Gbekon, Kpase. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Administration, education, religious services, commerce, and labor. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Aguna [aug], Ayizo Gbe [ayb], Ci Gbe [cib], Eastern Xwla Gbe [gbx], Ede Idaca [idd], Ede Ije [ijj], Gbesi Gbe [gbs], Gun [guw], Kotafon Gbe [kqk], Maxi Gbe [mxl], Saxwe Gbe [sxw], Tchumbuli [bqa], Tofin Gbe [tfi], Weme Gbe [wem], Western Xwla Gbe [xwl], Xwela Gbe [xwe]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%. 10% can read Fon, 7% can write it. Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1 and 2, in 5 schools (2014 SIL). Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2014. *DLS*: Ascending (0.29). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:39. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,280,400. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Foodo [fod] (Guang). Autonym: Fóodo. *Users*: 20,700 in Benin (2018). *Location*: Donga department: Ouaké commune, Semere town area. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Nyo, Potou-Tano, Tano, Guang, North Guang. *Lg Use*: Also use French [fra]. Also use Kabiyè [kbp]. Also use Tem [kdh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Radio. Bible portions: 1998. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Originally from Ghana; probably from the village of Salaga. Muslim. *Map*: 25:23. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 21,700. Unestablished in: Ghana.

French [fra] (Français). Autonym: français. *Users*: 4,343,000 in Benin, all users. L1 users: 33,000 in Benin (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. L2 users: 4,310,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1990, Constitution, Article 1). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oil, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland. Also established in 95 other countries and unestablished in 24 more.

Fulfulde, Borgu [fue] (Benin-Togo Fulfulde, Fulbe-Borgu, Peul, Peulh). Autonym: Fulfulde. *Users*: 693,000 in Benin (2021). Most monolinguals are in Borgou Department, Nikki Commune. *Location*: Alibori department: Segbama commune; Borgou department: Nikki commune; scattered communities in Atacora, Collines, Donga, and Zou departments. Borgou, north of N'Dali (Bakuure dialect); central and south Borgou, Parakou area (Korakuure

dialect); Donga-Atacora area from Djougou north to Burkina border (Djougou dialect); Zou department (Tchabankeere dialect). *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Fula, West Central. A member of macrolanguage Fulah [ful] (Senegal). *Dialects*: Bakuure, Korakuure, Djougou (Juguure), Tchabankeere (Caabankeere). *Lg Use*: Home, villages, market. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra], to an extent varying with education level. Also use Yom [pil]. Used as L2 by Mokole [mkl]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%. Among Fulfulde-speaking Gando people there are over 2,000 literates. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. NT: 2010. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 25:5. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 803,000. Also established in: Nigeria (Benin-Togo Fulfulde), Togo.

Fulfulde, Gorgal [fuh] (Fulfulde, Peul, Peulh, Western Niger Fulfulde). *Users*: 44,000 in Benin (2022 Joshua Project). *Location*: Alibori department: north. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Fula, East Central. *Type*: SVO; prepositions and postpositions; genitives, articles, adjectives, numerals, relatives after noun heads; question word final; 1 prefix, 9 suffixes; word order distinguishes subjects, objects, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; verb affixes mark number, subject (obligatory); class marking with participle obligatory; middle and passive voice; causatives; CV, CVC, CVV, CVVC; nontonal. *Lg Use*: Used by all. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%. Literature. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2017. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 25:2. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,084,000. Also indigenous in: Burkina Faso (Northeastern Burkina Faso Fulfulde), Niger (Western Niger Fulfulde).

Gbe, Ayizo [ayb] (Ayizo, Ayizo-Gbe, Ayzo). Autonym: Ayizo Gbe. *Users*: 573,000 (2021), including Sèto (37,600). *Location*: Atlantique department: largest areas; Coufou and Zou departments: Lalo and Zogbodomey communes. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Aja. *Dialects*: Kadagbe (Kada-Gbe), Ayizo-Seto (Sèto), Ayizo-Tori, Ayizo-Kobe. Reportedly similar to Fon [fon]. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. Used as L2 by Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:44.

Gbe, Ci [cib] (Ayizo-Ci, Ci, Cigbe, Tchi). *Users*: 25,000 (2002 SIL). *Location*: Coufou department: Lalo commune. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe. *Dialects*: None known. Considered the same as Fon [fon] by many Ci Gbe speakers. Lexical similarity: 80% with Fon [fon], 77% with Ayizo Gbe [ayb], 59% with Aja [ajg]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:43.

Gbe, Defi [gbh] (Défi). *Users*: 8,100 (2021). *Location*: Ouémé department: Seme-Kpodji commune between Ouémé river north, Cotonou-Porto-Novo railroad west, Gulf of Guinea south. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Aja. *Dialects*: None known. Defi is reportedly similar linguistically to Gun [guw].

Lg Use: All domains. Used by all. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gun [guw]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map:* 25:52.

Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx] (Houla, Kpla, Offra, Ophra, Phla, Pla, Popo, Xwla). *Users:* 114,000 (2021). Total Xwla Gbe: 177,000 (2021). *Location:* Atlantique department: Lake Nokwe south shore; Littoral department: east Cotonou; Ouémé department: Seme-Kpodji commune east of Cotonou. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe. *Dialects:* None known. Lexical similarity: 90% with Gun [guw], 82% with Fon [fon], 68% with Gen [gej], 68% with Aja [ajg]. *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gun [guw]. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map:* 25:51.

Gbe, Gbesi [gbs]. *Users:* 65,000 (2002 SIL). *Location:* Atlantique department: Allada, Kpomassè, and Tori-Bossito communes, individual and mixed villages. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe. *Dialect:* Gbokpa. Lexical similarity: 91% with Kotafon [kqk], 85% with Fon [fon], 73% with Aja [ajg], 70% with Gen [gej]. *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gen [gej]. Also use Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Traditional religion, Christian. *Map:* 25:47.

Gbe, Kotafon [kqk] (Ko, Kogbe). *Users:* 178,000 (2021). *Location:* Coufou department: Djakotomey and Lalo communes; Mono department: Athiémé, Houeyogbe, and eastern Bopa communes, Lake Aheme area. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe. *Dialects:* None known. Lexical similarity: 82% with Gbe Ayizo [ayb], 81% with Fon [fon], 69% with Gen [gej], 65% with Aja [ajg]. *Lg Use:* Most domains. Used by all. Some also use Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gen [gej]. Also use Gun [guw]. Used as L2 by Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map:* 25:31.

Gbe, Maxi [mxl] (Mahi, Maxi, Maxi-Gbe). *Users:* 396,000 in Benin (2021). *Location:* Collines department: Bantè, Dassa-Zoume, Glazoué Ouèssèi, and Savalou communes; Donga department: Bassila commune. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Fon. *Dialects:* None known. Lexical similarity: 80% with Fon [fon], 68% with Ayizo Gbe [ayb], 51% with Aja [ajg]. *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Tchumbuli [bqa]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *DLS:* Emerging (0.01). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Traditional religion. *Map:* 25:28. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 446,800. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Gbe, Saxwe [sxw] (Sahouè, Sahouègbe, Saxwe, Saxwe, Saxwe-Gbe, Saxwegbe, Tsaphe, Tsaphe -Gbe, Tsáphe). Autonym: Saxwegbe. *Users:* 323,000 (2021). *Location:* Atlantique department: Kpomasse commune; Coufou department: Lalo commune; Mono department: Bopa and Houéyogbé communes. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe. *Dialects:* Saxwe, Daxe, Se. *Type:* SVO; no noun classes or gender; question words initial; minimal affixing; 12 vowel phonemes; no case marking (except

pronouns); tonal. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Most also use Fon [fon]. Most also use Gen [gej]. Some also use Aja [ajg]. Some also use Ayizo Gbe [ayb]. Some also use Kotafon Gbe [kqk]. Also use French [fra], to extents varying with education level. Used as L2 by Ayizo Gbe [ayb], Gbesi Gbe [gbs], Kotafon Gbe [kqk], Xwela Gbe [xwe]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. NT: 2022. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:48.

Gbe, Tofin [tʃi] (Tɔfin, Tɔfingbe, Tofi, Tofin, Tofingbe). *Users*: 157,000 (2021). *Location*: Atlantique department: Sô-Ava commune southeast; Ouémé department: Aguegue commune. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Aja. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 88% with Gun [guw], 87% with Fon [fon], 82% with Eastern Xwla Gbe [xwe], 75% with Ayizo Gbe [ayb], 66% with Gen [gej]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gun [guw]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy efforts underway using Fon, Gun, and Tofin. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 25:46.

Gbe, Waci [wɛi] (Ouatchi, Waci, Waci-Gbe, Watyu). *Users*: 67,600 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Mono department: Comè commune; some in Athiémè and Grand-Popo communes. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use French [fra]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 25:30. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 921,600. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Gbe, Weme [wem] (Ouémé, Weme, Weme-Gbe, Wéménugbé). *Users*: 312,000 (2021). *Location*: Atlantique department: Abomey-Calavi and Zè communes; Ouémé department: Adjohoun, Bonou, Dangbo communes along lower Ouémé river, some in Aguégué, Akpro-Misséréte communes; Plateau department: Adja-Ouere commune. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Aja. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 25:45.

Gbe, Western Xwla [xwl] (Phla, Xwla, Xwla-Gbe). *Users*: 63,000 in Benin (2021). Total Xwla Gbe: 177,000 (2021). *Location*: Atlantique department: Ouidah commune; Littoral department: Cotonou; Mono department: Grand-Popo commune. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 86% with Gun [guw], 84% with Fon [fon], 73% with Gen [gej], 68% with Aja [ajg], 90% with Eastern Xwela Gbe [gbx], 88% with Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gen [gej]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:33. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 94,100. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Gbe, Xwela [xwe] (Houéda, Peda, Phera, Xwedà, Xwela, Xwela-Gbe). *Users*: 93,400 (2021). *Location*: Atlantique department: Kpomassè and Ouidah communes; Mono department: Comé commune near Lake Aheme, southernmost Bopa commune. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 90% with Western Xwla [xwl], 85% with Fon [fon], 71% with Gen [gej],

82% with Saxwe [sxw], 68% with Aja [ajg]. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gen [gej]. Also use Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. Second languages used in non-formal education, government offices, churches. Gen and Saxwe Gbe are used for adult literacy in some villages. French is used in schools. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:49.

Gen [gej] (Ge, Gegbe, Gen-Gbe, Guin, Mina, Mina-Gen, Popo). Autonym: Gen-Gbe. *Users*: 144,000 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Atlantique and Mono departments. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Mina. *Dialects*: Anexo, Agoi, Gen, Gliji. *Lg Use*: Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Aguna [aug], Aja [ajg], Gbesi Gbe [gbs], Kotafon Gbe [kqk], Saxwe Gbe [sxw], Western Xwla Gbe [xwl], Xwela Gbe [xwe]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. A language used for adult literacy by the Benin government and one of 6 with government post-literacy programs. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2014. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 25:34. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 620,000. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Gourmanchéma [gux] (Goulmancema, Gourma, Gourmantche, Gulimancema, Gurma, Migulimancema). Autonym: Gùlmàncéma. *Users*: 67,400 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Alibori department: Banikouara and Karimama communes; Atacora department: Cobly, Kérou, Materi, and Tanguieta communes. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Gurma. *Type*: SVO; postpositions; genitives, articles before noun heads; numerals after; CV; 3 tones. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use French [fra], to extents varying with education levels. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 5%–10%. Newspapers. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2005. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 25:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,529,300. Also indigenous in: Burkina Faso, Niger, Togo.

Gun [guw] (Egun, Goun, Gu, Gugbe, Gun-Alada, Gun-Gbe). Autonym: Gungbe. *Users*: 1,080,000 in Benin (2021), including 782,000 Gun and 299,000 Toli (2021). *Location*: Ouémé department: Adjarra, Akpro-Missérété, Avrankou, Porto-Novo communes; Plateau department: Sakete commune. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Aja. *Dialects*: Ajra, Alada (Alada-Gbe), Seto (Seto-Gbe), Toli (Toli-Gbe). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Defi Gbe [gbh], Eastern Xwla Gbe [gbx], Kotafon Gbe [kqk], Tofin Gbe [tffi]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1923. *DLS*: Ascending (0.16). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:50. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,539,000. Also indigenous in: Nigeria.

Hausa [hau]. Autonym: Hausa. *Users*: 1,056,000 in Benin (2019 Joshua Project), L2 users. *Location*: Widespread north: Alibori, Atacora, Borgou, and Donga departments, mainly in larger towns, market villages. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Chadic, West, A, A.1. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final, but numbers follow noun; gender (masculine/feminine); 33 consonants, 10 vowels, 2 diphthongs; tonal (2 tones: high, low). *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Boko [bqc], Mokole [mkl]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. TV. Dictionary.

Grammar. Bible: 1932–2015. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, called Ajami. Braille script. Latin script, used since 1880, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim, Christian, traditional religion. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 78,520,580 (as L1: 51,744,560; as L2: 26,776,020). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: Niger, Nigeria. Also established in: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Sudan. Unestablished in: Algeria, Canada, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Togo, United Kingdom.

Ifè [ife] (Ana, Ana-Ife, Anago, Baate, Ede Ife, Ifè). Autonym: Ifè. *Users*: 43,600 in Benin (2016). *Location*: Collines department: western Savalou commune, Tchetti town area. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use French [fra], to varying extent based on education level. Used as L2 by Aguna [aug]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 2009–2019. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:41. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 170,600. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Kabiye [kbp] (Cabrai, Cabrais, Kabre, Kabure, Kabye). Autonym: Kabıye, Kabıye Təm. *Users*: 17,200 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Donga department: Bassila, Djougou, and Ouaké communes, scattered villages. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Southern, Grusi, Eastern. *Lg Use*: Also use French [fra], but to varying extents according to level of education. Used as L2 by Foodo [fod]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1998. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:19. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 992,200. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Togo. Also established in: Ghana.

Kyanga [tye] (Cenka, Kyanggana, Kyangganya, Kyenga, Tyenga). Autonym: Kyangganya. *Users*: 1,000 in Benin (1995 R. Jones). *Location*: Alibori department: Segbana commune, Kasati, Tungan Bage, and Tungan Noma towns. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Eastern, Eastern, Kyanga. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; genitives before noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals, imbedded relative NPs after noun head; person, number, aspect suffixed to subject pronouns; CV, CVV, CCV; grammatical tone on verbs, and pronouns; 3 level tones, no embedded clause. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 25:4. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,000. Also indigenous in: Nigeria.

Lama [las] (Lamba, Losso). Autonym: Lama. *Users*: 60,000 in Benin (2006 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Atacora department: Boukoumbé commune, northwest of Boukoumbé town, scattered villages; Donga department: Bassila and Djougou communes. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Southern, Grusi, Eastern. *Dialects*: Kande (Kante), Kadjala (Kadjalla). *Lg Use*: Also use French [fra]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1993–1995. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Lama is name for the people and language. Losso refers to people on the Losso Plain who can either be Lama or Nawdm. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:16. *Worldwide*: Total users in all

countries: 258,000. Also indigenous in: Togo. Also established in: Ghana.

Lukpa [dop] (Dompago, Legba, Logba, Lokpa, Lugba, Yoa-Lokpa). *Users*: 154,000 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Borgou department: Tchaouroué commune; Donga department: Bassila, Ouake communes, Kémériá area, border areas west of Djougou town. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Southern, Grusi, Eastern. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use French [fra], in varying degrees depending on education level. Also use Yom [pil]. Used as L2 by Kura Ede Nago [nqk], Yom [pil]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 5%–30%. Dictionary. Bible: 2009. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Different from Logba [lgq] of Ghana. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 171,900. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Mbelime [mq̄l] (M̄ bēdíme, Bebelibe, Bèbèdibè, Mbilme, Mbèlimè, Oubièlo, Ubielo, “M’Bermè” pej., “Niende” pej., “Niendi” pej., “Niendé” pej., “Nyende” pej.). Autonym: Mbèlimè. *Users*: 37,600 in Benin (Tchegnon and Guidibi 2006), increasing. *Location*: Atacora department: Boukoumbé commune, Dipoli and Korontière subdivisions, 5 villages; Coby commune, Coby, Datori, Kountori, and Tapoga subdivisions, 26 villages. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Eastern. *Type*: SVO; 15 noun classes; tonal; 14 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes, 7 long vowels, 5 diphthongs. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Ditammari [tbz]. Also use French [fra]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 2014. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:13. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 39,900. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Miyobe [soy] (Bijobe, Biyobe, Kayobe, Kuyobe, Meyobe, Sola, Solamba, Solla, Sorouba, Soruba, Uyobe). Autonym: Meyópe. *Users*: 2,490 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Atacora department: Boukombe, Kounde communes; Donga department: Copargo commune. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Gurma. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 27% with Moba [mfq], 25% with Ditammari [tbz], 47% with Ngangam [gng]. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use French [fra]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. NT: 2011. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 25:18. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 17,390. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Mokole [mkl] (Féri, Mōkólé, Mokollé, Mokolé, Mokwale, Monkolé). Autonym: Ede-Mōkole. *Users*: 39,600 (2021). *Location*: Alibori department: Kandi commune, Kandi town, villages north and east. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. For school-age children, though education is in French [fra], outside the classroom children speak Mokole. Home, school, neighborhood, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use Boko [bqc]. Also use Borgu Fulfulde [fue]. Also use Dendi [ddn]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Hausa [hau]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Bible: 2021. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Muslim, traditional religion. *Map*: 25:7.

Moore [mos]. Autonym: Moore. *Users*: 42,000 in Benin (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Western, Northwest. *Type*: SVO; postpositions; genitives, articles, adjectives, numerals after noun heads; question word final; word order distinguishes subjects, objects; CV, CVC, CVV, CCV; tonal. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1983. *Writing*: Braille script, developed in 2010. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,861,900. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Burkina Faso, Mali, Togo. Also established in: Côte d'Ivoire, Niger. Unestablished in: Ghana, Senegal.

Nago, Northern [xkb] (Ana, Manigri, Manigri-Kambolé Ede Nago). *Users*: 112,000 in Benin (2021). All Nago: 848,000 (2021). *Location*: Borgou department: Tchaourou commune; Donga department: Bantè commune south of Bassila town, Bassila commune south and west of Bassila town. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 87%–91% with Ede Nago [nqk], 77% with Yoruba [yor] of Porto-Novo, 78% with Ife [ife] of Tchetti. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Also use French [fra]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy classes using Yoruba materials started in 1977. Post literacy activities began in 1995. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Muslim, Christian. *Map*: 25:26. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 170,800. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Nago, Southern [nqg] (Ede Nago, Nago, Nagot, Nagots). *Users*: 736,000 (2021). All Nago: 848,000 (2021). *Location*: Ouémé department: Akpro-Misserete and Avrankou communes; Plateau department: widespread, Adja-Ouèrè, Ifangni, Kétou, Pobè, and Sakété communes; Zou department: Ouinhi commune. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 87%–91% with Yoruba [yor] of Porto-Novo. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use French [fra]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. Used as L2 by Anii [blo]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 25:37.

Natèni [ntm] (Natèni). Autonym: Naàtènni. *Users*: 113,000 (2021). *Location*: Atacora department: Cobly, Kouandé, Matéri, Tanguiéta, and Toucountouna communes. Cobly, Matéri, and Tanguiéta communes (Kuntèmba dialect); Toucountouna commune (Natèmba dialect); Tanguiéta and Kouandé communes (Okoma dialect); Matéri, and Tanguiéta communes (Tayaba dialect). *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Gurma. *Dialects*: Natèni (Natèmba, Natimba), Tayari (Tayaba), Kuntèni (Kuntèmba), Okoni (Okoma). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, village, market. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Waama [wwa]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Radio. Videos. NT: 2018. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Tayakou is center of traditional beliefs and practices. Traditional religion. *Map*: 25:9.

Nganganm [gng] (Dye, Gamgan, Miganganm). Autonym: Miganganm. *Users*: 177,000 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Atacora department: Cobly commune. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-

Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Gurma. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, neighborhood, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra], but to extents varying with education. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Grammar. NT: 2011. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 25:14. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 234,400. Also indigenous in: Togo.

Notre [bly] (Boulba, Bulba, Burusa, Nootre). *Users*: 1,500 (2002 SIL). *Location*: Atacora department: Tanguiéta commune, north, northwest, northeast of Tanguiéta town. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Western, Nootre. *Lg Use*: Most domains except church. Some young people, all adults. Most also use Biali [beh]. Most also use Waama [wwa]. Also use French [fra]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 25:11.

Tchumbuli [bqa] (Basa, Chombulon, Tchombolo, Tshumbuli). *Users*: 2,500 (2000 SIL). *Location*: Collines department: Ouèssè and Savè communes, Edaningbe, Gbédé, and Okounfo villages. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Nyo, Potou-Tano, Tano, Guang, North Guang. *Dialects*: Cobechea, Tchumbuli. Lexical similarity: 80% with Chumburung [ncu]. *Lg Use*: Used most in Gbédé and least in Edaningbe (Faton and Tupper 2017). Most domains. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Many also use Ede Cabe [cbj], especially in Okounfo where some youth are using it as their L1 (Faton and Tupper 2017). Many also use Maxi Gbe [mxl], especially in Edaningbe where youth are using it as their L1 (Faton and Tupper 2017). Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Yoruba [yor], mostly in church (Faton and Tupper 2017). *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Tchumbuli and Cobechea are peoples of differing origins but share a common language. Christian. *Map*: 25:29.

Tem [kdh] (Cotocoli, Kotokoli, Tembe, Tim, Timu). Autonym: Tem. *Users*: 24,500 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Widespread, especially north. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Southern, Grusi, Eastern. *Lg Use*: Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Anii [blo], Foodo [fod], Kura Ede Nago [nqk]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2019. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Map*: 25:22. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 392,500. Indigenous in: Togo. Also established in: Ghana.

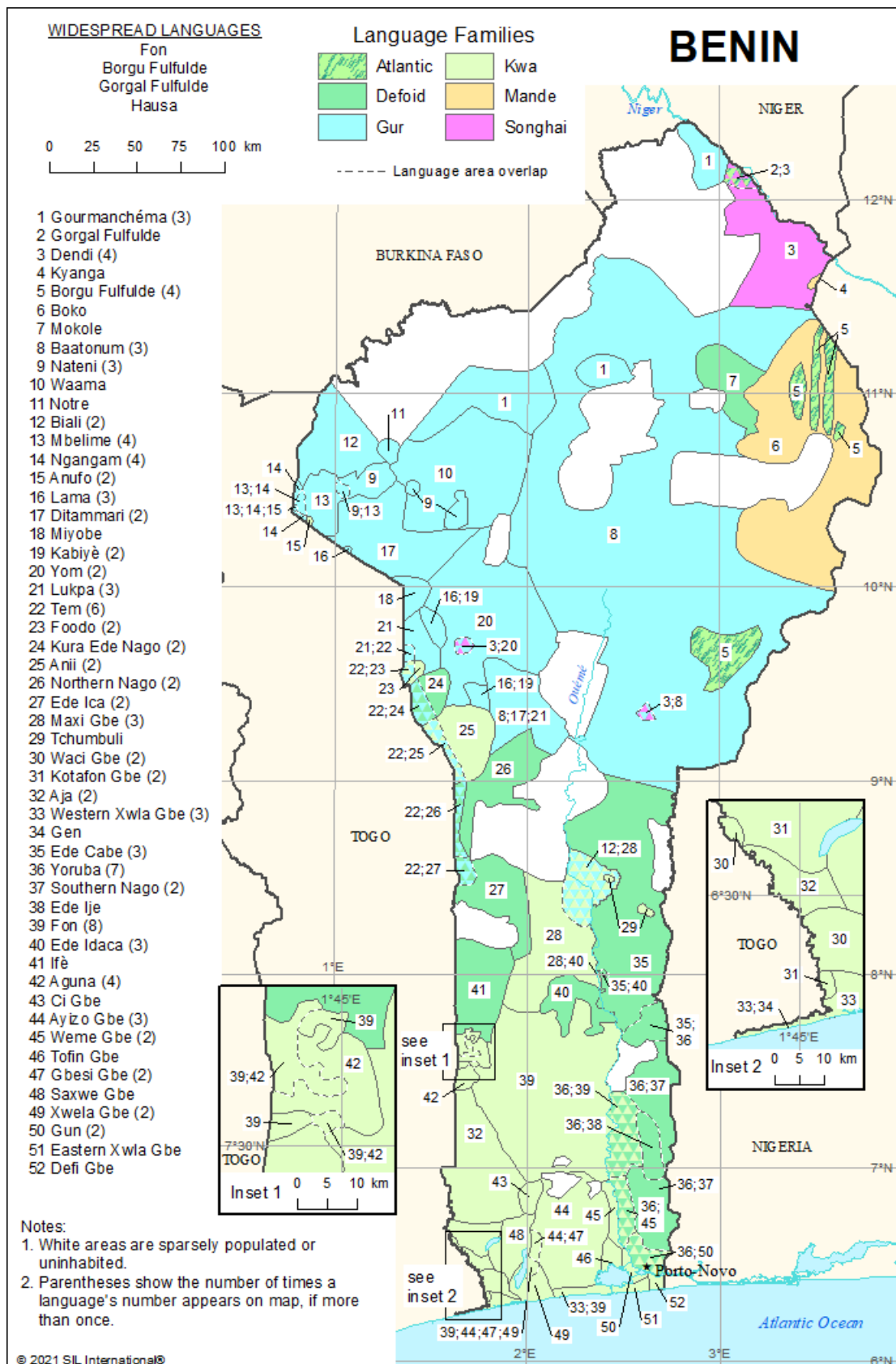
Waama [wwa] (Wama, Yoabou, Yoabu). Autonym: Waama. *Users*: 127,000 (2021). *Location*: Atacora department: Mouande, Natitingou, and Toucountouna communes; Pehonko commune, at least 20 villages; Cotonou, Parakou area. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Eastern. *Dialects*: Waama, Tangamma. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Market, religion, preschools, home, neighborhood. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use Ditammari [tbz]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Nateni [ntm]. Used as L2 by Notre [bly]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–10%. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1994. *DLS*: Emerging (0.12). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Natitingou is cultural center. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*:

25:10.

Yom [pil] (Kpilakpila, Pila, Pilapila). Autonym: Yom. *Users*: 386,000, all users. L1 users: 236,000 (2021), including 231,000 Yom and 5,300 Taneka (2021). L2 users: 150,000. Almost no monolinguals. Ethnic population: 300,000. 230,000 Yowa; 70,000 Tangma. *Location*: Atacora department: Kouande, Natingou, and Pehonko communes; Borgou department: N'Dali commune; Donga department: Copargo and Djougou communes, south into Bassila commune. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Yom-Nawdm. *Dialects*: Tangerem (Taneka), Yom. Yom and Tangerem dialects are very similar. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, neighborhood, work, market. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use Dendi [ddn]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Lukpa [dop]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. Used as L2 by Borgu Fulfulde [fue], Dendi [ddn], Ditammari [tbz], Lukpa [dop]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 35%. Literacy rate in L2: 25% in French [fra]. Rate higher among youth and women. Newspapers. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 2020. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Yom dialect users are called Yowa; Tangerem users are Tangma. Traditional religion, Muslim. *Map*: 25:20.

Yoruba [yor] (Yariba, Yooba, Yorouba, Yorùbá, Èdè Yorùbá). Autonym: Èdè Yorùbá. *Users*: 231,000 in Benin (2021). *Location*: Widespread. Porto-Novo city, towns, and major villages. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Dialect*: Egba. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; no articles; 17 consonant and 11 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 tones: high, mid, low). *Lg Use*: Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Boko [bqc], Defi Gbe [gbh], Ede Cabe [cbj], Ede Ica [ica], Ede Idaca [idd], Ede Ije [ijj], Mokole [mkl], Southern Nago [nqg], Tchumbuli [bqa], Yom [pil]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–30%. Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1 and 2, in 5 schools (2014 SIL). Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1900–2005. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Latin script, used since 1865, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 25:36. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 45,862,500 (as L1: 43,837,900; as L2: 2,024,600). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: Nigeria. Also established in: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Finland, Gambia, Ireland, Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, United Kingdom, United States.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Benin 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

Fon [fon] *Users:* 2,210,000 in Benin (2021). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,280,400.

Aja [ajg] *Users:* 1,090,000 in Benin (2021). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,280,000.

Gun [guw] *Users:* 1,080,000 in Benin (2021), including 782,000 Gun and 299,000 Toli (2021). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,539,000.

Baatonum [bba] *Users:* 1,040,000 in Benin (2021). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,140,000.

100,000 to 999,999

Nago, Southern [nqg] *Users:* 736,000 (2021). All Nago: 848,000 (2021). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Fulfulde, Borgu [fue] *Users:* 693,000 in Benin (2021). Most monolinguals are in Borgou Department, Nikki Commune. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 803,000.

Gbe, Ayizo [ayb] *Users:* 573,000 (2021), including Sèto (37,600). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Gbe, Maxi [mxl] *Users:* 396,000 in Benin (2021). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 446,800.

Gbe, Saxwe [sxw] *Users:* 323,000 (2021). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Gbe, Weme [wem] *Users:* 312,000 (2021). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Dendi [ddn] *Users:* 296,000 in Benin (2021). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 440,050.

Yom [pil] *Users:* 236,000 (2021), including 231,000 Yom and 5,300 Taneka (2021). 386,000, all users. L2 users: 150,000. Almost no monolinguals. Ethnic population: 300,000. 230,000 Yowa; 70,000 Tangma. *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Ditamari [tbz] *Users:* 233,000 in Benin (2021). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 267,300.

Yoruba [yor] *Users:* 231,000 in Benin (2021). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 45,862,500 (as L1: 43,837,900; as L2: 2,024,600).

Ede Idaca [idd] *Users: 187,000 (2021). Status: 5 (Developing).*

Biali [beh] *Users: 179,000 in Benin (2021). Status: 5 (Developing). Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 183,080.*

Gbe, Kotafon [kqk] *Users: 178,000 (2021). Status: 6a (Vigorous).*

Ngangam [ngg] *Users: 177,000 in Benin (2021). Status: 5 (Developing). Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 234,400.*

Ede Ije [ijj] *Users: 171,000 (2021). Status: 6a (Vigorous).*

Gbe, Tofin [tfi] *Users: 157,000 (2021). Status: 6a (Vigorous).*

Lukpa [dop] *Users: 154,000 in Benin (2021). Status: 5 (Developing). Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 171,900.*

Gen [gej] *Users: 144,000 in Benin (2021). Status: 3 (Wider communication). Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 620,000.*

Waama [wwa] *Users: 127,000 (2021). Status: 5 (Developing).*

Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx] *Users: 114,000 (2021). Total Xwla Gbe: 177,000 (2021). Status: 6a (Vigorous).*

Nateni [ntm] *Users: 113,000 (2021). Status: 5 (Developing).*

Nago, Northern [xkb] *Users: 112,000 in Benin (2021). All Nago: 848,000 (2021). Status: 6a (Vigorous). Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 170,800.*

Boko [bqc] *Users: 100,000 in Benin (2013 R. Jones). 28,800 monolinguals. Status: 5 (Developing). Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 150,000.*

10,000 to 99,999

Gbe, Xwela [xwe] *Users: 93,400 (2021). Status: 6a (Vigorous).*

Gbe, Waci [wci] *Users: 67,600 in Benin (2021). Status: 6a (Vigorous). Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 921,600.*

Gourmanchéma [gux] *Users: 67,400 in Benin (2021). Status: 5 (Developing). Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 1,529,300.*

Gbe, Gbesi [gbs] *Users: 65,000 (2002 SIL). Status: 6a (Vigorous).*

Gbe, Western Xwla [xwl] *Users: 63,000 in Benin (2021). Total Xwla Gbe: 177,000 (2021). Status: 6a (Vigorous). Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 94,100.*

Lama [las] *Users: 60,000 in Benin (2006 J. Leclerc). Status: 5* (Developing). Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 258,000.*

Ede Ica [ica] *Users: 50,500 (2021). Status: 6a (Vigorous).*

Fulfulde, Gorgal [fuh] *Users: 44,000 in Benin (2022 Joshua Project). Status: 5 (Developing).*

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 3,084,000.

Ifè [ife] *Users:* 43,600 in Benin (2016). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 170,600.

Anii [blo] *Users:* 43,500 in Benin (2021). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 58,800.

Moore [mos] *Users:* 42,000 in Benin (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,861,900.

Mokole [mkl] *Users:* 39,600 (2021). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Mbelime [mql] *Users:* 37,600 in Benin (Tchegnon and Guidibi 2006), increasing. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 39,900.

French [fra] *Users:* 33,000 in Benin (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. 4,343,000 in Benin, all users. L2 users: 4,310,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1990, Constitution, Article 1). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Ede Nago, Kura [nqk] *Users:* 25,000 (2002 SIL). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Gbe, Ci [cib] *Users:* 25,000 (2002 SIL). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Tem [kdh] *Users:* 24,500 in Benin (2021). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 392,500.

Foodo [fod] *Users:* 20,700 in Benin (2018). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 21,700.

Kabiyè [kbp] *Users:* 17,200 in Benin (2021). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 992,200.

Aguna [aug] *Users:* 14,000 in Benin (2014 SIL). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 28,000.

Anufo [cko] *Users:* 13,800 in Benin (2002 SIL). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 177,200.

Benin ASL [ase] *Users:* 12,500 in Benin (2008 WFD). Approximately 0.1% of the total population. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 989,605 (as L1: 858,605; as L2: 131,000).

1,000 to 9,999

Gbe, Defi [gbh] *Users:* 8,100 (2021). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Ede Cabe [cbj] *Users:* 4,140 (2021). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Tchumbuli [bqa] *Users:* 2,500 (2000 SIL). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Miyobe [[soy](#)] *Users:* 2,490 in Benin (2021). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,390.

Notre [[bly](#)] *Users:* 1,500 (2002 SIL). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Kyanga [[tye](#)] *Users:* 1,000 in Benin (1995 R. Jones). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 15,000.

Unknown

Hausa [[hau](#)] *Users:* L2 users: 1,056,000 in Benin (2019 Joshua Project), L2 users. *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,520,580 (as L1: 51,744,560; as L2: 26,776,020).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Benin 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)

French [[fra](#)] *Users:* 4,343,000 in Benin, all users. L1 users: 33,000 in Benin (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. L2 users: 4,310,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* Statutory national language (1990, Constitution, Article 1). *Writing:* Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

3 (Wider communication)

Baatonum [[bba](#)] *Users:* 1,040,000 in Benin (2021). *Status:* Used as conquest language in 17th century. Widespread under European colonization beginning in the 1880s in northeast Benin and northwest Nigeria. Language of colonization, trade, and church. *Lg Use:* Also use French [[fra](#)]. Used as L2 by Boko [[bqc](#)], Ditammari [[tbz](#)], Mokole [[mkl](#)], Nateni [[ntm](#)], Waama [[wwa](#)], Yom [[pil](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Bible: 1996. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,140,000.

Dendi [[ddn](#)] *Users:* 296,000 in Benin (2021). *Status:* The Dendi ethnic group came from Mali in 16th century and settled in north-central Benin. Now used as trade language across northern Benin. *Lg Use:* Market. Also use French [[fra](#)]. Also use Yom [[pil](#)]. Used as L2 by Mokole [[mkl](#)], Yom [[pil](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. NT: 1995. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 440,050.

Fon [[fon](#)] *Users:* 2,210,000 in Benin (2021). *Status:* Used in early 17th century in the Fon kingdom of Dahomey (now Benin). Used as slave trade language in 18th century with arrival of European colonizers. After slave trade ended in 1848, became widespread in Southern Benin and Togo. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Administration, education, religious services, commerce, and labor. Positive attitudes. Also use French [[fra](#)]. Used as L2 by Aguna [[aug](#)], Ayizo Gbe [[ayb](#)], Ci Gbe [[cib](#)], Eastern Xwla Gbe [[gbx](#)], Ede Idaca [[idd](#)], Ede Ije [[ijj](#)], Gbesi Gbe [[gbs](#)], Gun [[guw](#)], Kotafon Gbe [[kqk](#)], Maxi Gbe [[mxl](#)], Saxwe Gbe [[sxw](#)], Tchumbuli [[bqa](#)], Tofin Gbe [[tfi](#)], Weme Gbe [[wem](#)], Western Xwla Gbe [[xwl](#)], Xwela Gbe [[xwe](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2014. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,280,400.

Gen [[gej](#)] *Users:* 144,000 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use:* Also use French [[fra](#)]. Used as L2 by Aguna [[aug](#)], Aja [[ajg](#)], Gbesi Gbe [[gbs](#)], Kotafon Gbe [[kqk](#)], Saxwe Gbe [[sxw](#)], Western Xwla Gbe

[xwl], Xwela Gbe [xwe]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 620,000.

Hausa [hau] *Users*: 1,056,000 in Benin (2019 Joshua Project), L2 users. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Boko [bqc], Mokole [mkl]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, called Ajami. Braille script. Latin script, used since 1880, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 78,520,580 (as L1: 51,744,560; as L2: 26,776,020).

Tem [kdh] *Users*: 24,500 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use*: Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Anii [blo], Foodo [fod], Kura Ede Nago [nqk]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 392,500.

Yoruba [yor] *Users*: 231,000 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use*: Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Boko [bqc], Defi Gbe [gbh], Ede Cabe [cbj], Ede Ica [ica], Ede Idaca [idd], Ede Ije [ijj], Mokole [mkl], Southern Nago [nqg], Tchumbuli [bqa], Yom [pil]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Latin script, used since 1865, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 45,862,500 (as L1: 43,837,900; as L2: 2,024,600).

5 (Developing)

Aja [ajg] *Users*: 1,090,000 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, neighborhood, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gen [gej]. Used as L2 by Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 2010–2018. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,280,000.

Anii [blo] *Users*: 43,500 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra]. Also use Southern Nago [nqg]. Also use Tem [kdh]. Varies with education level. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Dictionary. *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 1975. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 58,800.

Anufo [cko] *Users*: 13,800 in Benin (2002 SIL). *Lg Use*: Also use French [fra], to an extent varying with education levels. *Writing*: Latin script, used since 1993. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 177,200.

Biali [beh] *Users*: 179,000 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Notre [bly]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. NT: 2018. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 183,080.

Boko [bqc] *Users*: 100,000 in Benin (2013 R. Jones). 28,800 monolinguals. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Hausa [hau]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. Used as L2 by Mokole [mkl]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 1992–2010. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 150,000.

Ditamari [tbz] *Users*: 233,000 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, neighborhood, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Yom [pil]. Used as L2 by Mbelime [mql], Waama [wwa]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Bible: 2001.

Writing: Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 267,300.

Ede Idaca [idd] *Users:* 187,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* Vigorous: determined to keep their language from influences from outsiders. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. *Writing:* Latin script.

Foodo [fod] *Users:* 20,700 in Benin (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use French [fra]. Also use Kabiye [kbp]. Also use Tem [kdh]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Bible portions: 1998. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 21,700.

Fulfulde, Borgu [fue] *Users:* 693,000 in Benin (2021). Most monolinguals are in Borgou Department, Nikki Commune. *Lg Use:* Home, villages, market. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra], to an extent varying with education level. Also use Yom [pil]. Used as L2 by Mokole [mkl]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Radio. Dictionary. NT: 2010. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 803,000.

Fulfulde, Gorgal [fuh] *Users:* 44,000 in Benin (2022 Joshua Project). *Lg Use:* Used by all. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,084,000.

Gbe, Saxwe [sxw] *Users:* 323,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Most also use Fon [fon]. Most also use Gen [gej]. Some also use Aja [ajg]. Some also use Ayizo Gbe [ayb]. Some also use Kotafon Gbe [kqk]. Also use French [fra], to extents varying with education level. Used as L2 by Ayizo Gbe [ayb], Gbesi Gbe [gbs], Kotafon Gbe [kqk], Xwela Gbe [xwe]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Periodicals. Radio. NT: 2022. *Writing:* Latin script.

Gourmanchéma [gux] *Users:* 67,400 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use French [fra], to extents varying with education levels. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,529,300.

Gun [guw] *Users:* 1,080,000 in Benin (2021), including 782,000 Gun and 299,000 Toli (2021). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Defi Gbe [gbh], Eastern Xwela Gbe [gbx], Kotafon Gbe [kqk], Tofin Gbe [tfi]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1923. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,539,000.

Ifè [ife] *Users:* 43,600 in Benin (2016). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use French [fra], to varying extent based on education level. Used as L2 by Aguna [aug]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 170,600.

Lama [las] *Users:* 60,000 in Benin (2006 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use:* Also use French [fra]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 258,000.

Lukpa [dop] *Users:* 154,000 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use French [fra], in varying degrees depending on education level. Also use Yom [pil]. Used as L2 by Kura Ede Nago [nqk], Yom [pil]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Bible: 2009. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 171,900.

Mbelime [mql] *Users:* 37,600 in Benin (Tchegnon and Guidibi 2006), increasing. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Ditammari [tbz]. Also use

French [fra]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 2014. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 39,900.

Miyobe [soy] *Users*: 2,490 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use French [fra]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. NT: 2011. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 17,390.

Mokole [mkl] *Users*: 39,600 (2021). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. For school-age children, though education is in French [fra], outside the classroom children speak Mokole. Home, school, neighborhood, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use Boko [bqc]. Also use Borgu Fulfulde [fue]. Also use Dendi [ddn]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Hausa [hau]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Bible: 2021. *Writing*: Latin script.

Natani [ntm] *Users*: 113,000 (2021). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, village, market. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Waama [wwa]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Videos. NT: 2018. *Writing*: Latin script.

Ngangam [ngng] *Users*: 177,000 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, neighborhood, work. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra], but to extents varying with education. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 234,400.

Waama [wwa] *Users*: 127,000 (2021). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Market, religion, preschools, home, neighborhood. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use Ditammari [tbz]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Natani [ntm]. Used as L2 by Notre [bly]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1994. *Writing*: Latin script.

Yom [pil] *Users*: 386,000, all users. L1 users: 236,000 (2021), including 231,000 Yom and 5,300 Taneka (2021). L2 users: 150,000. Almost no monolinguals. Ethnic population: 300,000. 230,000 Yowa; 70,000 Tangma. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, neighborhood, work, market. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Baatonum [bba]. Also use Dendi [ddn]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Lukpa [dop]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. Used as L2 by Borgu Fulfulde [fue], Dendi [ddn], Ditammari [tbz], Lukpa [dop]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 2020. *Writing*: Latin script.

6a (Vigorous)

Aguna [aug] *Users*: 14,000 in Benin (2014 SIL). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra], to varying degrees according to education level. Also use Gen [gej]. Also use Ifè [ife]. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 28,000.

Benin ASL [ase] *Users*: 12,500 in Benin (2008 WFD). Approximately 0.1% of the total population. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 989,605 (as L1: 858,605; as L2: 131,000).

Ede Cabe [cbj] *Users*: 4,140 (2021). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use French [fra]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. Very high level of comprehension of Yoruba. Used as L2 by Tchumbuli [bqa]. *Writing*: Latin script.

Ede Ica [ica] *Users*: 50,500 (2021). *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Also use French [fra]. Also use Standard Arabic [arb]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. *Writing*: Latin script.

- Ede Ije** [ijj] *Users:* 171,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Standard Arabic [arb]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Ede Nago, Kura** [nqk] *Users:* 25,000 (2002 SIL). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use French [fra]. Also use Lukpa [dop]. Also use Tem [kdh]. *Writing:* Unwritten.
- Gbe, Ayizo** [ayb] *Users:* 573,000 (2021), including Sèto (37,600). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. Used as L2 by Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Gbe, Ci** [cib] *Users:* 25,000 (2002 SIL). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. *Writing:* Unwritten.
- Gbe, Defi** [gbh] *Users:* 8,100 (2021). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gun [guw]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. *Writing:* Unwritten.
- Gbe, Eastern Xwla** [gbx] *Users:* 114,000 (2021). Total Xwla Gbe: 177,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gun [guw]. *Writing:* Unwritten.
- Gbe, Gbesi** [gbs] *Users:* 65,000 (2002 SIL). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gen [gej]. Also use Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. *Writing:* Unwritten.
- Gbe, Kotafon** [kqk] *Users:* 178,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* Most domains. Used by all. Some also use Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gen [gej]. Also use Gun [guw]. Used as L2 by Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. *Writing:* Unwritten.
- Gbe, Maxi** [mxl] *Users:* 396,000 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Tchumbuli [bqa]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 446,800.
- Gbe, Tofin** [tfi] *Users:* 157,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gun [guw]. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Gbe, Waci** [wci] *Users:* 67,600 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use French [fra]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 921,600.
- Gbe, Weme** [wem] *Users:* 312,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. *Writing:* Unwritten.
- Gbe, Western Xwla** [xwl] *Users:* 63,000 in Benin (2021). Total Xwla Gbe: 177,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gen [gej]. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 94,100.
- Gbe, Xwela** [xwe] *Users:* 93,400 (2021). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Gen [gej]. Also use Saxwe Gbe [sxw]. Second languages used in non-formal education, government offices, churches. Gen and Saxwe Gbe are used for adult literacy in some villages. French is used in schools. *Writing:* Latin script.

Kabiyè [kbp] *Users:* 17,200 in Benin (2021). *Lg Use:* Also use French [fra], but to varying extents according to level of education. Used as L2 by Foodo [fod]. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 992,200.

Nago, Northern [xkb] *Users:* 112,000 in Benin (2021). All Nago: 848,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Also use French [fra]. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 170,800.

Nago, Southern [nqg] *Users:* 736,000 (2021). All Nago: 848,000 (2021). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use French [fra]. Also use Yoruba [yor]. Used as L2 by Anii [blo]. *Writing:* Latin script.

6b (Threatened)

Kyanga [tye] *Users:* 1,000 in Benin (1995 R. Jones). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 15,000.

Notre [bly] *Users:* 1,500 (2002 SIL). *Lg Use:* Most domains except church. Some young people, all adults. Most also use Biali [beh]. Most also use Waama [wwa]. Also use French [fra]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Tchumbuli [bqa] *Users:* 2,500 (2000 SIL). *Lg Use:* Used most in Gbédé and least in Edaningbe (Faton and Tupper 2017). Most domains. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. Many also use Ede Cabe [cbj], especially in Okounfo where some youth are using it as their L1 (Faton and Tupper 2017). Many also use Maxi Gbe [mxl], especially in Edaningbe where youth are using it as their L1 (Faton and Tupper 2017). Also use Fon [fon]. Also use French [fra]. Also use Yoruba [yor], mostly in church (Faton and Tupper 2017). *Writing:* Unwritten.

Unestablished

Moore [mos] *Users:* 42,000 in Benin (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Braille script, developed in 2010. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,861,900.

Languages by Department

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

Alibori

Baatonum [bba], 12
 Boko [bqc], 13
 Dendi [ddn], 13
 Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
 Fulfulde, Gorgal [fuh], 16
 Gourmanchéma [gux], 19
 Hausa [hau], 19
 Kyanga [tye], 20
 Mokole [mkl], 21

Atacora

Anufo [cko], 12
 Baatonum [bba], 12
 Biali [beh], 12
 Dendi [ddn], 13
 Ditammari [tbz], 13
 Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
 Gourmanchéma [gux], 19
 Hausa [hau], 19
 Lama [las], 20
 Mbelime [mql], 21
 Miyobe [soy], 21
 Nateni [ntm], 22
 Ngangam [gng], 22
 Notre [bly], 23
 Waama [wwa], 23
 Yom [pil], 24

Atlantique

Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
 Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17
 Gbe, Gbesi [gbs], 17
 Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
 Gbe, Tofin [tfi], 18
 Gbe, Weme [wem], 18
 Gbe, Western Xwla [xwl], 18

Gbe, Xwela [xwe], 18
 Gen [gej], 19

Borgou

Baatonum [bba], 12
 Boko [bqc], 13
 Ditammari [tbz], 13
 Ede Cabe [cbj], 14
 Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
 Hausa [hau], 19
 Lukpa [dop], 21
 Nago, Northern [xkb], 22
 Yom [pil], 24

Collines

Aguna [aug], 11
 Biali [beh], 12
 Ede Cabe [cbj], 14
 Ede Ica [ica], 14
 Ede Idaca [idd], 14
 Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
 Gbe, Maxi [mxl], 17
 Ifè [ife], 20
 Tchumbuli [bqa], 23

Coufou

Aguna [aug], 11
 Aja [ajg], 11
 Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
 Gbe, Ci [cib], 16
 Gbe, Kotafon [kqk], 17
 Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17

Donga

Anii [blo], 11
 Baatonum [bba], 12
 Biali [beh], 12
 Ditammari [tbz], 13
 Ede Ica [ica], 14

Ede Nago, Kura [nqk], 14
Foodo [fod], 15
Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
Gbe, Maxi [mxl], 17
Hausa [hau], 19
Kabiyè [kbp], 20
Lama [las], 20
Lukpa [dop], 21
Miyobe [soy], 21
Nago, Northern [xkb], 22
Yom [pil], 24

Littoral

Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17
Gbe, Western Xwla [xwl], 18

Mono

Aja [ajg], 11
Gbe, Kotafon [kqk], 17
Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
Gbe, Waci [wci], 18
Gbe, Western Xwla [xwl], 18
Gbe, Xwela [xwe], 18

Gen [gej], 19

Ouémé

Gbe, Defi [gbh], 16
Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17
Gbe, Tofin [tfi], 18
Gbe, Weme [wem], 18
Gun [guw], 19
Nago, Southern [nqg], 22

Plateau

Ede Cabe [cbj], 14
Ede Ije [ijj], 14
Gbe, Weme [wem], 18
Gun [guw], 19
Nago, Southern [nqg], 22

Zou

Aguna [aug], 11
Ede Ije [ijj], 14
Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
Nago, Southern [nqg], 22

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Benin. 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, Chadic, West, A, A.1

Hausa [hau], [19](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French

French [fra], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Fula, East Central

Fulfulde, Western Niger [fuh], [16](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Fula, West Central

Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri

Ede Cabe [cbj], [14](#)

Ede Ica [ica], [14](#)

Ede Idaca [idd], [14](#)

Ede Ije [ijj], [14](#)

Ede Nago, Kura [nqk], [14](#)

Ifè [ife], [20](#)

Mokole [mkl], [21](#)

Nago, Northern [xkb], [22](#)

Nago, Southern [nqg], [22](#)

Yoruba [yor], [24](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe

Aguna [aug], [11](#)

Gbe, Ci [cib], [16](#)

Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], [17](#)

Gbe, Gbesi [gbs], [17](#)

Gbe, Kotafon [kqk], [17](#)

Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], [17](#)

Gbe, Waci [wci], [18](#)

Gbe, Western Xwla [xwl], [18](#)

Gbe, Xwela [xwe], [18](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Aja

- Aja [ajg], 11
- Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
- Gbe, Defi [gbh], 16
- Gbe, Tofin [tfi], 18
- Gbe, Weme [wem], 18
- Gun [guw], 19

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Fon

- Fon [fon], 15
- Gbe, Maxi [mxl], 17

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Left Bank, Gbe, Mina

- Gen [gej], 19

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Nyo, Potou-Tano, Basila-Adele

- Anii [blo], 11

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Nyo, Potou-Tano, Tano, Central, Bia,
Northern**

- Anufo [cko], 12

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Nyo, Potou-Tano, Tano, Guang, North
Guang**

- Foodo [fod], 15
- Tchumbuli [bqa], 23

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Bariba

- Baatonum [bba], 12

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta,
Eastern**

- Biali [beh], 12
- Ditammari [tbz], 13
- Mbelime [mql], 21
- Waama [wwa], 23

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Gurma

- Gourmanchéma [gux], 19
- Miyobe [soy], 21
- Nateni [ntm], 22
- Ngangam [gng], 22

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta,
Western, Nootre**

- Notre [bly], 23

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Northern, Oti-Volta, Yom-
Nawdm**

- Yom [pil], 24

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Gur, Central, Southern, Grusi, Eastern

Kabiyè [kbp], [20](#)

Lama [las], [20](#)

Lukpa [dop], [21](#)

Tem [kdh], [23](#)

Niger-Congo, Mande, Eastern, Eastern, Busa

Boko [bqc], [13](#)

Niger-Congo, Mande, Eastern, Eastern, Kyanga

Kyanga [tye], [20](#)

Nilo-Saharan, Songhai, Southern

Dendi [ddn], [13](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

American Sign Language [ase], [12](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 56 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/>.

ajg	Aja (Benin), 11	ica	Ede Ica, 14
ase	American Sign Language, 12	idd	Ede Idaca, 14
aug	Aguna, 11	ife	Ifè, 20
ayb	Gbe, Ayizo, 16	ijj	Ede Ije, 14
bba	Baatonum, 12	kbp	Kabiyè, 20
beh	Biali, 12	kdh	Tem, 23
blo	Anii, 11	kqk	Gbe, Kotafon, 17
bly	Notre, 23	las	Lama, 20
bqa	Tchumbuli, 23	mkl	Mokole, 21
bqc	Boko (Benin), 13	mos	Moore, 22
cbj	Ede Cabe, 14	mql	Mbelime, 21
cib	Gbe, Ci, 16	mxl	Gbe, Maxi, 17
cko	Anufo, 12	nqg	Nago, Southern, 22
ddn	Dendi (Benin), 13	nqk	Ede Nago, Kura, 14
dop	Lukpa, 21	ntm	Nateni, 22
fod	Foodo, 15	pil	Yom, 24
fon	Fon, 15	soy	Miyobe, 21
fra	French, 15	sxw	Gbe, Saxwe, 17
fue	Fulfulde, Borgu, 15	tbz	Ditammari, 13
fuh	Fulfulde, Western Niger, 16	tfi	Gbe, Tofin, 18
gbh	Gbe, Defi, 16	tye	Kyanga, 20
gbs	Gbe, Gbesi, 17	wci	Gbe, Waci, 18
gbx	Gbe, Eastern Xwla, 17	wem	Gbe, Weme, 18
gej	Gen, 19	wwa	Waama, 23
gng	Ngangam, 22	xkb	Nago, Northern, 22
guw	Gun, 19	xwe	Gbe, Xwela, 18
gux	Gourmanchéma, 19	xwl	Gbe, Western Xwla, 18
hau	Hausa, 19	yor	Yoruba, 24

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.

- Ā bēdīmε**, *alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- Şabę**, *alt.* Ede Cabe [cbj], 14
- Adja**, *alt.* Aja [ajg], 11
- Agbome**, *dial.* Fon [fon], 15
- Agéréndébou**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Agerendebu ka gija**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Agoi**, *dial.* Gen [gej], 19
- Aguna** [aug], 11, 25
- Agunaco**, *alt.* Aguna [aug], 11
- Aguna-gbe**, *alt.* Aguna [aug], 11
- Aja** [ajg], 11, 25
- Ajagbe**, *alt.* Aja [ajg], 11
- Ajra**, *dial.* Gun [guw], 19
- Alada**, *dial.* Gun [guw], 19
- Alada-Gbe**, *alt. dial.* Gun [guw], 19
- American Sign Language**, *alt.* American Sign Language [ase], 12
- Ana**, *alt.* Ifè [ife], 20
alt. Nago, Northern [xkb], 22
- Anago**, *alt.* Ifè [ife], 20
- Ana-lfe**, *alt.* Ifè [ife], 20
- Anexo**, *dial.* Gen [gej], 19
- Anii** [blo], 11, 25
- Anufo** [cko], 12, 25
- Arohun**, *dial.* Fon [fon], 15
- ASL**, *alt.* American Sign Language [ase], 12
- Awuna**, *alt.* Aguna [aug], 11
- Ayizo**, *alt.* Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
- Ayizo-Ci**, *alt.* Gbe, Ci [cib], 16
- Ayizo-Gbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
- Ayizo-Kobe**, *dial.* Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
- Ayizo-Seto**, *dial.* Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
- Ayizo-Tori**, *dial.* Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
- Ayzo**, *alt.* Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
- Baatonum**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
- Baate**, *alt.* Ifè [ife], 20
- Baatombu**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
- Baatonu**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
- Baatonum** [bba], 12, 25
- Bakuure**, *dial.* Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
- Barba**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
- Barganchi**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
- Bargawa**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
- Bargu**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
- Bariba**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
- Baruba**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
- Basa**, *alt.* Tchumbuli [bqa], 23
- Baseca**, *alt.* Anii [blo], 11
- Basila**, *alt.* Anii [blo], 11
- Bassila**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
alt. Anii [blo], 11
- Bayaku**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11

- Bèbèdibè**, *alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- Bebelibe**, *alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- Benin ASL** [ase], 12, 0
- Benin Sign Language**, *alt.* American Sign Language [ase], 12
- Benin-Togo Fulfulde**, *alt.* Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
- Berba**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
alt. Biali [beh], 12
- Bialaba**, *alt.* Biali [beh], 12
- Biali** [beh], 12, 25
- Bieri**, *alt.* Biali [beh], 12
- Bijobe**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Biyobe**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Bjerb**, *alt.* Biali [beh], 12
- Bjeri**, *alt.* Biali [beh], 12
- Bodi**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Bogung**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
- Boko** [bqc], 13, 25
- Bokonya**, *alt.* Boko [bqc], 13
- Bo'o**, *alt.* Boko [bqc], 13
- Bòó**, *alt.* Boko [bqc], 13
- Boulba**, *alt.* Notre [bly], 23
- Bulba**, *alt.* Notre [bly], 23
- Burgu**, *alt.* Baatonum [bba], 12
- Burusa**, *alt.* Notre [bly], 23
- Byali**, *alt.* Biali [beh], 12
- Caabankeere**, *alt. dial.* Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
- Caabe**, *alt.* Ede Cabe [cbj], 14
- Cabe**, *alt.* Ede Cabe [cbj], 14
- Cabrai**, *alt.* Kabiyè [kbp], 20
- Cabrais**, *alt.* Kabiyè [kbp], 20
- Cenka**, *alt.* Kyanga [tye], 20
- Chakosi**, *alt.* Anufo [cko], 12
- Chokosi**, *alt.* Anufo [cko], 12
- Chokossi**, *alt.* Anufo [cko], 12
- Chombulon**, *alt.* Tchumbuli [bqa], 23
- Ci**, *alt.* Gbe, Ci [cib], 16
- Cigbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Ci [cib], 16
- Cobecha**, *dial.* Tchumbuli [bqa], 23
- Cotocoli**, *alt.* Tem [kdh], 23
- Dahomeen**, *alt.* Fon [fon], 15
- Dandawa**, *alt.* Dendi [ddn], 13
- Dasa**, *alt.* Ede Idaca [idd], 14
- Dassari**, *dial.* Biali [beh], 12
- Daxe**, *dial.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Défi**, *alt.* Gbe, Defi [gbh], 16
- Dendi** [ddn], 13, 25
- Dengou**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Ditamari**, *alt.* Ditammari [tbz], 13
- Ditammari** [tbz], 13, 25
- Djougoure**, *dial.* Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
- Dogbo**, *dial.* Aja [ajg], 11
- Dompago**, *alt.* Lukpa [dop], 21
- Dye**, *alt.* Ngangam [gng], 22
- Eastern Ditammari**, *dial.* Ditammari [tbz], 13
- Ede Cabe** [cbj], 14, 25
- Ede Ica** [ica], 14, 25
- Ede Idaca** [idd], 14, 25
- Ede Ife**, *alt.* Ifè [ife], 20
- Ede Ije** [ijj], 14, 25
- Ede Nago**, *alt.* Nago, Southern [nqg], 22
- Ede Nago, Kura** [nqk], 14, 25
see Ede Nago, Kura [nqk], 14
- Èdè Yorùbá**, *alt.* Yoruba [yor], 24
- Ede-Cabɛ**, *alt.* Ede Cabe [cbj], 14
- Ede-Ijɛ**, *alt.* Ede Ije [ijj], 14
- Ede-Mòkòlɛ**, *alt.* Mokole [mkl], 21
- Egba**, *dial.* Yoruba [yor], 24
- Egun**, *alt.* Gun [guw], 19
- Ehoue**, *alt. dial.* Aja [ajg], 11
- Fɔngbè**, *alt.* Fon [fon], 15
- Féri**, *alt.* Mokole [mkl], 21

- Fon** [fon], 15, 25
- Fongbe**, *alt.* Fon [fon], 15
- Foodo** [fod], 15, 25
- Fóodo**, *alt.* Foodo [fod], 15
- Français**, *alt.* French [fra], 15
- French** [fra], 15
- Frignion**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Frinyio ka gija**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Fulbe-Borgu**, *alt.* Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
- Fulfulde**, *alt.* Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
alt. Fulfulde, Western Niger [fuh], 16
- Fulfulde, Borgu** [fue], 15, 25
see Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
- Fulfulde, Gorgal** [fuh], 16, 25
see Fulfulde, Western Niger [fuh], 16
- Gamgan**, *alt.* Ngangam [gng], 22
- Gbe, Ayizo** [ayb], 16, 25
see Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
- Gbe, Ci** [cib], 16, 25
see Gbe, Ci [cib], 16
- Gbe, Defi** [gbh], 16, 25
see Gbe, Defi [gbh], 16
- Gbe, Eastern Xwla** [gbx], 17, 25
see Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17
- Gbe, Gbesi** [gbs], 17, 25
see Gbe, Gbesi [gbs], 17
- Gbe, Kotafon** [kqk], 17, 25
see Gbe, Kotafon [kqk], 17
- Gbe, Maxi** [mxl], 17, 25
see Gbe, Maxi [mxl], 17
- Gbe, Saxwe** [sxw], 17, 25
see Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Gbe, Tofin** [tfi], 18, 25
see Gbe, Tofin [tfi], 18
- Gbe, Waci** [wci], 18, 25
see Gbe, Waci [wci], 18
- Gbe, Weme** [wem], 18, 25
see Gbe, Weme [wem], 18
- Gbe, Western Xwla** [xwl], 18, 25
see Gbe, Western Xwla [xwl], 18
- Gbe, Xwela** [xwe], 18, 25
see Gbe, Xwela [xwe], 18
- Gbekon**, *dial.* Fon [fon], 15
- Gbokpa**, *dial.* Gbe, Gbesi [gbs], 17
- Ge**, *alt.* Gen [gej], 19
- Gegbe**, *alt.* Gen [gej], 19
- Gen** [gej], 19, 25
dial. Gen [gej], 19
- Gen-Gbe**, *alt.* Gen [gej], 19
- Gibayaakuja**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Gibodija**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Giborokoja**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Gideenguja**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Gifolanga**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Gikodowarja**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Gipenelanja**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Gipenesulja**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Gisaramangaja**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Giseda**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Gisida**, *alt.* Anii [blo], 11
- Gliji**, *dial.* Gen [gej], 19
- Gouande**, *dial.* Biali [beh], 12
- Goulmancema**, *alt.* Gourmanchéma [gux], 19
- Goun**, *alt.* Gun [guw], 19
- Gourma**, *alt.* Gourmanchéma [gux], 19
- Gourmanchéma** [gux], 19, 25
- Gourmantche**, *alt.* Gourmanchéma [gux], 19
- Gu**, *alt.* Gun [guw], 19
- Guang**, *alt.* Foodo [fod], 15
- Gugbe**, *alt.* Gun [guw], 19
- Guiguisso**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Guin**, *alt.* Gen [gej], 19
- Gulimancema**, *alt.* Gourmanchéma [gux], 19
- Gun** [guw], 19, 25
- Gun-Alada**, *alt.* Gun [guw], 19

- Gungbe**, *alt.* Gun [guw], 19
- Gun-Gbe**, *alt.* Gun [guw], 19
- Gurma**, *alt.* Gourmanchéma [gux], 19
- Hausa** [hau], 19
- Hólí**, *alt.* Ede Ije [ijj], 14
- Holi**, *alt.* Ede Ije [ijj], 14
- Holli-Djé**, *alt.* Ede Ije [ijj], 14
- Houéda**, *alt.* Gbe, Xwela [xwe], 18
- Houla**, *alt.* Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17
- Hwe**, *dial.* Aja [ajg], 11
- Hwè**, *alt.* Aja [ajg], 11
- Ica**, *alt.* Ede Ica [ica], 14
dial. Ede Ica [ica], 14
- Idaaca**, *alt.* Ede Idaca [idd], 14
- Idaasa**, *alt.* Ede Idaca [idd], 14
- Idàáshà**, *dial.* Ede Idaca [idd], 14
- Ìdàáshà**, *alt.* Ede Idaca [idd], 14
- Idaatcha**, *alt.* Ede Idaca [idd], 14
- Idàátchà**, *dial.* Ede Idaca [idd], 14
- Idaca**, *alt.* Ede Idaca [idd], 14
- Idáítsà**, *alt.* Ede Idaca [idd], 14
- Idaşa**, *alt.* Ede Idaca [idd], 14
- Ife**, *alt. dial.* Ede Ica [ica], 14
- Ifè** [ife], 20, 25
- Ifè**, *alt.* Ifè [ife], 20
- Ije**, *alt.* Ede Ije [ijj], 14
- Ìjè**, *alt.* Ede Ije [ijj], 14
- Ilodji**, *dial.* Ede Ica [ica], 14
- Itcha**, *alt.* Ede Ica [ica], 14
- Ìtsà**, *alt.* Ede Ica [ica], 14
- Juguure**, *alt. dial.* Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
- Kabiyè** [kbp], 20, 25
- Kabre**, *alt.* Kabiyè [kbp], 20
- Kabure**, *alt.* Kabiyè [kbp], 20
- Kabye**, *alt.* Kabiyè [kbp], 20
- Kadagbe**, *dial.* Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
- Kada-Gbe**, *alt. dial.* Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
- Kadjala**, *dial.* Lama [las], 20
- Kadjalla**, *alt. dial.* Lama [las], 20
- Kande**, *dial.* Lama [las], 20
- Kante**, *alt. dial.* Lama [las], 20
- Kayobe**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Ko**, *alt.* Gbe, Kotafon [kqk], 17
- Kodowari**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Kogbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Kotafon [kqk], 17
- Korakuure**, *dial.* Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
- Kotokoli**, *alt.* Tem [kdh], 23
- Kpase**, *dial.* Fon [fon], 15
- Kpilakpila**, *alt.* Yom [pil], 24
- Kpla**, *alt.* Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17
- Kuntemba**, *alt. dial.* Nateni [ntm], 22
- Kunteni**, *dial.* Nateni [ntm], 22
- Kura**, *alt.* Ede Nago, Kura [nqk], 14
- Kuyobe**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Kyanga** [tye], 20, 25
- Kyanggana**, *alt.* Kyanga [tye], 20
- Kyangganya**, *alt.* Kyanga [tye], 20
- Kyenga**, *alt.* Kyanga [tye], 20
- Lama** [las], 20, 25
- Lamba**, *alt.* Lama [las], 20
- Langue des signes de l’Afrique francophone**, *alt.* American Sign Language [ase], 12
- Legba**, *alt.* Lukpa [dop], 21
- Logba**, *alt.* Lukpa [dop], 21
- Lokpa**, *alt.* Lukpa [dop], 21
- Losso**, *alt.* Lama [las], 20
- LSAF**, *alt.* American Sign Language [ase], 12
- Lugba**, *alt.* Lukpa [dop], 21
- Lukpa** [dop], 21, 25
- Mahi**, *alt.* Gbe, Maxi [mxl], 17
- Manigri**, *alt.* Nago, Northern [xkb], 22
- Manigri-Kambolé Ede Nago**, *alt.* Nago, Northern [xkb], 22

- Materi**, *dial.* Biali [beh], 12
- Maxi**, *alt.* Gbe, Maxi [mxl], 17
- Maxi-Gbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Maxi [mxl], 17
- Mbelime** [mql], 21, 25
- Mbèlimè**, *alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- Mβelímè**, *alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- M'Bermè**, *pej. alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- Mbilme**, *alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- Mboroko**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Mōkólé**, *alt.* Mokole [mkl], 21
- Melan**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Μεγόβε**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Meyobe**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Miganganm**, *alt.* Ngangam [gng], 22
- Migulimancema**, *alt.* Gourmanchéma [gux], 19
- Mina**, *alt.* Gen [gej], 19
- Mina-Gen**, *alt.* Gen [gej], 19
- Miyobe** [soy], 21, 25
- Mokole** [mkl], 21, 25
- Mokolé**, *alt.* Mokole [mkl], 21
- Mokollé**, *alt.* Mokole [mkl], 21
- Mokwale**, *alt.* Mokole [mkl], 21
- Monkolé**, *alt.* Mokole [mkl], 21
- Naagayili ka gija**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Naàteñni**, *alt.* Nateni [ntm], 22
- Nagayilé**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Nago**, *alt.* Ede Nago, Kura [nqk], 14
alt. Nago, Southern [nqg], 22
- Nago, Northern** [xkb], 22, 25
see Nago, Northern [xkb], 22
- Nago, Southern** [nqg], 22, 25
see Nago, Southern [nqg], 22
- Nagot**, *alt.* Nago, Southern [nqg], 22
- Nagots**, *alt.* Nago, Southern [nqg], 22
- Natamba**, *alt. dial.* Nateni [ntm], 22
- Nateni** [ntm], 22, 25
dial. Nateni [ntm], 22
- Naténi**, *alt.* Nateni [ntm], 22
- Natimba**, *alt. dial.* Nateni [ntm], 22
- Ngangam** [gng], 22, 25
- Ngmeelang ka gija**, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Niende**, *pej. alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- Niendé**, *pej. alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- Niendi**, *pej. alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- Nootre**, *alt.* Notre [bly], 23
- Notre** [bly], 23, 25
- Nyende**, *pej. alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- Offra**, *alt.* Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17
- Ọhòrí**, *alt.* Ede Ije [ijj], 14
- Okoma**, *alt. dial.* Nateni [ntm], 22
- Okoni**, *dial.* Nateni [ntm], 22
- Ophra**, *alt.* Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17
- Ouatchi**, *alt.* Gbe, Waci [wci], 18
- Oubièlo**, *alt.* Mbelime [mql], 21
- Ouémé**, *alt.* Gbe, Weme [wem], 18
- Ouinji-Ouinji**, *pej. alt.* Anii [blo], 11
- Peda**, *alt.* Gbe, Xwela [xwe], 18
- Pénélan**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Pénéssoulou**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Peul**, *alt.* Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
alt. Fulfulde, Western Niger [fuh], 16
- Peulh**, *alt.* Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
alt. Fulfulde, Western Niger [fuh], 16
- Phera**, *alt.* Gbe, Xwela [xwe], 18
- Phla**, *alt.* Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17
alt. Gbe, Western Xwla [xwl], 18
- Pila**, *alt.* Yom [pil], 24
- Pilapila**, *alt.* Yom [pil], 24
- Pingou**, *dial.* Biali [beh], 12
- Pla**, *alt.* Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17
- Popo**, *alt.* Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17
alt. Gen [gej], 19
- Porga**, *dial.* Biali [beh], 12
- Sábéé**, *alt.* Ede Cabe [cbj], 14

- Sahouè**, *alt.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Sahouègbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Saramanga**, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11
- Saxwe**, *alt.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
dial. Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Saxwɛ**, *alt.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Saxwegbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Saxwe-Gbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Saxwɛgbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Se**, *dial.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Seto**, *dial.* Gun [guw], 19
- Sèto**, *alt. dial.* Gbe, Ayizo [ayb], 16
- Seto-Gbe**, *alt. dial.* Gun [guw], 19
- Shikpi**, *alt. dial.* Aja [ajg], 11
- Sikpi**, *dial.* Aja [ajg], 11
- Sola**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Solamba**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Solla**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Somba**, *pej. alt.* Ditammari [tbz], 13
- Songhay**, *alt.* Dendi [ddn], 13
- Sorouba**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Soruba**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Tado**, *dial.* Aja [ajg], 11
- Tadou**, *alt. dial.* Aja [ajg], 11
- Tala**, *dial.* Aja [ajg], 11
- Tamari**, *alt.* Ditammari [tbz], 13
- Tamberma**, *alt. dial.* Ditammari [tbz], 13
- Taneka**, *alt. dial.* Yom [pil], 24
- Tangamma**, *dial.* Waama [wwa], 23
- Tangerem**, *dial.* Yom [pil], 24
- Tangeta**, *dial.* Biali [beh], 12
- Tayaba**, *alt. dial.* Nateni [ntm], 22
- Tayari**, *dial.* Nateni [ntm], 22
- Tɔfin**, *alt.* Gbe, Tofin [tfi], 18
- Tɔfingbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Tofin [tfi], 18
- Tchabankeere**, *dial.* Fulfulde, Borgu [fue], 15
- Tchabè**, *alt.* Ede Cabe [cbj], 14
- Tchi**, *alt.* Gbe, Ci [cib], 16
- Tchokossi**, *alt.* Anufo [cko], 12
- Tchombolo**, *alt.* Tchumbuli [bqa], 23
- Tchumbuli** [bqa], 23, 25
dial. Tchumbuli [bqa], 23
- Tem** [kdh], 23, 25
- Tembe**, *alt.* Tem [kdh], 23
- Tihoun**, *dial.* Biali [beh], 12
- Tim**, *alt.* Tem [kdh], 23
- Timu**, *alt.* Tem [kdh], 23
- Tofi**, *alt.* Gbe, Tofin [tfi], 18
- Tofin**, *alt.* Gbe, Tofin [tfi], 18
- Tofingbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Tofin [tfi], 18
- Toli**, *dial.* Gun [guw], 19
- Toli-Gbe**, *alt. dial.* Gun [guw], 19
- Tsábɛ**, *alt.* Ede Cabe [cbj], 14
- Tsaphe**, *alt.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Tsáphɛ**, *alt.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Tsaphe -Gbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Saxwe [sxw], 17
- Tshummbuli**, *alt.* Tchumbuli [bqa], 23
- Tyenga**, *alt.* Kyanga [tye], 20
- Ubielo**, *alt.* Mbelime [mq], 21
- Uyobe**, *alt.* Miyobe [soy], 21
- Waama** [wwa], 23, 25
dial. Waama [wwa], 23
- Waci**, *alt.* Gbe, Waci [wci], 18
- Waci-Gbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Waci [wci], 18
- Wama**, *alt.* Waama [wwa], 23
- Watyu**, *alt.* Gbe, Waci [wci], 18
- Weme**, *alt.* Gbe, Weme [wem], 18
- Weme-Gbe**, *alt.* Gbe, Weme [wem], 18
- Wéménugbé**, *alt.* Gbe, Weme [wem], 18
- Western Ditammari**, *dial.* Ditammari [tbz], 13
- Western Niger Fulfulde**, *alt.* Fulfulde, Western Niger [fuh], 16
- Winji-Winji**, *pej. alt.* Anii [blo], 11
- Xweɔa**, *alt.* Gbe, Xwela [xwe], 18

Xwela, *alt.* Gbe, Xwela [xwe], 18

Xwela-Gbe, *alt.* Gbe, Xwela [xwe], 18

Xwla, *alt.* Gbe, Eastern Xwla [gbx], 17

alt. Gbe, Western Xwla [xwl], 18

Xwla-Gbe, *alt.* Gbe, Western Xwla [xwl], 18

Yaari ka gija, *dial.* Anii [blo], 11

Yarí, *alt. dial.* Anii [blo], 11

Yariba, *alt.* Yoruba [yor], 24

Yoabou, *alt.* Waama [wwa], 23

Yoabu, *alt.* Waama [wwa], 23

Yoa-Lokpa, *alt.* Lukpa [dop], 21

Yom [pil], 24, 25

dial. Yom [pil], 24

Yooba, *alt.* Yoruba [yor], 24

Yorouba, *alt.* Yoruba [yor], 24

Yoruba [yor], 24, 25

Yorùbá, *alt.* Yoruba [yor], 24

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