

Ethnologue: Languages of Burundi

Twenty-sixth edition data

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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
<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)
DBS	Deaf Bible Society
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
DOOR	Deaf Opportunity Outreach
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
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Burundi 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 10) provides detailed information on the 8 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Burundi. 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. *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.

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 16) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 17) 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 Family” (page 19) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 20) 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 21) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 12 unique names are associated with the 8 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography”

(page 22). 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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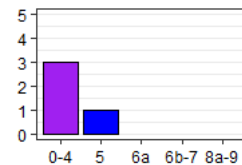
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Country Overview

Name of country	Burundi
Other names	Republic of Burundi
Population	12,255,000 (2021 UNDESA)
Principal languages	French, Rundi
Literacy rate	68% (2017 UNESCO)
International conventions	ACHPR (1989), CPPDCE (2008), CSICH (2006), ICCPR (1990), UNCRPD (2014)
General references	Bendor-Samuel and Hartell 1989, Welmers 1971a

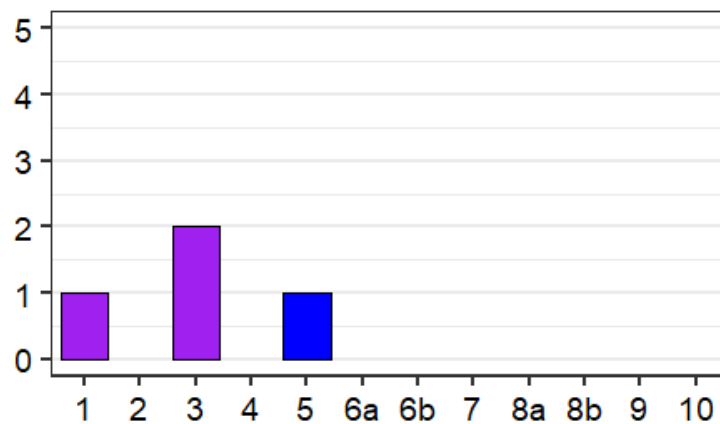
Language counts The number of established languages listed for Burundi is 4. All are living languages. Of these, 2 are indigenous and 2 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 3 are institutional and 1 is developing. Also listed are 4 unestablished languages.



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 Burundi 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 10) 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 17) 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 10) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Burundi. 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 Burundi 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 Burundi 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 16) 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
10,000,000 to 99,999,999	1	25.0	25.0%	12,000,000	99.39452	99.39452%
10,000 to 99,999	2	50.0	75.0%	71,000	0.58808	99.98261%
1,000 to 9,999	1	25.0	100.0%	2,100	0.01739	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	4	100.0		12,073,100	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Burundi 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 17) 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 Burundi. 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	25.0	25.0%	12,000,000	99.3945	99.3945%	12,000,000	12,000,000
3	2	50.0	75.0%	15,100	0.1251	99.5196%	7,550	7,550
5	1	25.0	100.0%	58,000	0.4804	100.0000%	58,000	58,000
<i>Totals</i>	4	100.0		12,073,100	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) name 3 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>	
Indo-European	1	25.0	2,100	0.0	2,100	2,100	
Niger-Congo	2	50.0	12,013,000	99.5	6,006,500	6,006,500	
Sign language	1	25.0	58,000	0.5	58,000	58,000	
<i>Totals</i>	4	100.0	12,073,100	100.0			

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Levantine [apc]. *Users*: 3,400 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: Mexico. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, French Guiana, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Martinique, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Portugal, Qatar (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Saudi Arabia (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yemen.

Burundian Sign Language [lsb] (LSB, Langue des Signes Burundaise). *Users*: 58,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 35,000–70,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% of the total population. Another estimate: 5,000 (2020 ANSB). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to American Sign Language [ase], Kenyan Sign Language [xki], and Ugandan Sign Language [ugn]. *Lg Use*: Four deaf schools (2020 F. Hamissi). *Lg Dev*: Agency: Association Nationale des Sourds du Burundi (ANSB). *DLS*: Emerging (0.02).

French [fra] (Français). Autonym: français. *Users*: 1,072,100 in Burundi, all users. L1 users: 2,100 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). L2 users: 1,070,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Location*: Major cities. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, 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 from grade 5. Taught in all tertiary 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.

Gujarati [guj]. *Users*: 2,800 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Gujarati. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking

(6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; split ergativity; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 31 consonants, 8 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1823–2005. *Writing*: Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Bahrain, Fiji, Kenya, Pakistan, Singapore, Tanzania, Zambia. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Canada, Iran, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Oman, Réunion, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.

Kinyarwanda [kin]. Autonym: Ikinyarwanda. *Users*: 36,100 in Burundi (2022 Joshua Project). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Ruanda-Rundi (D.61). *Dialect*: Twa. *Type*: SVO; 16 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; 24 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; tonal. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1954–1993. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,522,750 (as L1: 14,518,160; as L2: 4,590). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda (Fumbira). Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, Kenya.

Lingala [lin]. Autonym: Lingala. *Users*: 2,700 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Bangi-Ntomba (C.30). *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; 12 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; 16 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; tonal (2 tones: high, low); tendency to vowel harmony. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1970–2000. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,277,800 (as L1: 20,259,660; as L2: 20,018,140). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Unestablished in: Belgium, Canada, Central African Republic, United Kingdom.

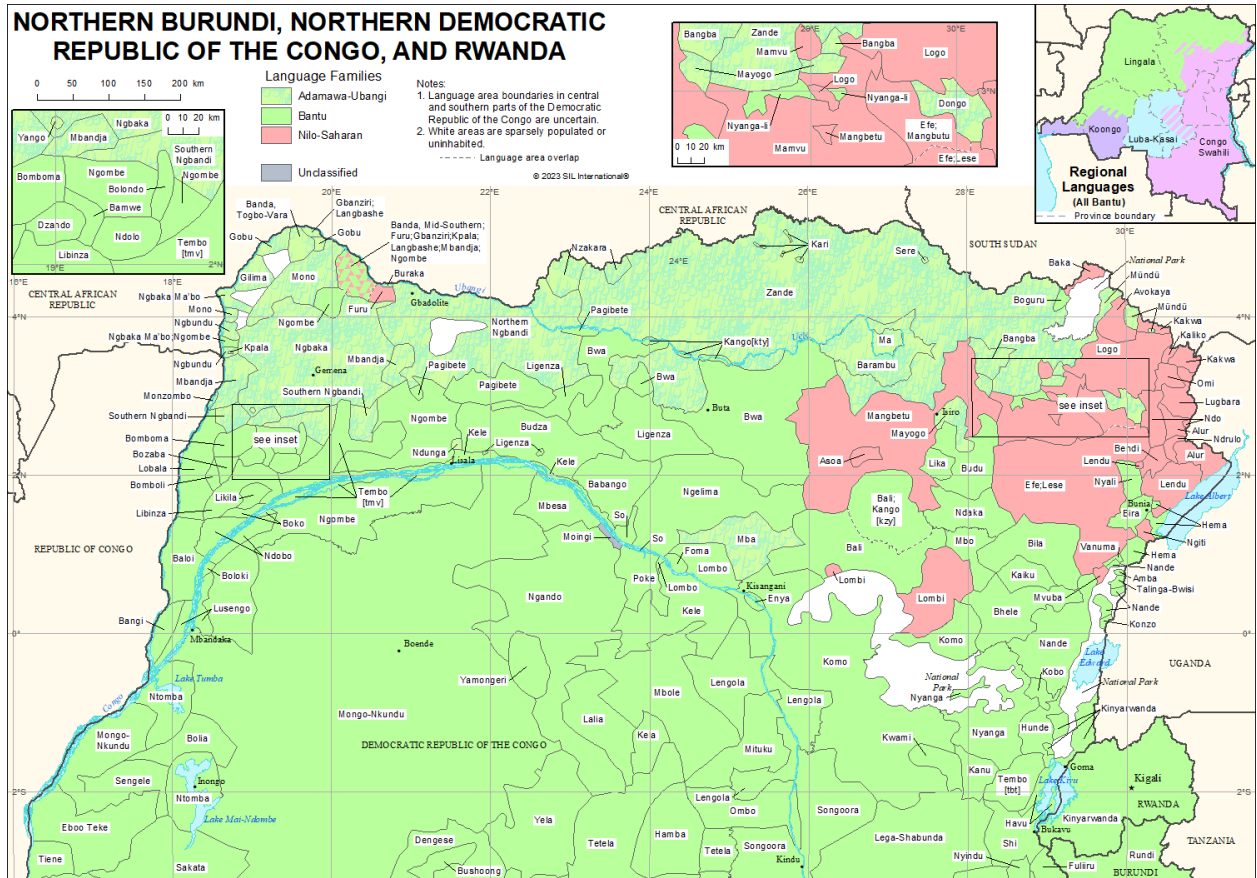
Rundi [run] (Hima, Kirundi, Urundi). Autonym: Ikirundi. *Users*: 12,000,000 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc), increasing. 4,000,000 monolinguals. *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2005, Constitution, Article 5). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Ruanda-Rundi (D.62). *Dialects*: Ikibo, Ikirundi, Ikiragane, Igisoni, Ikinyabweru, Ikiyogoma, Ikimoso (Urumoso). All dialects except Twa are reportedly very similar to each other and to Kinyarwanda [kin]. *Lg Use*: Hima is an ethnic group speaking Rundi or Rwanda [kin]. Home, work, official. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 55%. Taught in all primary and secondary schools in grades 1–4 and as subject thereafter. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1967. *DLS*: Ascending (0.40). *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Ethnic groups: Hutu 80%–85%, Tutsi 14%–15%, Twa (Gesera, Pygmy) 1% (30,000; Barrett 1982). Christian. *Maps*: 14, 15. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,879,050 (as L1:

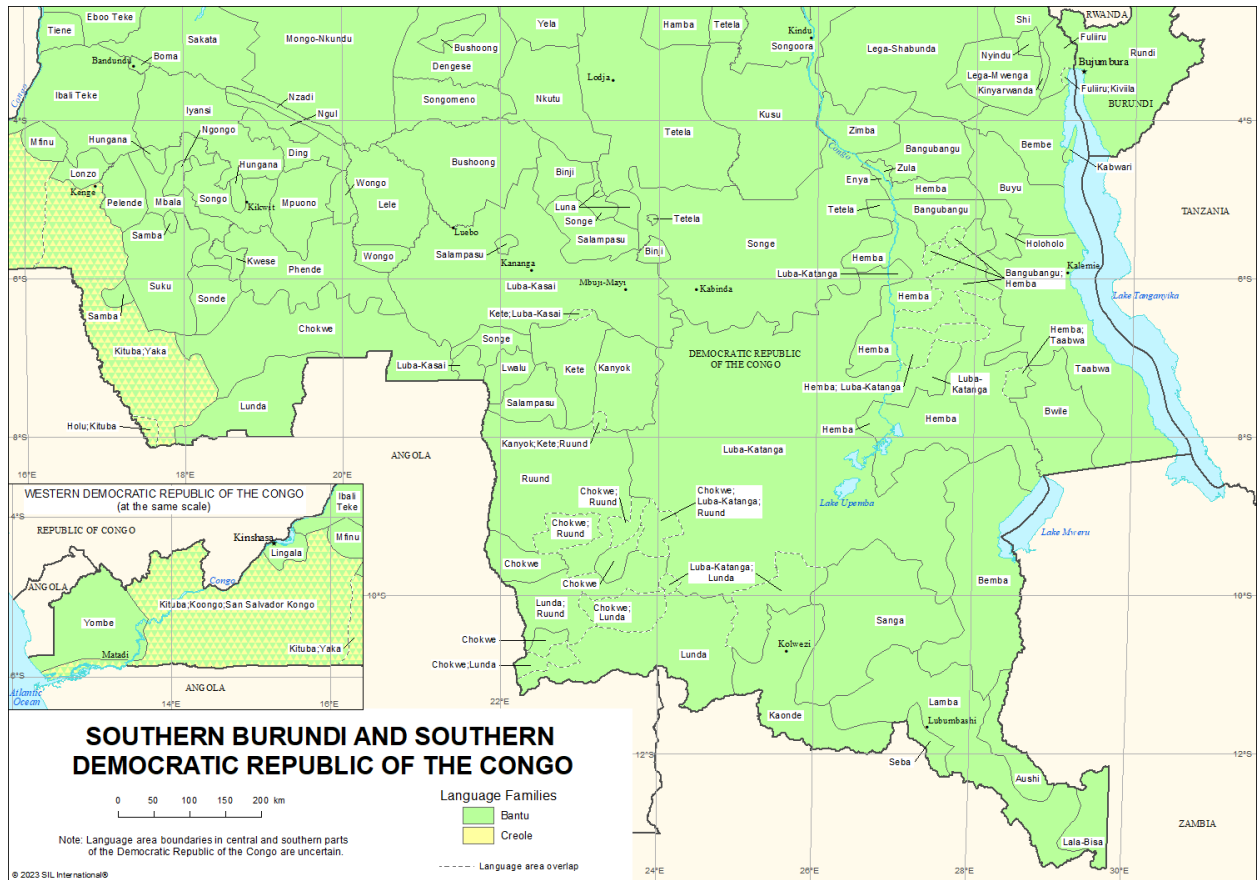
12,874,850; as L2: 4,200). Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania.

Swahili [swh] (Kiswahili). Autonym: Kiswahili. *Users*: 13,000 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc), increasing. *Location*: Bujumbura Mairie: Buyenzi, Quartier asiatique, Muslim and Congolese neighborhoods (probably Congo Swahili [swc]); Gitega province: Gitega. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, G, Swahili (G.42). *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; 18 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number, object; passives; causatives; comparatives; 22 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Use*: Used mainly in Muslim contexts and for commerce. Religious services, especially Islamic. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Used as L2 by Rundi [run]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1891–2017. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. In Burundi, it is a mixture of Congolese and Tanzanian or Kenyan Swahili. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania. Also established in: Oman, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Comoros, Finland, Madagascar, Mayotte, New Zealand, Réunion, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Language Maps

Northern Democratic Republic of Congo	14
Southern Democratic Republic of Congo	15





Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Burundi 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.

10,000,000 to 99,999,999

Rundi [[run](#)] *Users*: 12,000,000 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc), increasing. 4,000,000 monolinguals. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2005, Constitution, Article 5). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,879,050 (as L1: 12,874,850; as L2: 4,200).

10,000 to 99,999

Burundian Sign Language [[lsb](#)] *Users*: 58,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 35,000–70,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% of the total population. Another estimate: 5,000 (2020 ANSB). *Status*: 5* (Developing).

Kinyarwanda [[kin](#)] *Users*: 36,100 in Burundi (2022 Joshua Project). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,522,750 (as L1: 14,518,160; as L2: 4,590).

Swahili [[swh](#)] *Users*: 13,000 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc), increasing. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400).

1,000 to 9,999

Arabic, Levantine [[apc](#)] *Users*: 3,400 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Gujarati [[guj](#)] *Users*: 2,800 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).

Lingala [[lin](#)] *Users*: 2,700 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,277,800 (as L1: 20,259,660; as L2: 20,018,140).

French [[fra](#)] *Users*: 2,100 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). 1,072,100 in Burundi, all users. L2 users: 1,070,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Burundi 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)

Rundi [run] *Users:* 12,000,000 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc), increasing. 4,000,000 monolinguals. *Status:* Statutory national language (2005, Constitution, Article 5). *Lg Use:* Hima is an ethnic group speaking Rundi or Rwanda [kin]. Home, work, official. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1967. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 12,879,050 (as L1: 12,874,850; as L2: 4,200).

3 (Wider communication)

French [fra] *Users:* 1,072,100 in Burundi, all users. L1 users: 2,100 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). L2 users: 1,070,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* De facto national working language. *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).

Swahili [swh] *Users:* 13,000 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc), increasing. *Lg Use:* Used mainly in Muslim contexts and for commerce. Religious services, especially Islamic. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Used as L2 by Rundi [run]. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400).

5 (Developing)

Burundian Sign Language [lsb] *Users:* 58,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 35,000–70,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% of the total population. Another estimate: 5,000 (2020 ANSB). *Lg Use:* Four deaf schools (2020 F. Hamissi).

Unestablished

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users:* 3,400 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Gujarati [guj] *Users:* 2,800 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).

Kinyarwanda [[kin](#)] *Users:* 36,100 in Burundi (2022 Joshua Project). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,522,750 (as L1: 14,518,160; as L2: 4,590).

Lingala [[lin](#)] *Users:* 2,700 in Burundi (2021 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 40,277,800 (as L1: 20,259,660; as L2: 20,018,140).

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Burundi. 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.

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

French [fra], [10](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, G, Swahili (G.42)

Swahili [swh], [12](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Ruanda-Rundi (D.62)

Rundi [run], [11](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Burundian Sign Language [lsb], [10](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 8 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/>.

apc Arabic, Levantine, [10](#)

fra French, [10](#)

guj Gujarati, [10](#)

kin Kinyarwanda, [11](#)

lin Lingala, [11](#)

lsb Burundian Sign Language, [10](#)

run Rundi, [11](#)

swh Swahili, [12](#)

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.

- Levantine Arabic**, *see* Arabic, Levantine [apc], [10](#)
- Burundian Sign Language** [lsb], [10](#), [0](#)
- Français**, *alt.* French [fra], [10](#)
- French** [fra], [10](#)
- Hima**, *alt.* Rundi [run], [11](#)
- Igisoni**, *dial.* Rundi [run], [11](#)
- Ikibo**, *dial.* Rundi [run], [11](#)
- Ikimoso**, *dial.* Rundi [run], [11](#)
- Ikinyabweru**, *dial.* Rundi [run], [11](#)
- Ikiragane**, *dial.* Rundi [run], [11](#)
- Ikirundi**, *alt.* Rundi [run], [11](#)
dial. Rundi [run], [11](#)
- Ikiyogoma**, *dial.* Rundi [run], [11](#)
- Kirundi**, *alt.* Rundi [run], [11](#)
- Kiswahili**, *alt.* Swahili [swh], [12](#)
- Langue des Signes Burundaise**, *alt.*
Burundian Sign Language [lsb], [10](#)
- LSB**, *alt.* Burundian Sign Language [lsb], [10](#)
- Rundi** [run], [11](#), [14](#), [15](#)
- Swahili** [swh], [12](#)
- Twa**, *dial.* Kinyarwanda [kin], [11](#)
- Urumoso**, *alt. dial.* Rundi [run], [11](#)
- Urundi**, *alt.* Rundi [run], [11](#)

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