

Ethnologue: Languages of Congo

Twenty-sixth edition data

David M. Eberhard, Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig, Editors

Based on information from the *Ethnologue*, 26th edition:

Eberhard, David M., Gary F. Simons, and Charles D. Fennig (eds.). 2023.
Ethnologue: Languages of the World. Twenty-sixth edition. Dallas, Texas:
SIL International. Online: <http://www.ethnologue.com>.

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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)
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
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRRP	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Congo 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 64 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Congo. 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 24) 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 25) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 29) 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 35) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Congo and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 37) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 42) 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 43) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 312 unique names are associated with the 64 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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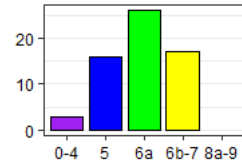
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Country Overview

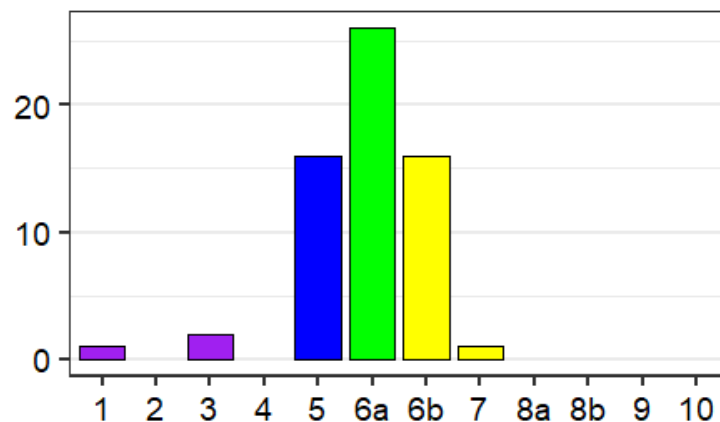
Name of country	Congo
Other names	Republic of the Congo
Population	5,546,000 (2022 World Factbook)
Principal language	French
Literacy rate	80% (2018 UNESCO)
International conventions	ACHPR (1982), CDE (1968), CPPDCE (2008), CSICH (2012), ICCPR (1983), UNCRPD (2014), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Bendor-Samuel and Hartell 1989, Jacquot 1971
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Congo is 62. All are living languages. Of these, 55 are indigenous and 7 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 3 are institutional, 16 are developing, 26 are vigorous, and 17 are in trouble. Also listed are 2 unestablished languages.</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 Congo 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 29) 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 Congo. 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 Congo 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 Congo 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 25) 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	1	1.6	1.6%	1,750,000	41.56977	41.56977%
100,000 to 999,999	9	14.5	16.1%	1,386,000	32.92326	74.49303%
10,000 to 99,999	36	58.1	74.2%	1,029,500	24.45490	98.94793%
1,000 to 9,999	14	22.6	96.8%	44,290	1.05207	100.00000%
Unknown	2	3.2	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	62	100.0		4,209,790	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Congo 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 29) 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 Congo. 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	1.6	1.6%	11,100	0.2637	0.2637%	11,100	11,100
3	2	3.2	4.8%	1,963,000	46.6294	46.8931%	981,500	981,500
5	16	25.8	30.6%	681,550	16.1896	63.0827%	42,597	15,750
6a	26	41.9	72.6%	1,034,110	24.5644	87.6471%	39,773	23,000
6b	16	25.8	98.4%	517,030	12.2816	99.9287%	32,314	16,500
7	1	1.6	100.0%	3,000	0.0713	100.0000%	3,000	3,000
<i>Totals</i>	62	100.0		4,209,790	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 4 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>
Creole	1	1.6	1,750,000	41.6	1,750,000	1,750,000
Indo-European	1	1.6	11,100	0.3	11,100	11,100
Niger-Congo	59	95.2	2,421,690	57.5	41,046	16,500

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	1.6	27,000	0.6	27,000	27,000
<i>Totals</i>	62	100.0	4,209,790	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Aka [axk] (Beka, Mòáka, Yaka, Yaâkâ, “Babinga” *pej.*, “Binga” *pej.*). Autonym: Yaâkâ. *Users*: 15,000 in Congo (Cavalli-Sforza 1986). *Location*: Cuvette, Likouala, and Sangha departments. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.104). *Dialects*: Basese (Eastern Aka), Bambenzele (Western Aka). *Lg Use*: As speakers come out of the confines of the forest, there is language loss in favor of Lingala [lin]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Bible portions: 2003–2007. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Mraka (sg.), Beka (pl.). Different from the Baka [bkc] language of Cameroon and Gabon, which is Ubangi. Possibly more than one pygmy language in Congo. Nomadic. Pygmies. Traditional religion. *Map*: 24. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 30,000. Also indigenous in: Central African Republic (Yaka).

Akwa [akw]. *Users*: 42,000 (2018). *Location*: Cuvette department: Makoua district; Cuvette-Ouest department: east. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.22). *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Map*: 24:24.

Beembe [beq] (Bembe). Autonym: Kibeembe. *Users*: 100,000 (2007 census). *Location*: Bouenza department: Mabgombo and Mouyondzi districts, Kingoué and Sibiti; Pool department: northwest of Brazzaville. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.11). *Dialects*: Keenge (Kikeenge, Kinkeenge), Yari (Kiyari). Dialect subgroup. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Kituba [mkw]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2014. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Different from Bembe [bmb] of Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Map*: 24:50.

Bekwel [bkw] (Bakwele, Bakwil, Bekwil). Autonym: Bekwyel. *Users*: 14,000 in Congo (2018). *Location*: Sangha department: on Cameroon border, near Gabon border, almost to Ouessou. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Makaa-Njem (A.85). *Dialects*: Zalagee, Ebaa, Mekwoob, Mebeeza, Koolo. Reportedly similar to Mpumpong [mgg]. Lexical similarity: 85% with Koonzime [ozm]. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Bible portions: 2014. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Different from Baakpe [bri] (Bakwiri) of Cameroon. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,700. Also indigenous in: Cameroon, Gabon.

Bobangi [bni] (Bangi, Bubangi, Bungi, Lobobangi). *Users*: 106,000 in Congo (2018). *Location*: Cuvette department: Mossaka district, on Congo river; Likouala department: Epena district. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Bangi-Ntomba (C.32). *Dialect*: Bonkosi.

Type: SVO. *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1909–1922. *Writing:* Latin script, no longer in use. *Map:* 24:26. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 164,340. Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo (Bangi). Unestablished in: Central African Republic (Bangi).

Bomitaba [zmx] (Bamitaba, Leke, Mbomitaba, Mbomotaba). *Users:* 16,500 in Congo (2018). *Location:* Likouala department: Epena district, along Likouala-aux-Herbes river. *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.14). *Dialects:* Northern Bomitaba (Matoki), Central Bomitaba (Epena). Related to Bongili [bui]. *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Gardner 2006). *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Traditional religion, Christian. *Map:* 24:12. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 16,720. Unestablished in: Central African Republic.

Bomwali [bmw] (Bomali, Boumoali, Bumali, Lino, Sangasanga, Sanghasangha). *Users:* 49,000 in Congo (2018). *Location:* Sangha department: Ouessou district. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Makaa-Njem (A.87). *DLS:* Emerging (0.01). *Map:* 24:15. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 55,100. Also indigenous in: Cameroon.

Bongili [bui] (Bokiba, Bongiri, Bonguili, Bungili, Bungiri). *Users:* 11,600 (2018). *Location:* Cuvette and Likouala departments; Sangha department: Sangha river area, southeast of Ouessou, to Pikounda area; Liouesso district. *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.15). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev:* NT: 1947. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Different from Bukongo [bkj] of Central African Republic. *Map:* 24:13.

Bonjo [bok] (Impfondo, Mbonzo). *Users:* 3,000. *Location:* Likouala department: Dongou and Impfondo districts, Ibenga, Oubangui, and Motaba river areas. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.143). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Lingala [lin]. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Map:* 24:8.

Bwisi [bwz] (Ibwisi, Mbwisi). *Users:* 12,000 in Congo (2022 T. Hunter), increasing. Ethnic population: 12,000 (2022 T. Hunter). *Location:* Niari department: Kibangou district, Banda area on Gabon border. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Shira-Punu (B.401). *Lg Use:* Used by all. All also use Kituba [mkw]. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Different from Talinga-Bwisi [tlj] of Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. *Map:* 24:38. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,230. Also indigenous in: Gabon.

Congolese ASL [ase] (ASL, American Sign Language, Langue des signes américaine, Langue des signes congolaise, Langue des signes du Congo). *Users:* 27,000 in Congo (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 16,000–32,000, based on 0.3%–0.6% of total population. *Location:*

Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *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 Use*: Used by all. *Lg Dev*: TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2020. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Some early influence in the 1970s from French Sign Language [fsl], but now predominately consists of signs from ASL together with local signs, plus influence from French [fra] on the grammar in some contexts (1997 S. Dalle). Degree of difference from standard ASL and from ASL (or languages derived from ASL) in other African countries has not been determined. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 989,605 (as L1: 858,605; as L2: 131,000). Indigenous in: United States (American Sign Language). Also established in 23 other countries and unestablished in 12 more.

Dibole [bv̥x] (Babole, Southern Bomitaba). *Users*: 4,000 (Leitch 2004). 800 monolinguals (Leitch 2004). Ethnic population: 4,000. *Location*: Cuvette department; Likouala department: south Epena district; 16 villages. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.101). *Dialects*: Northern Dibole (Dzeke), Central Dibole (Kinami), Southern Dibole (Bouanila). *Lg Use*: All domains (Leitch 2004). Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra]. Also use Lingala [lin], especially with non-Babole. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%. Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:16.

Doondo [dde] (Dondo, Kidoondo). Autonym: Doondo. *Users*: 30,000 (2007 census). *Location*: Bouenza department: Boko-Songho, Madingou, and Mfouati districts; Pool department, southwest Mindouli district. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.112). *Dialects*: Boko-Songho, Mfouati, Kimbedi, Kinkeenge. Part of Kongo subgroup. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Kituba [mkw]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 2014. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:51.

Fang [fan] (Pahouin, Pamue). Autonym: Fang. *Users*: 11,800 in Congo (2018). *Location*: Sangha department. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Ewondo-Fang (A.75). *Dialects*: Make, Ntum (Ntumu), Ogowe. *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2014. *Writing*: Latin script, used since 1995. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 24:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,096,800 (as L1: 1,061,800; as L2: 35,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon.

French [fra] (Français). Autonym: français. *Users*: 3,521,100 in Congo, all users. L1 users: 11,100 in Congo (2022). L2 users: 3,510,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2002, Constitution, Article 6). *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. Taught in all tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Sole language of formal education. *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.

Gbaya [gya] (Baya, Northwest Gbaya). *Users*: 2,000 in Congo (Johnstone 1993). *Location*: Likouala department: Epena district; Sangha department: scattered on Cameroon border. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Adamawa-Ubangi, Ubangi, Gbaya-Manza-Ngbaka, Northwest. *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1995–2011. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 24:4. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 267,000. Indigenous in: Cameroon (Northwest Gbaya), Central African Republic (Northwest Gbaya). Also established in: Nigeria (Northwest Gbaya).

Hausa [hau]. Autonym: Hausa. *Users*: 10,700 in Congo (2018). *Status*: Unestablished. *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 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. *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: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Sudan. Unestablished in: Algeria, Canada, Central African Republic, Gabon, Gambia, Togo, United Kingdom.

Kaamba [xku] (Kamba, Kikaamba). *Users*: 51,400 (2007 census). *Location*: Bouenza department: Madingou and Nkayi districts; Lékoumou department: Sibiti district. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.112). *Dialects*: None known. Part of Kongo subgroup. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Many also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. 90% of adults speak Kituba. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 24:52.

Kako [kkj] (Kako, Kaka, Nkoxo, Yaka). Autonym: Kako. *Users*: 13,000 in Congo (2018). *Location*: Likouala department: Ibenga and Motaba rivers, scattered. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Kaka (A.93). *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. NT: 1999. *Writing*: Latin script, used in Cameroon. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 24:7. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 123,400. Indigenous in: Cameroon, Central African Republic.

Kituba [mkw] (Kikongo-Kituba, Kikoongo, Monokutuba, Munukutuba). Autonym: Kituba.

Users: 1,750,000 (2018). *Location:* Mainly between Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). Statutory language of national identity (2002, Constitution, Article 6), recognized as lingua franca. Established in large towns during colonial period between 1885 and 1960. Used throughout the south in churches, the market, and media. *Class:* Creole, Kongo based. *Dialects:* None known. Reportedly similar to Kituba [ktu] of Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Lg Use:* Main language of the south and one of the 2 national languages. Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Beembe [beq], Bwisi [bwz], Doondo [dde], Kaamba [xku], Kunyi [njx], Laari [ldi], Lumbu [lup], Punu [puu], Suundi [sdj], Teke-Laali [lli], Teke-Tsaayi [tyi], Teke-Tyee [tyx], Tsaangi [tsa], Vili [vif], Yaka [iyx], Yombe [yom]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L1: 5%–10%. Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. NT: 2005. *DLS:* Emerging (0.03). *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Main language of the south. *Maps:* 24, 24:46.

Koongo [kng] (Congo, Kikongo, Kikoongo, Kongo, Kongo-Nseke). Autonym: Kikongo. *Users:* 16,500 in Congo (2007 census). *Location:* Pool department: Boko district, west and northwest of Brazzaville. *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.16). *Type:* SVO (for Nzamba); 5 vowels. *Lg Dev:* Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1905–1962. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Kongo-Nseke is the distinguishing name for Koongo in Congo-Brazzaville. Christian, Muslim. *Map:* 24:48. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,316,500 (as L1: 6,316,500; as L2: 5,000,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Angola (Kikongo), Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Kota [koq] (Ikota, Ikuta). *Users:* 16,500 in Congo (2018). *Location:* Cuvette-Ouest department: west of Mbomo; Sangha department: Liouesso district. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Kele (B.25). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1938–1948. *Writing:* Latin script. *Map:* 24:17. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 41,500. Also indigenous in: Gabon.

Koyo [koh] (Ekoyo, Kouyou). *Users:* 1,000. *Location:* Cuvette department: Owando district; Cuvette-Ouest department: Ewo district. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.24). *Type:* SVO. *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev:* Texts. *DLS:* Still. *Map:* 24:23.

Kunyi [njx] (Kikuni, Kikunyi, Kugni, Kuni). *Users:* 137,000 (2018). *Location:* Bouenza, Kouilou, and Niari regions, south and southeast from Makabana to Democratic Republic of the Congo border. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.13). *Dialect:* Nyaanga (Kinyaanga). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Most also use Kituba [mkw]. *DLS:* Still. *Map:* 24:56.

Laari [ldi] (Kilari, Laadi, Ladi, Lali, Lari). *Users:* 159,000 in Congo (2018). *Location:* Bouenza department: Mouyondzi district; Pool department: west and northwest of Brazzaville. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.16). A member of macrolanguage Kongo

[kon] (Democratic Republic of the Congo). *Dialects*: Ghaangala (Hangala, Kighaangala), Laari de Biiza, Laari de Kinkala. *Lg Use*: Laari has become an informal trade language among youth in Brazzaville, spoken by many non-ethnic Laari in the city (2014 SIL). Used by all. Also use Kituba [mkw]. Used as L2 by Teke-Wuumu [ifm]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2009. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 24:49. *Worldwide*: Also established in: Angola (Kilari).

Likuba [kxx] (Kuba, Kyba). *Users*: 53,000 (2018). *Location*: Cuvette department: on Congo river above Sangha river mouth; Plateaux department: Alima river south bank. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.27). *Dialects*: None known. Mutually intelligible with Likwala [kwc]. *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [lin]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1916. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script, no longer in use. *Map*: 24:27.

Likwala [kwc] (Ekwala, Kwala, Likouala). *Users*: 79,000 (2018). *Location*: Cuvette department: lower reaches of Likouala-aux-Herbes, Likouala-Mossaka, and Sangha rivers. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.26). *Dialects*: None known. Mutually intelligible with Likuba [kxx]. *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [lin]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 24:25.

Lingala [lin] (Ngala). Autonym: Lingala. *Users*: 213,000 in Congo (2018). *Location*: Mainly Brazzaville and surrounding areas in Pool department. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). Statutory language of national identity (2002, Constitution, Article 6), generally northern. Lingala is used throughout the area north of Brazzaville in the churches, the market and the media (2014 SIL). *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 Use*: Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Akwa [akw], Bekwel [bkw], Bobangi [bni], Bomitaba [zmx], Bongili [bui], Bonjo [bok], Dibole [bvz], Fang [fan], Gbaya [gya], Kako [kkj], Kota [koq], Koyo [koh], Likuba [kxx], Likwala [kwc], Mbandja [zmz], Mbere [mdt], Mboko [mdu], Mbosi [mdw], Moi [mow], Monzombo [moj], Mpyemo [mcx], Ngbaka [nga], Ngbaka Ma'bo [nbn], Ngom [nra], Ngundi [ndn], Ngungwel [ngz], Njyem [njy], Pomo [pmm], Suundi [sdj], Teke-Eboo [ebo], Teke-Ibali [tek], Teke-Kukuya [kkw], Teke-Nzikou [nzu], Teke-Tege [teg], Teke-Wuumu [ifm]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%–30%. Literacy rate in L2: 25%–75%. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1970–2000. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Maps*: 24, 24:47. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,277,800 (as L1: 20,259,660; as L2: 20,018,140). Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo. Unestablished in: Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, United Kingdom.

Lumbu [lup] (Ilumbu). *Users*: 3,020 in Congo (2000). *Location*: Bouenza and Kouilou departments; Niari department: Kibangou district, between Kibangou and Gabon border.

Status: 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Shira-Punu (B.44). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Most also use Kituba [mkw]. 90% of adults speak Kituba also. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Bible portions: 1933–1966. *Writing:* Latin script, no longer in use. *Map:* 24:55. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 22,720. Also indigenous in: Gabon.

Mbandja [zmz] (Banja, Mbanja, Mbanza). Autonym: Mbandja. *Users:* 14,000 in Congo (2018). *Location:* Likouala department: Oubangui river area. *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Adamawa-Ubangi, Ubangi, Banda, Southern. *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin]. *Lg Dev:* Bible: 2014. *Writing:* Latin script. *Map:* 24:9. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 367,400. Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo. Unestablished in: Central African Republic.

Mbangwe [zmn] (M'bahouin). *Users:* 1,510 in Congo (2000). *Location:* Lékoumou department: Bambama district. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Kele (B.23). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Map:* 24:34. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,510. Also indigenous in: Gabon.

Mbere [mdt] (Limbede, Mbédé, Mbété). *Users:* 106,000 in Congo (2018). *Location:* Cuvette-Ouest department: north Ewo and Kelle districts. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Mbete (B.61). *Dialect:* Ngwii. Lexical similarity: 77% with Mbamba [mbm], 76% with Ngungwel [ngz], 74% with Teke-Tege [teg], 70% with Teke-Tsaayi [tyi]. *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Traditional religion, Christian. *Map:* 24:20. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 151,500. Also indigenous in: Gabon.

Mboko [mdu] (Mboxo, Mbuku). *Users:* 47,000 (2018). *Location:* Cuvette department: west Makoua district; Sangha department. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.21). *Dialect:* Ngare. *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *DLS:* Still. *Map:* 24:18.

Mbosi [mdw] (Embosi, Mbochi, Mboshe, Mboshi). Autonym: Embosí. *Users:* 190,000 (2018). Ethnic population: 707,000 (2019). *Location:* Cuvette department: Boundiji, Mossaka, and Owando districts; Cuvette-Ouest department: Ewo district; Plateaux department: Abala district. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.25). *Dialects:* Bunji (Mbonzi), Olee, Ondinga, Ngolo, Eboi. *Lg Use:* Primarily oral use. French [fra] is used for reading and writing. All domains. Some young people, all adults. Few younger users. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra]. Also use Lingala [lin]. Also use Teke-Tege [teg]. *Lg Dev:* Small amount of literacy in place. Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Traditional religion, Christian. *Map:* 24:22.

Moi [mow] (Lemoi, Mahican, Rebu). *Users:* 3,020 (2000). *Location:* Cuvette and Plateaux

regions: Oubangui river west bank, Alima river mouth, south of Mossaka. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Bangi-Ntomba (C.32). *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly related to Lingala [lin]. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Also use Lingala [lin]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 24:28.

Monzombo [moj] (Mondjembo, Monjombo, Munzombo). *Users*: 14,000 in Congo (2018). *Location*: Likouala department: on Oubangui river. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Adamawa-Ubangi, Ubangi, Sere-Ngbaka-Mba, Ngbaka-Mba, Ngbaka, Western, Monzombo. *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [lin]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 24:10. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 20,600. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mpyemo [mcx] (Bimu, Mbimou, Mbimu, Mbyemo, Mpo, Mpyemə). Autonym: Mpyemo. *Location*: Sangha department: on Cameroon border. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Makaa-Njem (A.86). *Dialects*: Jaso (Jasua), Bidjuki (Bidjouki), Mpyemo. *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:5. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 29,000. Also indigenous in: Cameroon (Mpiemo), Central African Republic (Mpiemo).

Ndasa [nda] (Andasa). *Users*: 4,530 in Congo (2000). *Location*: Lékoumou department: west of Zanaga. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Kele (B.201). *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 24:40. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,530. Also indigenous in: Gabon.

Ngbaka [nga] (Ngbàkà). Autonym: Ngbàkà. *Users*: 3,650 in Congo (2000). *Location*: Likouala department: Oubangui river west bank, between Impfondo and Congo river confluence. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Adamawa-Ubangi, Ubangi, Gbaya-Manza-Ngbaka, East. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev*: Bible: 1995. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Different from Ngbaka Ma'bo [nbm]. *Map*: 24:11. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,016,650. Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo. Unestablished in: Central African Republic.

Ngbaka Ma'bo [nbm] (Bouaka, Bwaka, Gbala, Ma'bo, Mbacca, Mbaka, Nbwaka, Ngbaka Limba). *Users*: 159,000 in Congo (2018). *Location*: Likouala department: possibly from nearby large language areas in Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Adamawa-Ubangi, Ubangi, Sere-Ngbaka-Mba, Ngbaka-Mba, Ngbaka, Western, Bwaka. *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [lin]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Latin script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 258,000. Indigenous in: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Ngom [nra] (Angom, Bangom, Bangomo, Ongom, Ungom, Ungomo). *Users*: 4,530 in Congo (2000). *Location*: Cuvette-Ouest department: northwest of Mbomo. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Kele (B.22). *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Bible portions: 1910. *Writing*: Latin script, no longer in use. *Map*: 24:19. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 12,770. Also indigenous in: Gabon.

Ngundi [ndn] (Ingundi, Ngondi). *Users*: 3,000 in Congo (2004). *Location*: Sangha department: east of Ouesso. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.11). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Leitch 2005). *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Different from Gundi [gdi] of Central African Republic, which is an Adamawa-Ubangi language. *Map*: 24:14. *Worldwide*: Unestablished in: Central African Republic.

Ngungwel [ngz] (Gangoulou, Gangulu, Ngangoulou, Ngangulu, Ngungulu, Northeastern Teke). Autonym: Engungwel. *Users*: 45,000 (1988 SIL). *Location*: Plateaux department: Gamboma district. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.72). *Dialects*: Mpumpuun (Mpu, Mpumpu, Mpumpum, Mpumpun), Mpɔmpɔɔ (Mpɔmpɔ, Mpompoo), Mbombo, Nkenkel (Nkɛnkɛl). Seen as separate from Teke, although part of the Teke family. Lexical similarity: 89% with Boo [[ebo](#)], 81% with Kukua [[kkw](#)], 77% with Teghe [[teg](#)], 76% with Tsaayi [[tyi](#)] and Mbere [[mdt](#)], 75% with Tyee [[tyx](#)], 68% with Laali [[lli](#)], 61% with Yaa [[iyx](#)]. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 2014. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script, used since 2012. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:29.

Njebi [nzb] (Binzabi, Injebi, Ndjabi, Njabi, Njevi, Nzebi, Yinjebi, Yinzebi). *Users*: 23,000 in Congo (2018). *Location*: Niari department: Mayoko district. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Nzebi (B.52). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. NT: 1968–1978. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:35. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 143,000. Also indigenous in: Gabon.

Njyem [njj] (Djem, Dzem, Ndjem, Ndjeme, Ndzem, Ngyeme, Njem, Nyem, Zimu). Autonym: Njyem. *Users*: 3,500 in Congo. 2,980 monolinguals. *Location*: Sangha department: Souanke district, north into Cameroon. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Makaa-Njem (A.84). *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [[fra](#)]. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev*: 15 people can read. Literature. Dictionary. Texts. Bible portions: 2002. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 24:2. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,900. Also indigenous in: Cameroon.

Ombamba [mbm] (Lembaamba, Mbaama, Mbama, Mbamba). *Users*: 23,000 (2018). *Location*: Lékoumou department: Bambama district. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Mbete (B.62). *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 81% with Teghe [[teg](#)], 77% with Mbere [[mdt](#)], 66% with Tsaayi [[tyi](#)]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 24:33.

- Pomo** [pmm] (Congo Pol, Pol, Pori, Pul). *Users*: 5,430 in Congo (2000). *Location*: Sangha department: north of Ouesso, on Cameroon and Central African Republic borders. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Kaka (A.92). *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 24:6. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 44,130. Indigenous in: Cameroon (Pol).
- Punu** [puu] (Ipounou, Iponu, Pouno, Puno, Yipunu). Autonym: Yipunu. *Users*: 16,500 in Congo (2018). *Location*: Niari department: toward Gabon border. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Shira-Punu (B.43). *Lg Use*: Also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1992. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:37. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 168,500. Also indigenous in: Gabon.
- Sango** [sag]. Autonym: Sango. *Users*: 117,000 in Congo (2018). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Creole, Ngbandi based. *Type*: SVO. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1992–2012. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,217,000 (as L1: 617,000; as L2: 4,600,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Central African Republic. Also established in: Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Suundi** [sdj] (Kissoundi, Kisuundi, Soundi, Suundi de Kifouma, Suundi de Kimongo). *Users*: 216,000 (2018). *Location*: Pool department: Boko, Kindamba, Kinkala, and Mayama districts; Bouenza and Niari departments: border areas. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.131). *Dialects*: Kisuundi kya Mayama, Kisuundi kya Ngwaari, Kisuundi kya Nkeleke. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Many also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. 90% of adults speak Kituba. Some also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 24:43.
- Teke-Eboo** [ebo] (Aboo, Bamboma, Boma, Boo, Boõ, Central Teke, Eboo Teke, Eboom, Iboo, Ityoo, Teke-Boma, Téké des Plateaux). *Users*: 20,400 in Congo (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Location*: Plateaux department: Lefini river east to Congo river, north to Engankou and west to Allion. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.74). *Dialects*: None known. Eboo is the language of the ancient Teke kings. Teke-Eboo [[ebo](#)], Teke-Nzikou [[nzu](#)], and Teke-Fuumu [[ifm](#)] are reportedly similar enough to easily share the same literature. Lexical similarity: 63% with Iyaa, 69% with Laali [[lli](#)], 75% with Tsaayi [[tyi](#)], 85% with Tyeë [[tyx](#)], 86% with Kukuya [[kkw](#)], 89% with Ngungwel [[ngz](#)], 79% with Teke-Tege [[teg](#)]. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Small scale adult literacy program run by local group with SIL. Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2004–2009. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Teke-Nzikou [[nzu](#)] and Teke-Eboo use the same literacy materials. A hybrid of the dialects is emerging among young people. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:30. *Worldwide*: Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of

the Congo (Eboo Teke).

Teke-Ibali [tek] (Bali, Eastern Teke, Ibali, Kiteke). *Users*: 36,200 in Congo (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Location*: Pool department: Brazzaville area, on Congo river. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.75). *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [lin]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1889–1905. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:45. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 203,200. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo (Ibali Teke).

Teke-Kukuya [kkw] (Chikuya, Cikuya, Kikukuya, Kikuwa, Kikuya, Koukouya, Kukua, Kukuya, Kukwa, Kukwa, Southern Teke). *Users*: 38,800 (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Location*: Plateaux department: Lekana district, east of Leketi river. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.77). *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 86% with Eboo [ebo], 85% with Tyee [tyx], 81% with Ngungwel [ngz], 80% with Tsaayi [tyi], 79% with Teke-Tege [teg], 75% with Laali [lli], 70% with Yaka [iyx]. *Lg Use*: Positive attitudes. Also use Lingala [lin]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1971–1979. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:32.

Teke-Laali [lli] (Ilaale, Ilaali, Laali, West Teke). *Users*: 2,100 (2006). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Location*: Lékoumou department: south of Komono. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.73). *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 81% with Tsaayi [tyi], 78% with Tyee [tyx]. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Also use Kituba [mkw]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:54.

Teke-Nzikou [nzu] (Central Teke, Ityoo, Ndzindziu, Njiunjiu, Njyunjyu, Téké des Plateaux). *Location*: Plateaux department: Djambala area; Pool department. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.74). *Dialects*: A hybrid of the dialects is emerging among young people. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Also use Lingala [lin]. *Lg Dev*: Small scale adult literacy program run by local group and SIL. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Teke-Nzikou and Teke-Eboo [ebo] can be considered dialects of the same language, though there is no group name, apart from Teke. Both dialects use the same literacy materials. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:31.

Teke-Tege [teg] (Iteghe, Keteghe, Northern Teke, Teghe, Teke Alima, Teke Kali). *Users*: 49,300 in Congo (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Location*: Cuvette-Ouest department: Ewo and Okoyo districts; Plateaux department: Abala district, west of Mpama river. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.71). *Dialects*: Kateghe (Nzikini), Keteghe. *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). Used as L2 by Mbosi [mdw]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:21. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 139,300. Also indigenous in: Gabon.

- Teke-Tsaayi** [tyi] (Getsaayi, Tsaayi, Tsaya, Tsaye, Tsayi, West Teke). *Users*: 95,900 (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Location*: Lékoumou department: east of Mossendjo; Pool department: Kindema district. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.73). *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 76% with Tyeé [tyx], 80% with Kukuya [kkw]. *Lg Use*: Also use Kituba [mkw]. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:41.
- Teke-Tyeé** [tyx] (Etyee, Etyeghe, Kwe, Tee, Teke du sud-ouest, Tyeé, West Teke, Etyεε). *Users*: 14,400. 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Location*: Bouenza, Lékoumou, and Pool departments: between Kitembe and Makaka. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.73). *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 85% with Kukuya [kkw] and Eboo [ebo]. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Kituba [mkw]. *Lg Dev*: Texts. Bible portions: 2010–2014. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:42.
- Teke-Wuumu** [ifm] (Fumu, Fuumu, Kiteke, South Central Teke, Teke du Pool, Teke-Fuumu). Autonym: Ifumu. *Users*: 14,000 (2021 Joshua Project). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Location*: Plateaux department: south and west of Lefini river (Wuumu dialect); Pool department: north of Brazzaville (Fuumu dialect). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.77). *Dialects*: Fuumu (Fumu, Ifuumu, Mfumu), Wuumu (Iwuumu, Wumbu, Wuumu-Mpuono). Speakers of Fuumu dialect shifting to Laari [ldi]. Teke-Eboo [ebo], Teke-Nzikou [nzu], and Teke-Wuumu [ifm] are reportedly similar enough to easily share the same literature. *Lg Use*: Also use Laari [ldi]. Also use Lingala [lin]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:44.
- Tsaangi** [tsa] (Icaangi, Itsangi, Tcengui, Tchanguï, Tsangi, Tsengi). *Users*: 23,000 in Congo (2018). *Location*: Lékoumou department; Niari department: north and northwest of Mossendjo. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Nzebi (B.53). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Kituba [mkw]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 24:39. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 31,610. Also indigenous in: Gabon.
- Vili** [vif] (Bavili, Fiot, Fiote, Tshivili, Tsivili). Autonym: Civili. *Users*: 13,000 in Congo (2018). *Location*: Kouilou and Pointe-Noire departments: coast between Angola and Gabon borders, Yoombe Island; Niari department. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.12). *Dialects*: Civili ci Loango, Civili ci Moongo, Civili ci Yombe, Civili ci Waanda, Kotchi, Lindji, Woyo. A dialect subgroup. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Kituba [mkw]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. NT: 2019. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 24:57. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,690. Also

indigenous in: Gabon.

Wumbvu [wum] (Aka, Baaka, Babinga, Bambendjele, Bambenga, Beka, Biaka, Pygmy, Wumvu).

Users: 10,600 in Congo (2018). *Location:* Niari department: north to Gabon border. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Kele (B.24). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Map:* 24:36. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 28,900. Also indigenous in: Gabon.

Yaka [iyx] (Iyaa, Iyaka, West Teke, Yaa). *Users:* 36,000 (2018). *Location:* Lékoumou department:

Sibiti district. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.73). *Dialects:* None known. Lexical similarity: 91% with Laali [lli], 74% with Tsaayi [tyi], 69% with Tye [tyx]. *Lg Use:* Also use Kituba [mkw]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Bible portions: 1933. *DLS:* Emerging (0.01). *Writing:* Latin script, no longer in use. *Map:* 24:53.

Yombe [yom] (Bayombe, Kiombi, Kiyombe, Kiyoombi). Autonym: Kiyombe. *Users:* 26,000 in

Congo (Mabiala 1996). *Location:* Kouilou and Niari departments. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.16). *Dialects:* Mbala (Mumbala), Vungunya (Kivungunya, Yombe Classique). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Kituba [mkw]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. NT: 2005. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Distinct enough from Vili [vif] to need separate literature. Christian, traditional religion. *Map:* 24:58. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 734,400. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kiyombe).

Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Congo 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

Kituba [[mkw](#)] *Users:* 1,750,000 (2018). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). Statutory language of national identity (2002, Constitution, Article 6), recognized as lingua franca.

100,000 to 999,999

Suundi [[sdj](#)] *Users:* 216,000 (2018). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Lingala [[lin](#)] *Users:* 213,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). Statutory language of national identity (2002, Constitution, Article 6), generally northern. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 40,277,800 (as L1: 20,259,660; as L2: 20,018,140).

Mbosi [[mdw](#)] *Users:* 190,000 (2018). Ethnic population: 707,000 (2019). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Laari [[ldi](#)] *Users:* 159,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Ngbaka Ma'bo [[nbn](#)] *Users:* 159,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 258,000.

Kunyi [[njx](#)] *Users:* 137,000 (2018). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Sango [[sag](#)] *Users:* 117,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,217,000 (as L1: 617,000; as L2: 4,600,000).

Bobangi [[bni](#)] *Users:* 106,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 164,340.

Mbere [[mdt](#)] *Users:* 106,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 151,500.

Beembe [[beq](#)] *Users:* 100,000 (2007 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

10,000 to 99,999

Teke-Tsaayi [[tyi](#)] *Users:* 95,900 (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened).

Likwala [[kwc](#)] *Users:* 79,000 (2018). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Likuba [[kxx](#)] *Users:* 53,000 (2018). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Kaamba [[xku](#)] *Users:* 51,400 (2007 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Teke-Tege [[teg](#)] *Users:* 49,300 in Congo (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 139,300.

Bomwali [[bmw](#)] *Users:* 49,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 55,100.

Mboko [[mdu](#)] *Users:* 47,000 (2018). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Ngungwel [[ngz](#)] *Users:* 45,000 (1988 SIL). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Akwa [[akw](#)] *Users:* 42,000 (2018). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened).

Teke-Kukuya [[kkw](#)] *Users:* 38,800 (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Teke-Ibali [[tek](#)] *Users:* 36,200 in Congo (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 203,200.

Yaka [[iyx](#)] *Users:* 36,000 (2018). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Doondo [[dde](#)] *Users:* 30,000 (2007 census). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Congolese ASL [[ase](#)] *Users:* 27,000 in Congo (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 16,000–32,000, based on 0.3%–0.6% of total population. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 989,605 (as L1: 858,605; as L2: 131,000).

Yombe [[yom](#)] *Users:* 26,000 in Congo (Mabiala 1996). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 734,400.

Njebi [[nzb](#)] *Users:* 23,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 143,000.

Ombamba [[mbm](#)] *Users:* 23,000 (2018). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Tsaangi [[tsa](#)] *Users:* 23,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 31,610.

Teke-Eboo [[ebo](#)] *Users:* 20,400 in Congo (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Bomitaba [[zmx](#)] *Users:* 16,500 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 16,720.

Koongo [[kng](#)] *Users:* 16,500 in Congo (2007 census). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,316,500 (as L1: 6,316,500; as L2: 5,000,000).

Kota [[koq](#)] *Users:* 16,500 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 41,500.

Punu [[puu](#)] *Users:* 16,500 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 168,500.

Aka [[axk](#)] *Users:* 15,000 in Congo (Cavalli-Sforza 1986). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:*

Total users in all countries: 30,000.

Teke-Tyee [[tyx](#)] *Users:* 14,400. 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Bekwel [[bkw](#)] *Users:* 14,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 19,700.

Mbandja [[zmz](#)] *Users:* 14,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 367,400.

Monzombo [[moj](#)] *Users:* 14,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 20,600.

Teke-Wuumu [[ifm](#)] *Users:* 14,000 (2021 Joshua Project). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened).

Kako [[kkj](#)] *Users:* 13,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 123,400.

Vili [[vif](#)] *Users:* 13,000 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 16,690.

Bwisi [[bwz](#)] *Users:* 12,000 in Congo (2022 T. Hunter), increasing. Ethnic population: 12,000 (2022 T. Hunter). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,230.

Fang [[fan](#)] *Users:* 11,800 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,096,800 (as L1: 1,061,800; as L2: 35,000).

Bongili [[bui](#)] *Users:* 11,600 (2018). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

French [[fra](#)] *Users:* 11,100 in Congo (2022). 3,521,100 in Congo, all users. L2 users: 3,510,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2002, Constitution, Article 6). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Hausa [[hau](#)] *Users:* 10,700 in Congo (2018). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,520,580 (as L1: 51,744,560; as L2: 26,776,020).

Wumbvu [[wum](#)] *Users:* 10,600 in Congo (2018). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 28,900.

1,000 to 9,999

Pomo [[pmm](#)] *Users:* 5,430 in Congo (2000). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 44,130.

Ndasa [[nda](#)] *Users:* 4,530 in Congo (2000). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,530.

Ngom [[nra](#)] *Users:* 4,530 in Congo (2000). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all

countries: 12,770.

Dibole [bvx] *Users:* 4,000 (Leitch 2004). 800 monolinguals (Leitch 2004). Ethnic population: 4,000. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Ngbaka [nga] *Users:* 3,650 in Congo (2000). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,016,650.

Njyem [njy] *Users:* 3,500 in Congo. 2,980 monolinguals. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,900.

Lumbu [lup] *Users:* 3,020 in Congo (2000). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 22,720.

Moi [mow] *Users:* 3,020 (2000). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Bonjo [bok] *Users:* 3,000. *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

Ngundi [ndn] *Users:* 3,000 in Congo (2004). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Teke-Laali [lli] *Users:* 2,100 (2006). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Gbaya [gya] *Users:* 2,000 in Congo (Johnstone 1993). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 267,000.

Mbangwe [zmn] *Users:* 1,510 in Congo (2000). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,510.

Koyo [koh] *Users:* 1,000. *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Unknown

Mpyemo [mcx] *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 29,000.

Teke-Nzikou [nzu] *Status:* 6b (Threatened).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Congo 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*: 3,521,100 in Congo, all users. L1 users: 11,100 in Congo (2022). L2 users: 3,510,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status*: Statutory national language (2002, Constitution, Article 6). *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)

Kituba [[mkw](#)] *Users*: 1,750,000 (2018). *Status*: Statutory language of national identity (2002, Constitution, Article 6), recognized as lingua franca. Established in large towns during colonial period between 1885 and 1960. Used throughout the south in churches, the market, and media. *Lg Use*: Main language of the south and one of the 2 national languages. Also use French [[fra](#)]. Used as L2 by Beembe [[beq](#)], Bwisi [[bwz](#)], Doondo [[dde](#)], Kaamba [[xku](#)], Kunyi [[njx](#)], Laari [[ldi](#)], Lumbu [[lup](#)], Punu [[puu](#)], Suundi [[sdj](#)], Teke-Laali [[lli](#)], Teke-Tsaayi [[tyi](#)], Teke-Tyee [[tyx](#)], Tsaangi [[tsa](#)], Vili [[vif](#)], Yaka [[iyx](#)], Yombe [[yom](#)]. *Lg Dev*: NT: 2005. *Writing*: Latin script.

Lingala [[lin](#)] *Users*: 213,000 in Congo (2018). *Status*: Statutory language of national identity (2002, Constitution, Article 6), generally northern. Lingala is used throughout the area north of Brazzaville in the churches, the market and the media (2014 SIL). *Lg Use*: Also use French [[fra](#)]. Used as L2 by Akwa [[akw](#)], Bekwel [[bkw](#)], Bobangi [[bni](#)], Bomitaba [[zmx](#)], Bongili [[bui](#)], Bonjo [[bok](#)], Dibole [[bvx](#)], Fang [[fan](#)], Gbaya [[gya](#)], Kako [[kkj](#)], Kota [[koq](#)], Koyo [[koh](#)], Likuba [[kxx](#)], Likwala [[kwc](#)], Mbandja [[zmx](#)], Mbere [[mdt](#)], Mboko [[mdu](#)], Mbosi [[mdw](#)], Moi [[mow](#)], Monzombo [[moj](#)], Mpyemo [[mcx](#)], Ngbaka [[nga](#)], Ngbaka Ma'bo [[nbm](#)], Ngom [[nra](#)], Ngundi [[ndn](#)], Ngungwel [[ngz](#)], Njyem [[njy](#)], Pomo [[pmm](#)], Suundi [[sdj](#)], Teke-Eboo [[ebo](#)], Teke-Ibali [[tek](#)], Teke-Kukuya [[kkw](#)], Teke-Nzikou [[nzu](#)], Teke-Tege [[teg](#)], Teke-Wuumu [[ifm](#)]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,277,800 (as L1: 20,259,660; as L2: 20,018,140).

5 (Developing)

Aka [[axk](#)] *Users*: 15,000 in Congo (Cavalli-Sforza 1986). *Lg Use*: As speakers come out of the confines of the forest, there is language loss in favor of Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 30,000.

- Beembe** [beq] *Users:* 100,000 (2007 census). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Kituba [mkw]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2014. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Bobangi** [bni] *Users:* 106,000 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin]. *Writing:* Latin script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 164,340.
- Bongili** [bui] *Users:* 11,600 (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev:* NT: 1947. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Congolese ASL** [ase] *Users:* 27,000 in Congo (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 16,000–32,000, based on 0.3%–0.6% of total population. *Lg Use:* Used by all. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 989,605 (as L1: 858,605; as L2: 131,000).
- Gbaya** [gya] *Users:* 2,000 in Congo (Johnstone 1993). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 267,000.
- Kako** [kkj] *Users:* 13,000 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Writing:* Latin script, used in Cameroon. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 123,400.
- Laari** [ldi] *Users:* 159,000 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use:* Laari has become an informal trade language among youth in Brazzaville, spoken by many non-ethnic Laari in the city (2014 SIL). Used by all. Also use Kituba [mkw]. Used as L2 by Teke-Wuumu [ifm]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2009. *Writing:* Latin script.
- Mbandja** [zmq] *Users:* 14,000 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 367,400.
- Ngbaka** [nga] *Users:* 3,650 in Congo (2000). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,016,650.
- Ngbaka Ma'bo** [nbm] *Users:* 159,000 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin]. *Writing:* Latin script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 258,000.
- Njebi** [nzb] *Users:* 23,000 in Congo (2018). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 143,000.
- Njyem** [njy] *Users:* 3,500 in Congo. 2,980 monolinguals. *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra]. Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,900.
- Punu** [puu] *Users:* 16,500 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Kituba [mkw]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 168,500.

5 (Dispersed)

- Fang** [fan] *Users:* 11,800 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Writing:* Latin script, used since 1995. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,096,800 (as L1: 1,061,800; as L2: 35,000).
- Koongo** [kng] *Users:* 16,500 in Congo (2007 census). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total

users in all countries: 11,316,500 (as L1: 6,316,500; as L2: 5,000,000).

6a (Vigorous)

Bekwel [bkw] *Users:* 14,000 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Bible portions: 2014. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 19,700.

Bomwali [bmw] *Users:* 49,000 in Congo (2018). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 55,100.

Bwisi [bwz] *Users:* 12,000 in Congo (2022 T. Hunter), increasing. Ethnic population: 12,000 (2022 T. Hunter). *Lg Use:* Used by all. All also use Kituba [mkw]. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,230.

Dibole [bvz] *Users:* 4,000 (Leitch 2004). 800 monolinguals (Leitch 2004). Ethnic population: 4,000. *Lg Use:* All domains (Leitch 2004). Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use French [fra]. Also use Lingala [lin], especially with non-Babole. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. *Writing:* Latin script.

Doondo [dde] *Users:* 30,000 (2007 census). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use Kituba [mkw]. *Lg Dev:* Bible portions: 2014. *Writing:* Latin script.

Kota [koq] *Users:* 16,500 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 41,500.

Kunyi [njx] *Users:* 137,000 (2018). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Most also use Kituba [mkw].

Likuba [kxx] *Users:* 53,000 (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin]. *Lg Dev:* Bible portions: 1916. *Writing:* Latin script, no longer in use.

Likwala [kwc] *Users:* 79,000 (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Lumbu [lup] *Users:* 3,020 in Congo (2000). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Most also use Kituba [mkw]. 90% of adults speak Kituba also. *Writing:* Latin script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 22,720.

Mbere [mdt] *Users:* 106,000 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 151,500.

Mboko [mdu] *Users:* 47,000 (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005).

Mpyemo [mcx] *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 29,000.

Ndasa [nda] *Users:* 4,530 in Congo (2000). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,530.

Ngom [nra] *Users:* 4,530 in Congo (2000). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [lin] (Leitch 2005). *Writing:* Latin script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 12,770.

Ngungwel [ngz] *Users:* 45,000 (1988 SIL). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use

Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 2014. *Writing*: Latin script, used since 2012.

Ombamba [[mbm](#)] *Users*: 23,000 (2018). *Writing*: Unwritten.

Pomo [[pmm](#)] *Users*: 5,430 in Congo (2000). *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Leitch 2005). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 44,130.

Suundi [[sdj](#)] *Users*: 216,000 (2018). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Many also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. 90% of adults speak Kituba. Some also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Teke-Kukuya [[kkw](#)] *Users*: 38,800 (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Lg Use*: Positive attitudes. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1971–1979. *Writing*: Latin script.

Teke-Tege [[teg](#)] *Users*: 49,300 in Congo (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Leitch 2005). Used as L2 by Mbosi [[mdw](#)]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 139,300.

Teke-Tyee [[tyx](#)] *Users*: 14,400. 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Texts. Bible portions: 2010–2014. *Writing*: Latin script.

Tsaangi [[tsa](#)] *Users*: 23,000 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 31,610.

Vili [[vif](#)] *Users*: 13,000 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. NT: 2019. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,690.

Wumbvu [[wum](#)] *Users*: 10,600 in Congo (2018). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 28,900.

Yaka [[iyx](#)] *Users*: 36,000 (2018). *Lg Use*: Also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Bible portions: 1933. *Writing*: Latin script, no longer in use.

6b (Threatened)

Akwa [[akw](#)] *Users*: 42,000 (2018). *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev*: Grammar.

Bomitaba [[zmx](#)] *Users*: 16,500 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use*: Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Gardner 2006). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,720.

Kaamba [[xku](#)] *Users*: 51,400 (2007 census). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Many also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. 90% of adults speak Kituba. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Koyo [[koh](#)] *Users*: 1,000. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Leitch 2005). *Lg Dev*: Texts.

Mbangwe [[zmn](#)] *Users*: 1,510 in Congo (2000). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,510.

Mbosi [[mdw](#)] *Users:* 190,000 (2018). *Ethnic population:* 707,000 (2019). *Lg Use:* Primarily oral use. French [[fra](#)] is used for reading and writing. All domains. Some young people, all adults. Few younger users. Positive attitudes. Also use French [[fra](#)]. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. Also use Teke-Tege [[teg](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Latin script.

Moi [[mow](#)] *Users:* 3,020 (2000). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Monzombo [[moj](#)] *Users:* 14,000 in Congo (2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 20,600.

Ngundi [[ndn](#)] *Users:* 3,000 in Congo (2004). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)] (Leitch 2005). *Writing:* Unwritten.

Teke-Eboo [[ebo](#)] *Users:* 20,400 in Congo (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2004–2009. *Writing:* Latin script.

Teke-Ibali [[tek](#)] *Users:* 36,200 in Congo (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Lg Use:* Also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 203,200.

Teke-Laali [[lli](#)] *Users:* 2,100 (2006). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. *Writing:* Latin script.

Teke-Nzikou [[nzu](#)] *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Writing:* Latin script.

Teke-Tsaayi [[tyi](#)] *Users:* 95,900 (2000). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Lg Use:* Also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. *Writing:* Latin script.

Teke-Wuumu [[ifm](#)] *Users:* 14,000 (2021 Joshua Project). 900,000 all Teke languages in Congo (2019 World Factbook). *Lg Use:* Also use Laari [[ldi](#)]. Also use Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Latin script.

Yombe [[yom](#)] *Users:* 26,000 in Congo (Mabiala 1996). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. Also use Kituba [[mkw](#)]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 734,400.

7 (Shifting)

Bonjo [[bok](#)] *Users:* 3,000. *Lg Use:* Shifting to Lingala [[lin](#)]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Unestablished

Hausa [[hau](#)] *Users:* 10,700 in Congo (2018). *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).

Sango [[sag](#)] *Users:* 117,000 in Congo (2018). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,217,000 (as L1: 617,000; as L2: 4,600,000).

Languages by Department

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

Bouenza

Beembe [beq], 11
 Doondo [dde], 13
 Kaamba [xku], 14
 Kunyi [njx], 15
 Laari [ldi], 15
 Lumbu [lup], 16
 Suundi [sdj], 20
 Teke-Tyee [tyx], 22

Brazzaville

Lingala [lin], 16

Cuvette

Aka [axk], 11
 Akwa [akw], 11
 Bobangi [bni], 11
 Bongili [bui], 12
 Dibole [bvx], 13
 Koyo [koh], 15
 Likuba [kxx], 16
 Likwala [kwc], 16
 Mboko [mdu], 17
 Mbosi [mdw], 17
 Moi [mow], 17
 Teke-Tege [teg], 21

Cuvette-Ouest

Akwa [akw], 11
 Kota [koq], 15
 Koyo [koh], 15
 Mbere [mdt], 17
 Mbosi [mdw], 17
 Ngom [nra], 19
 Teke-Tege [teg], 21

Kouilou

Kunyi [njx], 15
 Lumbu [lup], 16

Vili [vif], 22

Yombe [yom], 23

Lékoumou

Kaamba [xku], 14
 Mbangwe [zmn], 17
 Ndasa [nda], 18
 Ombamba [mbm], 19
 Teke-Laali [lli], 21
 Teke-Tsaayi [tyi], 22
 Teke-Tyee [tyx], 22
 Tsaangi [tsa], 22
 Yaka [iyx], 23

Likouala

Aka [axk], 11
 Bobangi [bni], 11
 Bomitaba [zmx], 12
 Bongili [bui], 12
 Bonjo [bok], 12
 Dibole [bvx], 13
 Gbaya [gya], 14
 Kako [kkj], 14
 Mbandja [zmz], 17
 Monzombo [moj], 18
 Ngbaka [nga], 18
 Ngbaka Ma'bo [nbm], 18

Niari

Bwisi [bwz], 12
 Kunyi [njx], 15
 Lumbu [lup], 16
 Njebi [nzb], 19
 Punu [puu], 20
 Suundi [sdj], 20
 Tsaangi [tsa], 22
 Vili [vif], 22
 Wumbvu [wum], 23

Yombe [yom], 23

Plateaux

Likuba [kxx], 16

Mbosi [mdw], 17

Moi [mow], 17

Ngungwel [ngz], 19

Teke-Eboo [ebo], 20

Teke-Kukuya [kkw], 21

Teke-Nzikou [nzu], 21

Teke-Tege [teg], 21

Teke-Wuumu [ifm], 22

Pointe-Noire

Vili [vif], 22

Pool

Beembe [beq], 11

Doondo [dde], 13

Koongo [kng], 15

Laari [ldi], 15

Lingala [lin], 16

Suundi [sdj], 20

Teke-Ibali [tek], 21

Teke-Nzikou [nzu], 21

Teke-Tsaayi [tyi], 22

Teke-Tyee [tyx], 22

Teke-Wuumu [ifm], 22

Sangha

Aka [axk], 11

Bekwel [bkw], 11

Bomwali [bmw], 12

Bongili [bui], 12

Fang [fan], 13

Gbaya [gya], 14

Kota [koq], 15

Mboko [mdu], 17

Mpyemo [mcx], 18

Ngundi [ndn], 19

Njyem [njy], 19

Pomo [pmm], 20

Languages by Family

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

Creole, Kongo based

Kituba [mkw], [14](#)

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

French [fra], [13](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.11)

Beembe [beq], [11](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.112)

Doondo [dde], [13](#)

Kaamba [xku], [14](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.12)

Vili [vif], [22](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.13)

Kunyi [njx], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.131)

Suundi [sdj], [20](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, H, Kikongo (H.16)

Kiyombe [yom], [23](#)

Koongo [kng], [15](#)

Laari [ldi], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Ewondo-Fang (A.75)

Fang [fan], [13](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Kaka (A.92)

Pol [pmm], [20](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Kaka (A.93)

Kako [kkj], [14](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Makaa-Njem (A.84)

Njyem [njy], [19](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Makaa-Njem (A.85)

Bekwel [bkw], [11](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Makaa-Njem (A.86)

Mpiemo [mcx], [18](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, A, Makaa-Njem (A.87)

Bomwali [bmw], [12](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Kele (B.201)

Ndasa [nda], [18](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Kele (B.22)

Ngom [nra], [19](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Kele (B.23)

Mbangwe [zmn], [17](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Kele (B.24)

Wumbvu [wum], [23](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Kele (B.25)

Kota [koq], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Mbete (B.61)

Mbere [mdt], [17](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Mbete (B.62)

Ombamba [mbm], [19](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, B, Nzebi (B.52)

Njebi [nzb], [19](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow

Bantu, Northwest, B, Nzebi (B.53)

Tsaangi [tsa], 22

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Northwest, B, Shira-Punu (B.401)**

Bwisi [bwz], 12

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Northwest, B, Shira-Punu (B.43)**

Punu [puu], 20

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Northwest, B, Shira-Punu (B.44)**

Lumbu [lup], 16

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.71)**

Teke-Tege [teg], 21

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.72)**

Ngungwel [ngz], 19

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.73)**

Teke-Laali [lli], 21

Teke-Tsaayi [tyi], 22

Teke-Tyee [tyx], 22

Yaka [iyx], 23

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.74)**

Teke-Eboo [ebo], 20

Teke-Nzikou [nzu], 21

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.75)**

Teke, Ibali [tek], 21

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Northwest, B, Teke (B.77)**

Teke-Kukuya [kkw], 21

Teke-Wuumu [ifm], 22

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Northwest, C, Bangi-Ntomba (C.30)**

Lingala [lin], 16

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Northwest, C, Bangi-Ntomba (C.32)**

Bangi [bni], 11

Moi [mow], [17](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.21)

Mboko [mdu], [17](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.22)

Akwa [akw], [11](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.24)

Koyo [koh], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.25)

Mbosi [mdw], [17](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.26)

Likwala [kwc], [16](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Mboshi (C.27)

Likuba [kxx], [16](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.101)

Dibole [bvx], [13](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.104)

Yaka [axk], [11](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.11)

Ngondi [ndn], [19](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.14)

Bomitaba [zmx], [12](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.143)

Bonjo [bok], [12](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Ngondi (C.15)

Bongili [bui], [12](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Adamawa-Ubangi, Ubangi, Banda, Southern

Mbandja [zmz], [17](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Adamawa-Ubangi, Ubangi, Gbaya-Manza-Ngbaka, East

Ngbaka [nga], [18](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Adamawa-Ubangi, Ubangi, Gbaya-Manza-Ngbaka, Northwest

Gbaya, Northwest [gya], [14](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Adamawa-Ubangi, Ubangi, Sere-Ngbaka-Mba, Ngbaka-Mba, Ngbaka, Western, Bwaka

Ngbaka Ma'bo [nbm], [18](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, North, Adamawa-Ubangi, Ubangi, Sere-Ngbaka-Mba, Ngbaka-Mba, Ngbaka, Western, Monzombo

Monzombo [moj], [18](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

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

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 64 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/>.

akw	Akwa, 11	mdt	Mbere, 17
ase	American Sign Language, 12	mdu	Mboko, 17
axk	Yaka (Central African Republic), 11	mdw	Mbosi, 17
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This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

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