

Ethnologue: Languages of Gambia

Twenty-sixth edition data

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

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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)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
LGA	Local Government Area
LWC	language of wider communication
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
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
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 Gambia 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 22 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Gambia. 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 18) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 20) 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 Local Government Authority (LGA)” (page 24) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Gambia and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 25) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 26) 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 27) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 60 unique

names are associated with the 22 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 29). 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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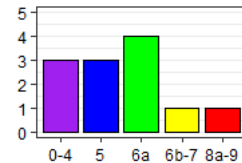
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Country Overview

Name of country	Gambia
Other names	Republic of The Gambia
Population	2,413,000 (2022 World Factbook)
Principal language	English
Literacy rate	56% (2015 World Factbook)
International conventions	ACHPR (1983), CPPDCE (2011), CSICH (2011), ICCPR (1979), UNCRPD (2015)
General references	Bendor-Samuel and Hartell 1989, Vanderaa 1991

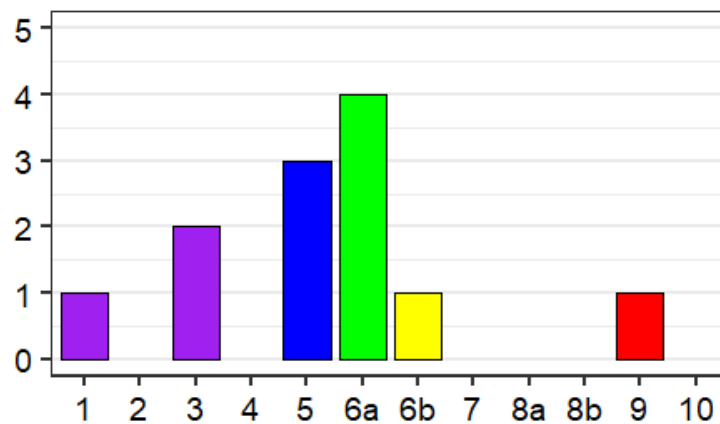
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Gambia is 12. All are living languages. Of these, 7 are indigenous and 5 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 3 are institutional, 3 are developing, 4 are vigorous, 1 is in trouble, and 1 is dying. Also listed are 10 unestablished languages.</p>
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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 Gambia 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 20) 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 Gambia. 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 Gambia 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 Gambia 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 18) 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	8.3	8.3%	1,000,000	45.49591	45.49591%
100,000 to 999,999	4	33.3	41.7%	1,081,000	49.18107	94.67698%
10,000 to 99,999	2	16.7	58.3%	103,700	4.71793	99.39490%
1,000 to 9,999	4	33.3	91.7%	13,300	0.60510	100.00000%
0	1	8.3	100.0%		0.00000	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	12	100.0		2,198,000	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Gambia 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 20) 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 Gambia. 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	8.3	8.3%	2,300	0.1046	0.1046%	2,300	2,300
3	2	16.7	25.0%	1,362,000	61.9654	62.0701%	681,000	681,000
5	3	25.0	50.0%	585,000	26.6151	88.6852%	195,000	150,000
6a	4	33.3	83.3%	243,700	11.0874	99.7725%	60,925	51,850
6b	1	8.3	91.7%	5,000	0.2275	100.0000%	5,000	5,000
9	1	8.3	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	12	100.0		2,198,000	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) 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	2	16.7	3,300	0.2	1,650	1,650
Mixed language	1	8.3		0.0		
Niger-Congo	9	75.0	2,194,700	99.8	243,856	135,000

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
<i>Totals</i>	12	100.0	2,198,000	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Levantine [apc]. *Users*: 3,700 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity.

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, Burundi, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, French Guiana, 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.

Bambara [bam]. Autonym: Bamanankan. *Users*: 10,100 in Gambia (2022). *Status*: Unestablished.

Class: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-East, Northeastern Manding, Bamana. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; passives; tense; causatives; 21 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; tonal (2 tones: high, low). *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1961–1987. *Writing*: Latin script. N’Ko script, used in Mali. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,181,650 (as L1: 4,179,190; as L2: 10,002,460). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Côte d’Ivoire, Mali (Bamanankan). Also established in: Senegal. Unestablished in: Canada (Bamanankan), Mauritania, Niger (Bamanankan).

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 69,900 in Gambia, all users. L1 users: 2,300 in Gambia (2022). L2 users: 67,600 (2022). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). De facto national language.

Class: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Use*: Education, governmental operations, and business with international relations. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in all tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer

in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

French [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 513,000 in Gambia, all users. L1 users: 1,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. L2 users: 512,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Location*: Banjul and Brikama LGAs; urban areas. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *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 as subject in a few secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland. Also established in 95 other countries and unestablished in 24 more.

Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov]. Autonym: Kiriol. *Users*: 25,100 in Gambia (2022). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Creole, Portuguese based. *Lg Use*: Most also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1999. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,892,300 (as L1: 344,300; as L2: 1,548,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau. Also established in: Portugal, Senegal (Casamance Creole). Unestablished in: Netherlands.

Hassaniyya [mey]. *Users*: 38,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script, in development. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,189,980. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Algeria (Hassaniyya Arabic), Mali (Hasanya Arabic), Mauritania, Western Sahara (Hassaniyya Arabic). Also established in: Morocco (Hassaniyya Arabic), Niger (Hassaniyya Arabic), Senegal. Unestablished in: Libya (Hassaniyya Arabic), United States.

Hausa [hau]. Autonym: Hausa. *Users*: 13,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *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, Congo, Gabon, Togo, United Kingdom.

Jola-Fonyi [dyo] (Diola-Fogny, Jola, Jola-Fogny, Jóola fòoñi, Kujamataak, Kújoolaak Kati Fooñi, Yola). Autonym: Jóola fòoñi. *Users:* 135,000 in Gambia (2022). *Location:* West Coast division: southwest. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Jola Central, Jola-Fonyi. *Lg Use:* The largest and most widely understood Jola variety. Used by all. Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). Used as L2 by Karon [krx]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2012. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other:* Muslim, Christian, traditional religion. *Map:* 17:11. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 475,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Senegal.

Karon [krx] (Kaloon, Karone, Karoninka, Kulonay). Autonym: Kuloonaay. *Users:* 5,000 in Gambia (2022), increasing. No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 60,000. *Location:* West Coast division: south coast, from Senegal border north to Brikama. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Karon-Mlomp. *Lg Use:* Strong desire to preserve language and culture. Home, cultural events, local market. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo]. Also use Mandinka [mnk]. Also use Wolof [wol]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Grammar. Bible portions: 2016–2019. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Most live among other ethnic groups in villages where they form a minority group, except Darsilami village on the border, where they form a large percentage. Gambian Karons maintain strong links with the ‘heartland’—Karon islands in south Senegal. *Map:* 17:13. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 16,600. Indigenous in: Senegal.

Krio [kri]. Autonym: Krio. *Users:* 19,000 in Gambia (2022). *Location:* Banjul region. *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Creole, English based, Atlantic, Krio. *Dialect:* Aku. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2013. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 8,242,250 (as L1: 821,430; as L2: 7,420,820). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Sierra Leone. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Guinea, Senegal, United Kingdom, United States.

Mandinka [mnk] (Manding, Mandingo, Mandingue, Mandé, Socé). Autonym: Mandi'nka kango. *Users:* 1,000,000 in Gambia (2022). *Location:* Widespread. *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). The secondary LWC of commerce and the media, after Wolof [wof] (Biel 2014). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-West. *Lg Use:* Main language of middle Gambia. Home, religion, and local business. Positive attitudes. Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the

language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Used as L2 by Bambara [bam], Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov], Jola-Fonyi [dyo], Karon [krx], Mandjak [mfv], Pulaar [fuc], Serahule [snk], Serer-Sine [srr], Western Maninkakan [mlq]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%. About 50% in Mandinka in Arabic script. People read newspapers but not books. Literature. Periodicals. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 2013. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 17:17. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,114,000. Also indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau, Senegal.

Mandjak [mfv] (Kanyop, Mandjaque, Mandyak, Manjaca, Manjack, Manjaco, Manjacu, Manjago, Manjiak, Manjáku, Ndyak). Autonym: Manjáku. *Users*: 43,400 in Gambia (2022). *Location*: West Coast division: south of Gambia river. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Manjaku-Papel. *Dialects*: Bok (Babok), Sarar, Teixeira Pinto, Tsaamo, Likes-Utsia (Baraa, Kalkus), Cur (Churo), Lund, Yu (Pecixe), Manjaaku. *Type*: Nominal prefixes, 2 plural forms; complex auxiliary verbs and aspect particles; verb suffixes; relative clauses functioning as adjectives, with nominal markers at beginning and end; pitch distinction on verbal and nominal forms; emphatic markers. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Most also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Lg Dev*: Radio. Videos. Grammar. NT: 2020. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 17:18. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 311,400. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau, Senegal.

Maninkakan, Western [mlq] (Malinka, Malinke, Northwestern Maninka). *Users*: 5,000 in Gambia (2022). *Location*: Upper River division. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-West. *Dialect*: Jahanka. *Lg Use*: Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Lg Dev*: Radio. Grammar. Bible portions: 1997–2003. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 17:32. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,068,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Mali, Senegal.

Mankanya [knf]. Autonym: Uhula. *Users*: 2,300 in Gambia (2022). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Manjaku-Papel. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2014. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 85,700. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau, Senegal.

Mansoanka [msw]. Autonym: Suwa. *Users*: 2,500 in Gambia (2022). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Sua. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Videos. Bible portions: 2013. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 21,100. Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Guinea-Bissau.

N’Ko [nqo]. *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Gambia. No ethnic community. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Mixed language. *Lg Dev*: N’Ko is both a script devised in 1949 as a writing system for the Mande languages, and the name of the literary language written in the script. Newspapers. Dictionary. *Writing*: N’Ko script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. A mixture of Mande languages: Bamanankan [bam], Eastern Maninkakan [emk], Jula [dyu], and Mandinka [mnk]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Indigenous in: Guinea. Also established in: Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone. Unestablished in: Mali.

Pulaar [fuc] (Fulani, Fulbe Jeeri, Fulfulde-Pulaar, Peul, Peulh, Pulaar Fulfulde). Autonym: Pulaar. *Users*: 434,000 in Gambia (2022). *Location*: Central River, Lower River, North Bank, and Upper River divisions. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Fula, Western. *Dialects*: Fulacunda (Fulakunda, Fulkunda), Toucouleur (Haalpulaar, Halpulaar, Tukolor, Tukolor). *Lg Use*: Fulbe Jeeri, Toucouleur, and Fulacunda are ethnic groups that speak Pulaar. Used by all. Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk]. *Lg Dev*: An official literacy committee is concerned with Pulaar. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1997. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Muslim, Christian. *Map*: 17:26. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,912,700. Also indigenous in: Guinea, Guinea-Bissau (Fula), Mali, Mauritania, Senegal.

Serahule [snk] (Sarakole, Sarakule, Sarakulle, Saraxuli, Soninke, Sooninkanxanne). Autonym: Sooninkanxanne. *Users*: 150,000 in Gambia (2022), increasing. *Location*: Southeast corner, mainly MacCarthy Island and Upper River divisions. 17 villages. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Northwestern, Soninke-Bobo, Soninke-Boso, Soninke. *Dialects*: Kinxenna, Kinbakka. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 2001–2012. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. The Soninke of The Gambia and those of southern Senegal, Kolda region, form one contiguous, cross-border language community. Muslim. *Maps*: 17:28, 17:28. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,251,700. Indigenous in: Guinea (Sarakolé), Mali (Soninke), Mauritania (Soninke), Senegal (Soninke). Also established in: Guinea-Bissau (Soninke). Unestablished in: Côte d’Ivoire (Soninke), United States (Soninke).

Serer-Sine [srr] (Seereer, Serer, Serer-Sin, Serrer, Sine-Saloum). Autonym: seereer. *Users*: 60,300 in Gambia (2022). *Location*: North Bank division: northwest. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Serer. *Dialects*: Segum, Fadyut-Palmerin, Sine, Dyegueme (Gyegem). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the

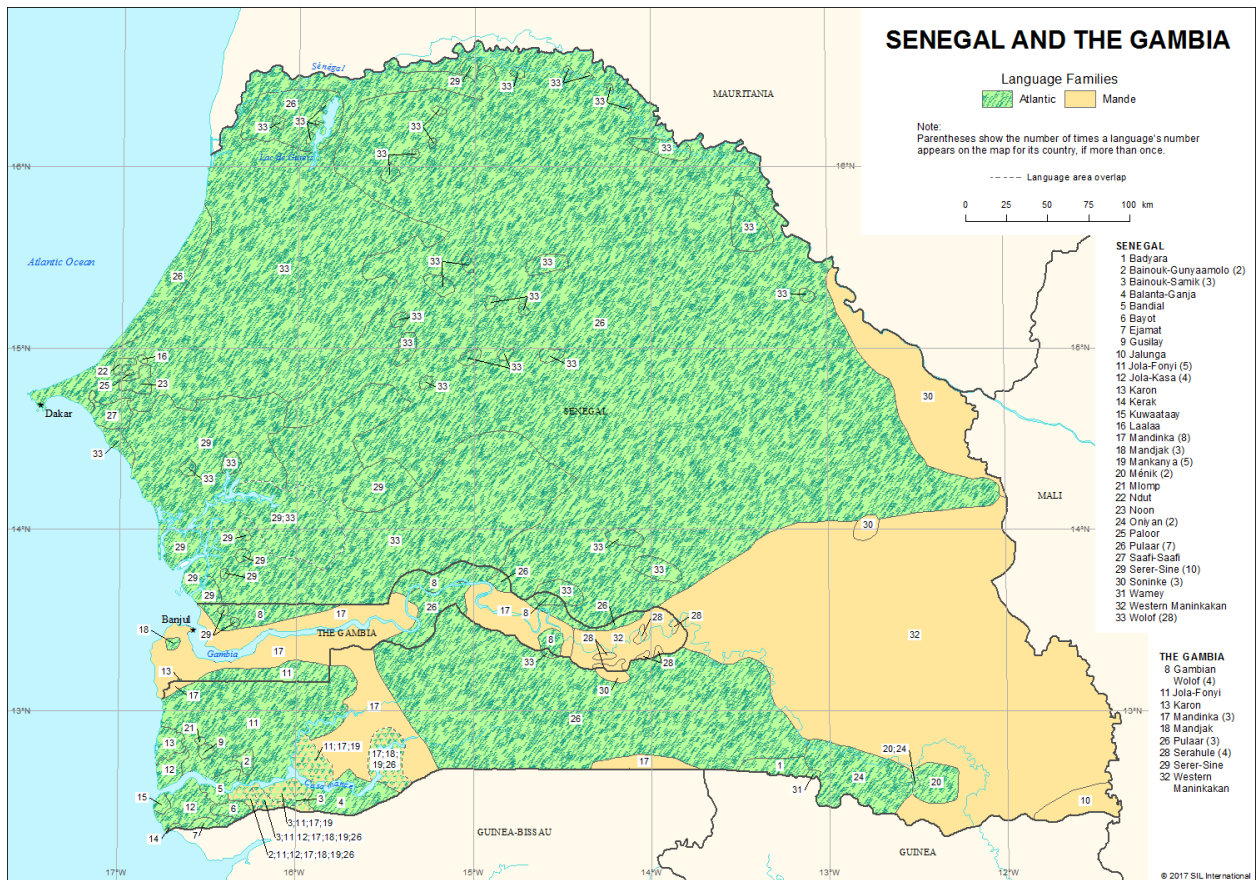
secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Lg Dev*: Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 17:29. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,720,300. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Senegal.

Wolof, Gambian [wof]. Autonym: Wolof. *Users*: 362,000 (2022). *Location*: North Bank division: Kombo north of Saint Mary's district, Serekunda and Bakau, Banjul; Central River and Upper River divisions. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). The Wolof people migrated to Gambia from central and eastern Africa. Wolof became widespread around the 15th century when the first Europeans traders came. Used in large-scale slave trade, religion, agriculture, and commerce. Wolof [wol] is an official language in Senegal and widely spoken in several other west African countries. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Wolof. *Dialects*: None known. Senegalese Wolof [wol] intelligible by speakers of Gambian Wolof but with significant enough differences to require adaptation of materials. Needs further investigation. *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng], as the language of education and government. Used as L2 by Bambara [bam], Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov], Jola-Fonyi [dyo], Mandinka [mnk], Mandjak [mfv], Pulaar [fuc], Serahule [snk], Serer-Sine [srr], Western Maninkakan [mlq]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1882–1967. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 17:8.

Xasonga [kao] (Khassonké). Autonym: Xasongo. *Users*: 2,500 in Gambia (2022). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-West. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2008. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 714,600. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Mali (Xaasongaxango). Also established in: Senegal.

Yoruba [yor]. Autonym: Èdè Yorùbá. *Users*: 13,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Defoid, Yoruboid, Edekiri. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; no articles; 17 consonant and 11 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 tones: high, mid, low). *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1900–2005. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Latin script, used since 1865, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 45,862,500 (as L1: 43,837,900; as L2: 2,024,600). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: Nigeria. Also established in: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Niger, Sierra Leone, Togo, United Kingdom, United States.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Gambia 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

Mandinka [[mnk](#)] *Users:* 1,000,000 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication).

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 2,114,000.

100,000 to 999,999

Pulaar [[fuc](#)] *Users:* 434,000 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,912,700.

Wolof, Gambian [[wof](#)] *Users:* 362,000 (2022). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication).

Serahule [[snk](#)] *Users:* 150,000 in Gambia (2022), increasing. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,251,700.

Jola-Fonyi [[dyo](#)] *Users:* 135,000 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 475,000.

10,000 to 99,999

Serer-Sine [[srr](#)] *Users:* 60,300 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,720,300.

Mandjak [[mfv](#)] *Users:* 43,400 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 311,400.

Hassaniyya [[mey](#)] *Users:* 38,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,189,980.

Guinea-Bissau Creole [[pov](#)] *Users:* 25,100 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,892,300 (as L1: 344,300; as L2: 1,548,000).

Krio [[kri](#)] *Users:* 19,000 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 8,242,250 (as L1: 821,430; as L2: 7,420,820).

Hausa [[hau](#)] *Users:* 13,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,520,580 (as L1: 51,744,560; as L2: 26,776,020).

Yoruba [[yor](#)] *Users:* 13,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 45,862,500 (as L1: 43,837,900; as L2:

2,024,600).

Bambara [bam] *Users:* 10,100 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,181,650 (as L1: 4,179,190; as L2: 10,002,460).

1,000 to 9,999

Karon [krx] *Users:* 5,000 in Gambia (2022), increasing. No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 60,000. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 16,600.

Maninkakan, Western [mlq] *Users:* 5,000 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,068,000.

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users:* 3,700 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Mansoanka [msw] *Users:* 2,500 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 21,100.

Xasonga [kao] *Users:* 2,500 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 714,600.

English [eng] *Users:* 2,300 in Gambia (2022). 69,900 in Gambia, all users. L2 users: 67,600 (2022). *Status:* 1 (National). De facto national language. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Mankanya [knf] *Users:* 2,300 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 85,700.

French [fra] *Users:* 1,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. 513,000 in Gambia, all users. L2 users: 512,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

0

N'Ko [nqo] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Gambia. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status:* 9 (Second language only). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Gambia 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)

English [eng] *Users:* 69,900 in Gambia, all users. L1 users: 2,300 in Gambia (2022). L2 users: 67,600 (2022). *Status:* De facto national language. *Lg Use:* Education, governmental operations, and business with international relations. *Writing:* Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

3 (Wider communication)

Mandinka [mnk] *Users:* 1,000,000 in Gambia (2022). *Status:* The secondary LWC of commerce and the media, after Wolof [wof] (Biel 2014). *Lg Use:* Main language of middle Gambia. Home, religion, and local business. Positive attitudes. Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Used as L2 by Bambara [bam], Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov], Jola-Fonyi [dyo], Karon [krx], Mandjak [mfv], Pulaar [fuc], Serahule [snk], Serer-Sine [srr], Western Maninkakan [mlq]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,114,000.

Wolof, Gambian [wof] *Users:* 362,000 (2022). *Status:* The Wolof people migrated to Gambia from central and eastern Africa. Wolof became widespread around the 15th century when the first Europeans traders came. Used in large-scale slave trade, religion, agriculture, and commerce. Wolof [wol] is an official language in Senegal and widely spoken in several other west African countries. *Lg Use:* Also use English [eng], as the language of education and government. Used as L2 by Bambara [bam], Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov], Jola-Fonyi [dyo], Mandinka [mnk], Mandjak [mfv], Pulaar [fuc], Serahule [snk], Serer-Sine [srr], Western Maninkakan [mlq]. *Lg Dev:* Bible portions: 1882–1967. *Writing:* Latin script.

5 (Developing)

Pulaar [fuc] *Users:* 434,000 in Gambia (2022). *Lg Use:* Fulbe Jeeri, Toucouleur, and Fulacunda are ethnic groups that speak Pulaar. Used by all. Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh

variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,912,700.

Serahule [snk] *Users*: 150,000 in Gambia (2022), increasing. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,251,700.

5 (Dispersed)

French [fra] *Users*: 513,000 in Gambia, all users. L1 users: 1,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. L2 users: 512,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *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).

6a (Vigorous)

Jola-Fonyi [dyo] *Users*: 135,000 in Gambia (2022). *Lg Use*: The largest and most widely understood Jola variety. Used by all. Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). Used as L2 by Karon [krx]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 475,000.

Karon [krx] *Users*: 5,000 in Gambia (2022), increasing. No monolinguals. Ethnic population: 60,000. *Lg Use*: Strong desire to preserve language and culture. Home, cultural events, local market. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Jola-Fonyi [dyo]. Also use Mandinka [mnk]. Also use Wolof [wol]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 16,600.

Mandjak [mfv] *Users*: 43,400 in Gambia (2022). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Most also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 311,400.

Serer-Sine [srr] *Users*: 60,300 in Gambia (2022). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,720,300.

6b (Threatened)

Maninkakan, Western [mlq] *Users:* 5,000 in Gambia (2022). *Lg Use:* Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,068,000.

9 (Second language only)

N’Ko [nqo] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Gambia. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Writing:* N’Ko script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Unestablished

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users:* 3,700 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Bambara [bam] *Users:* 10,100 in Gambia (2022). *Lg Use:* Also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Writing:* Latin script. N’Ko script, used in Mali. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,181,650 (as L1: 4,179,190; as L2: 10,002,460).

Guinea-Bissau Creole [pov] *Users:* 25,100 in Gambia (2022). *Lg Use:* Most also use Gambian Wolof [wof], as the language of commerce and media (Biel 2014). Many also use English [eng], as the language of education and government (Biel 2014). Also use Mandinka [mnk], as the secondary LWC for commerce and media (Biel 2014). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,892,300 (as L1: 344,300; as L2: 1,548,000).

Hassaniyya [mey] *Users:* 38,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script, in development. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,189,980.

Hausa [hau] *Users:* 13,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *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).

Krio [kri] *Users:* 19,000 in Gambia (2022). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 8,242,250 (as L1: 821,430; as L2: 7,420,820).

Mankanya [knf] *Users:* 2,300 in Gambia (2022). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 85,700.

Mansoanka [msw] *Users:* 2,500 in Gambia (2022). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 21,100.

Xasonga [kao] *Users:* 2,500 in Gambia (2022). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 714,600.

Yoruba [yor] *Users:* 13,000 in Gambia (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Latin script, used since 1865, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 45,862,500 (as L1: 43,837,900; as L2: 2,024,600).

Languages by Local Government Authority (LGA)

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the top-level administrative subdivisions within Gambia. Under the name of each local government authority (LGA) is a list of the language communities that are located within its area.

Banjul

French [fra], [12](#)

Central River

Pulaar [fuc], [15](#)

Wolof, Gambian [wof], [16](#)

Lower River

Pulaar [fuc], [15](#)

North Bank

Pulaar [fuc], [15](#)

Serer-Sine [srr], [15](#)

Wolof, Gambian [wof], [16](#)

Upper River

Maninkakan, Western [mlq], [14](#)

Pulaar [fuc], [15](#)

Serahule [snk], [15](#)

Wolof, Gambian [wof], [16](#)

West Coast

Jola-Fonyi [dyo], [13](#)

Karon [krx], [13](#)

Mandjak [mfv], [14](#)

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Gambia. 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, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [11](#)

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

French [fra], [12](#)

Mixed language

N'Ko [nqo], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Jola Central, Jola-Fonyi

Jola-Fonyi [dyo], [13](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Jola, Jola Proper, Karon-Mlomp

Karon [krx], [13](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Bak, Manjaku-Papel

Mandjak [mfv], [14](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Fula, Western

Pulaar [fuc], [15](#)

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

Wolof, Gambian [wof], [16](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Serer

Serer-Sine [srr], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-West

Mandinka [mnk], [13](#)

Maninkakan, Western [mlq], [14](#)

Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Northwestern, Soninke-Bobo, Soninke-Boso, Soninke

Soninke [snk], [15](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 22 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, 11	mey	Hassaniyya, 12
bam	Bamanankan, 11	mfv	Mandjak, 14
dyo	Jola-Fonyi, 13	mlq	Maninkakan, Western, 14
eng	English, 11	mnk	Mandinka, 13
fra	French, 12	msw	Mansoanka, 14
fuc	Pulaar, 15	nqo	N’Ko, 15
hau	Hausa, 12	pov	Guinea-Bissau Creole, 12
kao	Xaasongaxango, 16	snk	Soninke, 15
knf	Mankanya, 14	srr	Serer-Sine, 15
kri	Krio, 13	wof	Wolof, Gambian, 16
krx	Karon, 13	yor	Yoruba, 16

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.

- Aku**, *dial.* Krio [kri], 13
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- Diola-Fogny**, *alt.* Jola-Fonyi [dyo], 13
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- Fulkunda**, *alt. dial.* Pulaar [fuc], 15
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- Haalpulaar**, *alt. dial.* Pulaar [fuc], 15
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- Kaloon**, *alt.* Karon [krx], 13
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- Karon** [krx], 13, 17
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- Likes-Utsia**, *dial.* Mandjak [mfv], 14
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- Manding**, *alt.* Mandinka [mnk], 13
- Mandingo**, *alt.* Mandinka [mnk], 13
- Mandinka** [mnk], 13, 17
- Mandinque**, *alt.* Mandinka [mnk], 13
- Mandjak** [mfv], 14, 17
- Mandjaque**, *alt.* Mandjak [mfv], 14
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- Manjaca**, *alt.* Mandjak [mfv], 14
- Manjack**, *alt.* Mandjak [mfv], 14
- Manjaco**, *alt.* Mandjak [mfv], 14
- Manjacu**, *alt.* Mandjak [mfv], 14
- Manjago**, *alt.* Mandjak [mfv], 14
- Manjáku**, *alt.* Mandjak [mfv], 14
- Manjiak**, *alt.* Mandjak [mfv], 14
- Ndyak**, *alt.* Mandjak [mfv], 14
- N’Ko** [nqo], 15
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- Sine**, *dial.* Serer-Sine [srr], 15
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- Socé**, *alt.* Mandinka [mnk], 13
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- Teixeira Pinto**, *dial.* Mandjak [mfv], 14
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- Tukolor**, *alt. dial.* Pulaar [fuc], 15
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- Yola**, *alt.* Jola-Fonyi [dyo], 13
- Yu**, *dial.* Mandjak [mfv], 14

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