

Ethnologue: Languages of Kenya

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
BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BTL	Bible Translation and Literacy
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
DBS	Deaf Bible Society
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
DOOR	Deaf Opportunity Outreach
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
SOV	Subject-Object-Verb
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UBS	United Bible Societies
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns
VSO	Verb-Subject-Object

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Kenya 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 84 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Kenya. 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. Macrolanguage member languages. *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 34) 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 35) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 41) 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 County” (page 51) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Kenya and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 54) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 59) 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 61) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 331 unique names are associated with the 84 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 70). 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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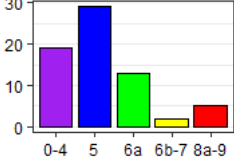
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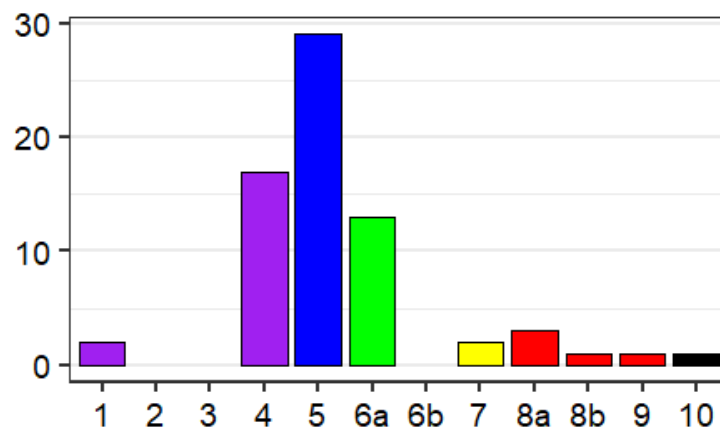
Country Overview

Name of country	Kenya												
Other names	The Republic of Kenya												
Population	53,771,000 (2020 World Bank)												
Principal languages	English, Swahili												
Literacy rate	82% (2018 UNESCO)												
International conventions	ACHPR (1992), CPPDCE (2007), CSICH (2007), ICCPR (1972), UNCRPD (2008)												
General references	Bendor-Samuel and Hartell 1989, Heine and Möhlig 1980, Whiteley 1969, Whiteley 1974												
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Kenya is 69. Of these, 68 are living and 1 is extinct. Of the living languages, 61 are indigenous and 7 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 19 are institutional, 29 are developing, 13 are vigorous, 2 are in trouble, and 5 are dying. Also listed are 13 unestablished languages and 2 macrolanguages.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Language Vitality Counts for Kenya</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Vitality Category</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6a</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6b-7</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8a-9</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Vitality Category	Count	0-4	20	5	30	6a	13	6b-7	2	8a-9	5
Vitality Category	Count												
0-4	20												
5	30												
6a	13												
6b-7	2												
8a-9	5												

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 Kenya 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 41) 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 Kenya. 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 Kenya 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 Kenya 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 35) 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	11	16.2	16.2%	31,270,000	74.81856	74.81856%
100,000 to 999,999	28	41.2	57.4%	9,314,000	22.28526	97.10383%
10,000 to 99,999	22	32.4	89.7%	1,192,600	2.85349	99.95731%
1,000 to 9,999	2	2.9	92.6%	17,200	0.04115	99.99847%
100 to 999	1	1.5	94.1%	580	0.00139	99.99986%
10 to 99	2	2.9	97.1%	60	0.00014	100.00000%
0	1	1.5	98.5%		0.00000	100.00000%
Unknown	1	1.5	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	68	100.0		41,794,440	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Kenya 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 41) 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 Kenya. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

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

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers				
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
1	2	2.9	2.9%	165,000	0.3948	0.3948%	82,500	82,500
4	17	25.0	27.9%	11,382,200	27.2338	27.6286%	669,541	220,000
5	29	42.6	70.6%	27,785,900	66.4823	94.1108%	958,134	227,000
6a	13	19.1	89.7%	2,400,500	5.7436	99.8544%	184,654	92,100
7	2	2.9	92.6%	60,200	0.1440	99.9985%	30,100	30,100
8a	3	4.4	97.1%	640	0.0015	100.0000%	213	50
8b	1	1.5	98.5%	Unknown				
9	1	1.5	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	68	100.0		41,794,440	100.0000			

Summary by language family

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

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Afro-Asiatic	13	19.1	3,767,990	9.0	289,845	27,000
Creole	1	1.5	21,300	0.1	21,300	21,300
Indo-European	4	5.9	336,600	0.8	84,150	59,500
Niger-Congo	34	50.0	24,821,200	59.4	730,035	155,500
Nilo-Saharan	15	22.1	12,587,350	30.1	839,157	392,000
Sign language	1	1.5	260,000	0.6	260,000	260,000
<i>Totals</i>	68	100.0	41,794,440	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Hadrami Spoken [ayh]. *Users:* 13,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Location:* Indian Ocean area. *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, limited usage. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,113,000. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Indigenous in: Yemen.

Arabic, Omani Spoken [acx]. *Users:* 27,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location:* Scattered. Kilifi, Kwale, Lamu, and Tana River counties. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type:* SVO. *Lg Use:* Important for religious practice. Home, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Standard Arabic [arb]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L1: Over 80% for religion. Literacy rate in L2: Over 50% in Arabic. Literacy is in Standard Arabic [arb] through Quranic schools. Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. May have come to Kenya as early as A.D. 900. Originally from Yemen and Oman. Muslim. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,885,100. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Oman. Also established in: Kuwait, Tanzania, United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Yemen.

Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken [acq]. *Users:* 35,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Location:* Indian Ocean area. *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,856,700. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Yemen. Also established in: Djibouti, Ethiopia. Unestablished in: Egypt, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Ateso [teo] (Atesɔ, Iteso, Teso). Autonym: Atesɔ. *Users:* 418,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location:* Busia county: north of Mambara. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Eastern, Lotuxo-Teso, Teso-Turkana, Teso. *Dialect:* Orom (Rom). *Type:* VSO; highly inflectional; grammatical tone; vowel harmony. *Lg Use:* Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Newspapers. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 1961. *Writing:* Latin script, used since 1930. *Other:* Christian, traditional religion. *Map:* 34:34. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,778,000. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Also indigenous in: Uganda.

Aweer [bob] (Aweera, Bon, Oгода, Waboni, Wata-Bala, “Boni” pej., “Sanye” pej.). Autonym: Af Aweera. *Users:* 7,600 (2009 census), increasing. 1,600 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 20,100 (2019 census). *Location:* Garissa county: north and west of Mundane range; Lamu county: Indian Ocean area inland north of Lamu city; Tana River county: forests inland from Kipini city; 11 villages or more. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East,

Rendille-Boni. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: with Rendille [rel] of Marsabit County (most similar). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Orma [orc]. Also use Somali [som]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1% (2007 BTL). Literacy rate in L2: 40% or less in Kiswahili [swh] or English [eng] (2007 BTL). Many suspicious of literacy as colonizing force. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Different from Sanye [ssn] (Waat) of the Oromo Group or Dahalo [dal] (Sanye) of Southern Cushitic. Also referred to as “Sanye”, a pejorative term meaning hunter-gatherer group. Being settled in scattered villages and encouraged to switch to farming. Muslim. *Map*: 34:56.

Borana [gax] (Afaani Borana, Booran, Boraan, Boraana, Boran, Oromo, Southern Oromo, “Galla” *pej.*). Autonym: Afaan Oromoo. *Users*: 627,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Ajuran 182,000, Borana 276,000, Gabra 141,000, Sakuye 27,000 (2019 census). *Location*: Isiolo, Laikipia, Mandera, Marsabit, and Wajir counties: Lake Turkana east to Ethiopia-Somalia border, and south toward Nairobi. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Oromo. *Dialects*: Boran, Gabra, Guji, Ajuran, Sakuye. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; gender (masculine/feminine); case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives (active, middle, passive); tense and aspect; 25 consonant and 10 vowel phonemes; pitch accent. *Lg Use*: Gabra and Sakuye (Saguye) ethnic groups use Borana as L1. Also spoken by younger Burji around Marsabit and Moyale. Some Garre and Ajuran speak it as L1, others Somali [som]. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Burji [bji]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1967. *Writing*: Ethiopic script, no longer in use. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Borana is used almost exclusively in Kenya, but Oromo used in Ethiopia. Semi-nomadic. Muslim, Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,448,600. Also indigenous in: Ethiopia (Borana-Arsi-Guji Oromo), Somalia (Borana-Arsi-Guji Oromo).

Bukusu [bxx]. Autonym: Lubukusu. *Users*: 1,190,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Bungoma, Kakamega, and Trans Nzoia counties: south of Kitale. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.31). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Lg Use*: Growing. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use English [eng], especially children in school. Some also use Swahili [swh], especially children in school. Most adults also use neighboring languages. Used as L2 by Sabaot [spy]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 30% (2007 BTL). Literacy rate in L2: 65% in English [eng] (2007 BTL). Taught as subject in some primary schools. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Bible: 2010. *DLS*: Ascending (0.31). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:10. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,227,100. Also indigenous in: Uganda.

Burji [bji] (Bambala, Dhaashate). Autonym: Dhaashate. *Users*: 36,900 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Marsabit county: Moyale township area. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Highland. *Type*: SOV; passives; middle voice; causatives;

subject suffixes distinguish person, number, gender. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings without outsiders. Adults only. Positive attitudes. Shifting to Borana-Arsi-Guji Oromo [gax]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1993. *Writing*: Ethiopic script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Brought from Ethiopia in the 1930s to build roads from Moyale to other north Kenya towns. Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:4. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,350 (as L1: 83,300; as L2: 3,050). Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Ethiopia.

Chichonyi-Chidzihana-Chikauma [coh]. Autonym: Chichonyi-Chidzihana-Chikauma. *Users*: 309,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Chonyi 199,000; Jibana 38,500; Kauma 71,100 (2019 census). *Location*: Kilifi county: Indian Ocean area northeast of Mombasa. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Nyika-Taita (E.72). *Dialects*: Chonyi (Chichonyi, Conyi, Kichonyi), Jibana (Chidzihana), Kauma (Chikauma). May understand Kigiryama [nyf]. Kauma (Chikauma) now considered to be a dialect of Kigiryama (2012 M. Wekunda). *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Kigiryama [nyf], or other Mijikenda varieties. Most also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Kigiryama [nyf]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 2016. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script, in development. *Other*: 9 ethnic groups form the Mijikenda community. Christian, Muslim. *Map*: 34:52.

Chidigo [dig] (Digo, Kidigo). Autonym: Chidigo. *Users*: 410,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Kwale county: south of Mombasa. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Nyika-Taita (E.73). *Dialects*: Chichifundi, Chichinondo, Chigwirani. Partially intelligible with Kigiryama [nyf] but most remote from Kigiryama of the Mijikenda subgroup. Lexical similarity: 74% with Chiduruma [dug], 72% with Chichonyi [coh] and Kiswahili [swh], 71% with Kiswahili dialects Mrima and Mvita, 67% with Amu [swh], 62% with Bajun [swh], 58% with Upper Pokomo (Kipfokomu) [pkb]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Chiduruma [dug]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Chiduruma [dug]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 30%. Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2020. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: 9 ethnic groups form the Mijikenda community. Moderate degree of Kiswahili [swh] and Islamic cultural influence. Digo is the tribal name. Muslim. *Map*: 34:51. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 576,000. Also indigenous in: Tanzania (Digo).

Chiduruma [dug] (Duruma, “Wanyika” pej.). Autonym: Chiduruma. *Users*: 555,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Kwale county: inland, south of Mombasa to Tanzania border. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Nyika-Taita (E.72). *Dialects*: None known. 9 ethnic groups form the Mijikenda community. Chiduruma is reportedly the second least similar to Kigiryama [nyf]. Comprehension of Kiswahili [swh] and Chidigo [dig] is low. Lexical similarity: 74% with Chidigo [dig], 66% with Kiswahili [swh]. *Lg Use*:

Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Chidigo [dig]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Chidigo [dig]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 13%. Language attitudes toward Kigiryama indicate the need for separate Chiduruma literature. Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. NT: 1999. *DLS*: Ascending (0.16). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Ethnonym: Duruma. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 34:50.

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn]. *Users*: 34,000 in Kenya (2019 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; 6 full (concrete meaning) word classes; no articles; passives; 24 consonants, 8 vowels, 6 diphthongs; tonal (4 phonemic tones). *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1874–1983. *Writing*: Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: China. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 60 more.

Daasanach [dsh] (Daasanech, Dama, Dasenech, Dathanaik, Dhaasanac, Geleb, Geleba, Gheleba, Marille, Reshiat, “Shangilla” pej.). Autonym: Af Daasanach. *Users*: 18,400 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Population varies as people freely cross the Ethiopian border. 6,250 monolinguals. *Location*: Marsabit and Turkana counties: north Lake Turkana, both shores. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Western Omo-Tana. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings with no outsiders. Positive attitudes. Some also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Turkana [tuv]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Below 5%. First primary class completed national exams in 2007. Grammar. Texts. NT: 2014. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: 8 ethnic groups: Inkabelo (7,000), Inkoria (2,000), Naritch (Naarich 1,800), Elele (1,500), Randal (1,000), Oro (800), Koro (500), and Riele (400). Traditional religion. *Map*: 34:2. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 66,630 (as L1: 66,400; as L2: 230). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Ethiopia.

Dahalo [dal] (Guo Garimani, Numma guhoni, Sanye). *Users*: 580 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 3,000 (Dimmendaal and Voeltz 2007). *Location*: Lamu and Tana River counties: near Tana river mouth. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, South. *Type*: Has clicks, although unrelated to Khoisan languages. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Swahili [swh] (Sommer 1992). *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Different from Sanye [ssn] (Waata). Traditional religion. *Map*: 34:58.

Dawida [dav] (Dabida, Davida, Kidabida, Kitaita, Taita, Teita). Autonym: Kidawida. *Users*: 344,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Taita-Taveta county: Taita hills. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Nyika-Taita (E.74). *Dialects*: Mbololo, Werugha, Mbale, Chawia, Bura, Mwanda, Kasigau. Lexical similarity: 62% with Sagalla [tga],

46% with Gweno [gwe], 41%–44% with Chaga languages. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Literacy rate in L2: 50%–70% in Kiswahili [swh]. Kiswahili [swh] used as language of instruction. Grammar. Bible: 1998. *DLS*: Ascending (0.15). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:49.

Dholuo [luo] (Luo, “Kavirondo Luo” *pej.*, “Nilotic Kavirondo” *pej.*). Autonym: Dholuo. *Users*: 5,070,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Homa Bay, Kisumu, Migori, and Siaya counties; north Kisii and Nyamira counties; Busia and Kakamega counties: border areas. Kavirondo Gulf area. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Western, Luo, Southern, Luo-Acholi, Luo. *Type*: SVO; verb affixes mark person, number, object; tense; 26 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; tonal (4 tones: high, low, falling, rising); vowel harmony (ATR). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Suba [sxb]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%–30%. Literacy rate in L2: 50%–75%. Taught as subject in some primary schools. Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1953–1977. *DLS*: Ascending (0.22). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Different from Luwo [lwo] (Luo, Jur Lwo) of South Sudan. The people are Luo; the language is Dholuo. Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:15. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,255,000. Also indigenous in: Tanzania (Luo).

Ekegusii [guz] (Gusii, Guzii, Kisii, Kosova). Autonym: Ekegusii. *Users*: 3,200,000 in Kenya, all users. L1 users: 2,700,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. L2 users: 500,000. *Location*: Kisii, north Migori, and Nyamira counties; Narok county: Thimjope area; south of Kavirondo Gulf. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Logooli-Kuria (E.42). *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Kuria [kuj]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Kuria [kuj]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Taught as subject in some primary schools. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1988. *DLS*: Ascending (0.31). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Different from Kisi [kiz] of Tanzania. Kisii is the place name. Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:32. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,201,470 (as L1: 2,701,470; as L2: 500,000). Also indigenous in: Tanzania (Gusii).

El Molo [elo] (Dehes, Elmolo, Fura-Pawa, Ldes, “Ndorobo” *pej.*). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Last fluent speaker, Kaayo, died in 1999 (2012 M. Tosco). Ethnic population: 1,100 (2019 census). *Location*: Marsabit county: Lake Turkana southeast shore, west of Mount Kulal. *Status*: 9 (Dormant). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Western Omo-Tana. *Dialects*: None known. The original language is reportedly similar to Daasanach [dsh]. *Lg Use*: Shifted to Samburu [saq]. *Lg Dev*: Some revitalization may be taking place. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Affiliated with the Samburu. “Ndorobo” is a pejorative term for several hunter or forest groups that are not linguistically related (El Molo, Yaaku, Okiek, Omotik). Traditional religion.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 4,244,000 in Kenya, all users. L1 users: 54,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), increasing, based on ethnicity. L2 users: 4,190,000 (2019). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Article 7(2)). *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*: Official language in most transactions. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Swahili [sw]. *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: 1,076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

French [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 2,100 in Kenya (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *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*: 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 96 other countries and unestablished in 23 more.

Ganda [lug]. Autonym: Luganda. *Users*: 50,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Nyoro-Ganda (E.15). *Type*: SVO. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Bible*: 1896–2017. *Writing*: Latin script, used since 1947. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,019,350 (as L1: 5,627,150; as L2: 5,392,200). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Uganda. Unestablished in: Canada, United Kingdom, United States.

Garre [gex] (Garreh, Gurreh). *Users*: 602,000 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Mandera county. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Somali. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 685,600. Also indigenous in: Somalia.

Gichuka [cuh] (Chuka, Chuku, Cuka, Suka). Autonym: Gĩchuka. *Users*: 70,000 (1980 SIL),

increasing. *Location*: Tharaka-Nithi county: south of Meru city. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.541). *Dialects*: Comprehension of northern Kimîru [mer] dialects is borderline. Similar to Kitharaka [thk]. *Lexical similarity*: 73% with Embu [ebu], 70% with Gikuyu [kik], 67% with Kimîru [mer], 63% with Kikamba [kam]. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Gikuyu [kik]. Also use Kamba [kam]. Also use Kimîru [mer]. Also use Swahili [sw]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 2016. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script, in development. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 34:26.

Gikuyu [kik] (Gĩkũyũ, Gekoyo, Kikuyu). *Autonym*: Gĩkũyũ. *Users*: 8,150,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Kiambu, Kirinyaga, Meru, Murang'a, and Nyeri counties; Nakuru county: Lake Naivasha area; Nairobi. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.51). *Dialects*: Southern Gikuyu (Kiambu, Southern Murang'a), Ndia (Southern Kirinyaga), Gichugu (Northern Kirinyaga), Mathira (Karatina), Northern Gikuyu (Northern Murang'a, Nyeri). *Lexical similarity*: 73% with Kiambu [ebu], 70% with Gichuka [cuh], 67% with Kikamba [kam], 63% with Kimîru [mer]. *Type*: SVO; 10 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; 18 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; tonal (2 tones: high, low). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, social gatherings, business. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [sw]. Used as L2 by Gichuka [cuh], Kiambu [ebu], Kitharaka [thk]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 30%–60%. Literacy rate in L2: 75%–100%. 95% of the children are in school. Taught as subject in some primary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1951–1965. *DLS*: Ascending (0.31). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:29. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,151,850 (as L1: 8,151,100; as L2: 750). Unestablished in: Canada.

Gujarati [guj]. *Users*: 208,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Mostly Nairobi. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Gujarati. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; split ergativity; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 31 consonants, 8 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [sw]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1823–2005. *Writing*: Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Most lived in Kenya for several generations. Hindu, Jain, Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Bahrain, Fiji, Pakistan, Singapore, Tanzania, Zambia. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burundi, Canada, Iran, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Oman, Réunion, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.

Hindi [hin]. *Users*: 6,700 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Major

towns. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; clause constituents partially indicated by case-marking (direct, oblique), postpositions, and word order; verbal affixation marks person, number, gender, and honorificity of subject; split ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; causatives; non-tonal; 30 consonants, 10 vowels, 2 diphthongs; stress linked to syllable weight. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1835–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Kuwait, Nepal, Singapore, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sint Maarten, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Kacchi [kfr]. *Users*: 82,000 in Kenya (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Sindhi. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Grammar. NT: 2013. *Writing*: Devanagari script. Gujarati script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,193,600 (as L1: 1,188,360; as L2: 5,240). Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Malawi, Pakistan, Tanzania. Unestablished in: Canada, United Kingdom.

Kalenjin [kln]. A macrolanguage. Population total all languages (L1 only): 4,628,550. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Markweeta [enb]. *DLS*: . *Other*: Includes: Keiyo [eyo], Kipsigis [sgc], Markweeta [enb], Nandi [niq], Okiek [oki], Pökoot [pko], Sabaot [spy], Terik [tec], Tugen [tuy]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,628,550.

Kamba [kam] (Akamba, Kĩkamba, Kiikamba, Kikamba). Autonym: Kĩkamba. *Users*: 5,260,000 in Kenya, all users. L1 users: 4,660,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. L2 users: 600,000. *Location*: Kajiado, Kitui, Machakos, and Makueni counties; Kwale county: Shimba hills and Lunga Lunga areas; Taita-Taveta county: small border area. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.55). *Dialects*: Masaku (Machakos), South Kitui, North Kitui, Mumoni. Lexical similarity: 67% with Gikuyu [kik], 66% with Embu [ebu], 63% with Chuka [cuh], 57%–59% with Kimĩru [mer]. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Gichuka [cuh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: More than 10% (2007 BTL). Literacy rate in L2: 25%–60% (2007 BTL). Taught as subject in some primary schools. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1956. *DLS*: Ascending (0.31). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:24. *Worldwide*: Total users in all

countries: 5,260,000 (as L1: 4,660,000; as L2: 600,000). Also indigenous in: Tanzania.

Keiyo [eyo] (Elgeyo, Keyo). *Users*: 251,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity.

Location: Elgeyo-Marakwet and Uasin Gishu counties. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Southern, Kalenjin, Nandi-Markweta, Nandi. A member of macrolanguage Kalenjin [kln]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 34:16.

Kenyan Sign Language [xki] (KSL). *Users*: 260,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL), increasing.

Estimated 160,000–320,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% of total population. Other estimates: 340,000 (2007 DOOR); 600,000 (Wilson and Kakiri 2011). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2010, Constitution, Article 7(3b) National, official and other languages; and Article 120(1) Official Languages of Parliament). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: Nairobi (central), Kisumu (western), Mombasa (eastern). Standardized with minor variations between dialects since 1961, when primary schools for deaf children began. Mainly unrelated to other sign languages, although appears to have influenced Uganda Sign Language [ugn]. There appears to be less lexical borrowing (fingerspelling, initialization) from spoken languages than in many other sign languages. Fingerspelling system similar to French Sign Language [fsl]. *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling. *Lg Use*: Church, government, courts. Mainly those in schools and over 15 years old. Neutral attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Schools under the Kenya Institute of Education use Kenyan version of (American) Signed Exact English, including 1 at Machakos. KSL used at Nyangoma School at Bondo, a primary and boys' technical school (Sakwa), and in 1 girl's school. Taught in primary and secondary schools. TV. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2010–2013. Agencies: Kenya National Association of the Deaf (KNAD); Kenyan Sign Language Research Project (KSLRP) at the University of Nairobi; Kenyan Sign Language Interpreters Association (KSLIA); Kenyan Interpreters and Translators Association (KITA). *DLS*: Emerging (0.04).

Kiambu [ebu] (Embo, Embu). Autonym: Kiambu. *Users*: 600,000 (2019 census), increasing,

based on ethnicity. Embu 405,000; Mbeere 195,000 (2019 census). *Location*: Embu county: southeast of Mount Kenya. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.52). *Dialects*: Mbeere (Kimbeere, Mbere), Embu. Mbeere dialect reportedly has intelligibility with Embu. Population estimate may include Gichuka [cuh] and Mwimbi-Muthambi [mws]. Lexical similarity: 85% with the Mbeere dialect, 73% with Gikuyu [kik] and Gichuka [cuh], 66% with Kamba [kam], 63%–65% with Kimîru [mer]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use Gikuyu [kik], due to previous teaching in schools, but limited in rural areas. Also use Kimîru [mer], but with limited comprehension. Also use Swahili [swh], and up to 70% have low proficiency in it. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. There are government literacy materials in Kiambu. Texts. Bible: 2012. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:25.

Kigiryama [nyf] (Agiryama, Giriama, Giryama, Kigiriama, “Kinyika” *pej.*, “Nika” *pej.*, “Nyika” *pej.*). Autonym: Kigiryama. *Users*: 1,160,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. 1,000,000 Giryama; 31,000 Kambe; 126,000 Rabai; 10,700 Ribe (2019 census). *Location*: Kilifi and Kwale counties: north of Mombasa; Tana River county. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Nyika-Taita (E.72). *Dialects*: Ribe (Rihe), Kambe, Chwaka, Rabai. Dialect speakers may understand Chichonyi-Chidzihana-Chikauma [coh]. Lexical similarity: 72% with Chidigo [dig], 63% with Mrima [swh], 62% with Mvita [swh], 61% with Amu [swh], 59% with Kipfokomu [pkb] and Bajun [swh]. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Chichonyi-Chidzihana-Chikauma [coh]. Also use English [eng], which is learned by school children. Also use Kipfokomu [pkb]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Chichonyi-Chidzihana-Chikauma [coh], Kipfokomu [pkb], Waata [ssn]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Bible: 1901–2018. *DLS*: Ascending (0.14). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Giryama is the people name and largest group of the Mijikenda community, which is formed by 9 ethnic groups. Strong traditional social system. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 34:53.

Kimĩru [mer] (Kimeru, Mero, Meru). Autonym: Kimĩru. *Users*: 1,980,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Isiolo and Meru counties: northeast of Mount Kenya; Laikipia county: Ewaso Ngiro river north bank. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.53). *Dialects*: Meru (Beik), Igembe, Tigania, Imenti, Miutini, Igoji. Lexical similarity: 85% with dialects Imenti and Tigania, 67% with Chuka [cuh], 63% with Embu [ebu] and Gikuyu [kik], 57% with Kamba [kam]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Gichuka [cuh], Kiambu [ebu], Kitharaka [thk], Mwimbi-Muthambi [mws]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 5%–10%. Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Taught as subject in some primary schools. Literature. Radio. Videos. Bible: 1964–2011. *DLS*: Ascending (0.31). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: ‘Mero’ is not a correct spelling. Different from Meru [rwk] of Tanzania. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 34:21.

Kinyarwanda [kin]. Autonym: Ikinyarwanda. *Users*: 8,730 in Kenya (2019 census), based on nationality. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Ruanda-Rundi (D.61). *Type*: SVO; 16 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number; tense and aspect; 24 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; tonal. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1954–1993. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,522,750 (as L1: 14,518,160; as L2: 4,590). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda (Fumbira). Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Finland.

Kipfokomu [pkb] (Kimpokomu, Kipfokomo, Lower Pokomo, Milanchini, Mpokomu, Pfokomo, Pokomo, Upper Pokomo, Wapfokomu). Autonym: Kipfokomu. *Users*: 112,000 (2019 census),

increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Garissa, Lamu, and Tana River counties: upper and lower Tana river between Tulu and Masabubu. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Nyika-Taita (E.71). *Dialects*: Malalulu, Zubaki, Ndura, Kinakomba, Gwano, Ndera, Mwina, Buu I, Buu II, Buu III, Kulesa, Ngatana, Dzunza, Kalindi. Lexical similarity: 63% with Mvita [sw], 61% with Amu [sw], 60% with Mrima [sw], 59% with Kigiryama [nyf], 58% with Chidigo [dig], 57% with Bajun [sw], 55%–57% with Kiwilwana [mlk]. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings, church. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Kigiryama [nyf]. Also use Swahili [sw], about 75% somewhat bilingually. Used as L2 by Kigiryama [nyf], Kiwilwana [mlk], Waata [ssn]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Advocacy to introduce L1 for lower primary school. Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Literature. Videos. NT: 2003–2004. *DLS*: Ascending (0.16). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Muslim, Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:55 (as Kipfokomo).

Kipsigis [sgc] (Kalenjin, Kipsiikis, Kipsikiis, Kipsikis). *Users*: 1,910,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Bomet, Kericho, Nakuru, and Narok counties. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Southern, Kalenjin, Nandi-Markweta, Kipsigis. A member of macrolanguage Kalenjin [kln]. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Nandi [niq]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [sw]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *DLS*: Ascending (0.31). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 34:31.

Kitharaka [thk] (Atharaka, Saraka, Sharoka, Tharaka). Autonym: Kîtharaka. *Users*: 220,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. 61,600 monolinguals. *Location*: Embu, Meru, and Tharaka-Nithi counties. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.54). *Dialects*: Gatue (North Tharaka), Ntugi (Central Tharaka), Igoki, Thagicu. Thagicu dialect has extensive Kamba [kam] borrowings. Gatue is influential. Difficult intelligibility of northern Kimîru [mer] dialects. Some Meru words have offensive meanings in Kitharaka. Lexical similarity: with Chuka [cuh]. *Lg Use*: Older people's dialect more prestigious due to lack of borrowings. Many now use written materials. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng], in schools and offices. Also use Gikuyu [kik]. Also use Kimîru [mer]. Also use Swahili [sw], especially in churches, schools, jobs, and sometimes in the home. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 15%. Literacy rate in L2: 45% in Kiswahili [sw] or English [eng]. L1 books in schools since 2003. Thriving mother-tongue education in schools. Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Literature. Radio. Videos. Bible: 2018. *DLS*: Ascending (0.16). *Writing*: Latin script, in development. *Other*: Attitudes changing. People now view their language as important. Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:27.

Kiwilwana [mlk] (Elwana, Ilwana, Walwana, “Malakote” *pej.*, “Malankote” *pej.*). Autonym: Kiwilwana. *Users*: 21,800 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Garissa and Tana River counties: Tana River north of Pokomo, between Bura and Garissa. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid,

Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Nyika-Taita (E.701). *Dialects*: Kulla, Mi'i. Not intelligible with Kipfokomu [pkb]. Lexical similarity: 55%–57% with Kipfokomu [pkb]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Kipfokomu [pkb]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Waata [ssn]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Below 5%. Orthography under development. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Cushitic influence. Muslim. *Map*: 34:23.

Konkani, Goan [gom] (Goan, Gomataki, Konknni, “Goanese” pej.). *Users*: 9,600 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Nairobi. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Southern, Konkani. *Lg Use*: Used by many Asians with ancestors from Goa or north India. Not used in schools. Home, community. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Bible: 2006. *Writing*: Devanagari script, official usage. Kannada script. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Christian. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,725,300. Indigenous in: India. Unestablished in: Pakistan, United Kingdom.

Konso [kxc]. *Users*: 1,300 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Konso-Gidole. *Type*: SOV. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2002. *Writing*: Ethiopic script, used in Church literature. Latin script, developed in the 1990s, common usage since 2014, official usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 248,960 (as L1: 243,300; as L2: 5,660). Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: Ethiopia.

Kuria [kuj] (Ekiguria, Gikuria, Igikuria, Kikoria, Kikuria, Koría, Kurya). Autonym: Igikuria. *Users*: 314,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Migori and southwest Narok counties. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Logooli-Kuria (E.43). *Dialects*: Nyabasi, Bugumbe, Bukira, Bwirege, Kiroba, Sweta. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Ekegusii [guz]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Ekegusii [guz]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 15%. Literacy rate in L2: 70%. Taught as subject in some primary schools. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1996. *Writing*: Latin script, in development. *Other*: Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:33. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 738,000. Also indigenous in: Tanzania.

Luidakho-Luisukha-Lutirichi [ida] (Idakho-Isukha-Tiriki, Idaxo-Isuxa-Tiriki). Autonym: Luidakho-Luisukha-Lutirichi. *Users*: 156,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Idakho 54,700; Isukha 102,000; Tiriki 93,400 (2019 census). *Location*: Bungoma, Kakamega, and Nandi counties. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Logooli-Kuria (E.411). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Dialects*: Idakho (Idaxo, Itakho, Itoxo), Isukha (Isuxa, Lwisukha), Tiriki. High comprehension of Lulogooli [rag], but resist each other's pronunciation. Lexical similarity: 70% with Logooli [rag], 52% with Masaba [myx] (Uganda). *Lg Use*: Home, community, religious services. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Literacy

rate in L1: About 15%. Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Taught as subject in some primary schools. Literature. Bible: 2014. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 34:42.

Lukabaras [lkb] (Kabarasi, Kabras). Autonym: Lukabaras. *Users*: 137,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Kakamega, Nandi, and Uasin Gishu counties. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.32). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Lutachoni [lts]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 34:44.

Lulogooli [rag] (Llogole, Llugule, Logooli, Lugooli, Luragoli, Maragoli, Maragooli, Ragoli, Uluragooli). Autonym: Lulogooli. *Users*: 335,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Kakamega and Vihiga counties: north of Kisumu. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Logooli-Kuria (E.41). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 70%–80% with Idakho-Isukha-Tiriki [ida]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%–30%. Literacy rate in L2: 50%–75%. Taught as subject in some primary schools. Literature. Radio. Videos. Bible: 1951. *DLS*: Emerging (0.07). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: ‘Mulogoli’ is a person from Maragoli. *Map*: 34:41. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 335,300. Also established in: Tanzania (Logooli).

Lutachoni [lts] (Tachon, Tachoni, Tatsoni). Autonym: Lutachoni. *Users*: 85,600 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Bungoma and Kakamega counties: Nzoia river middle reaches. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.31). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Lukabaras [lkb]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Bible portions: 2018. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 34:45.

Maasai [mas] (Masai). Autonym: Maa, ɔl Maa. *Users*: 1,190,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Kajiado and Narok counties; Kiambu county: enclave west of Nairobi; Laikipia county: enclave north of Nairobi; Taita-Taveta county: small border area. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Eastern, Lotuxo-Teso, Lotuxo-Maa, Ongamo-Maa. *Dialects*: Kaputiei, Keekonyokie, Matapo, Laitokitok, Iloodokilani, Damat, Purko, Loitai, Siria, Moitanik (Wuasinkishu), Kore, Arusa (Arusha), Parakuyo (Baraguyu, Iparakuyo, Kwavi), Kisonko. Arusha is distinct from Bantu Chaga-related variety. Reportedly Arusha, who are pastoralists, dress like Maasai and speak a Maasai-related variety; whereas, agriculturalists intermarry with the Chaga. Other sources say the Arusha originally spoke a Bantu language. Lexical similarity: 82%–86% between Kenya and Tanzania dialects. Purko has 91%–96% lexical similarity with other Kenya dialects, 82% with Baraguyu, 86% with Arusa, 77%–89%

with Samburu [saq], 82%–89% with Chamus [saq], 60% with Ngasa [nsg] (Ongamo). *Type*: VSO. *Lg Use*: The Kore dialect now speak Somali [som] as L1. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Okiek [oki], Omotik [omt], Yaaku [muu]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%. Literacy rate in L2: 30%. Taught as subject in some primary schools. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1991–2018. *DLS*: Ascending (0.27). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Seminomadic. Purko is the largest dialect in Kenya and centrally located. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 34:19. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,872,000. Also indigenous in: Tanzania.

Maay [ymm]. Autonym: Af-maay. *Users*: 108,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Somali. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2006–2007. *Writing*: Latin script, used by Maay Erte dialect. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,608,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Somalia. Unestablished in: Ethiopia.

Markweeta [enb] (Marakuet, Marakwet). Autonym: Markweta. *Users*: 129,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity, including Cherang’any 8,320 and Endo 400 (2019 census). *Location*: Baringo, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Nandi, and West Pokot counties. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Southern, Kalenjin, Nandi-Markweta, Markweta. A member of macrolanguage Kalenjin [kln]. *Dialects*: Endo (Endo-Marakwet, Northern Markweeta), Sambirir (Southern Markweeta), Cherang’any. Low intelligibility of major Kalenjin dialects. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Kalenjin [kln]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2008. *DLS*: Emerging (0.12). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Marakweeta encompasses all speakers scattered among the so-called Endo-Sambirir and Talai. They do not see these region names as dialects. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 34:8.

Mwimbi-Muthambi [mws]. *Users*: 70,000 (1980 SIL), increasing. *Location*: Meru county. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.531). *Dialects*: Mwimbi (Kimwimbi), Muthambi. People may be able to use Kimîîru [mer] literature. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Kimîîru [mer]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 2021. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 34:28.

Nandi [niq] (Cemual, Kalenjin Nandi, Naandi). *Users*: 938,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Nandi and Uasin Gishu counties; Kisumu county: some north of Kisumu town. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Southern, Kalenjin, Nandi-Markweta, Nandi. A member of macrolanguage Kalenjin [kln]. *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Terik [tec]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2017. *DLS*: Emerging (0.05). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 34:9.

Nubi [kcn] (Ki-Nubi, Kinubi, Rutan Nubi). Autonym: Rutan Nubi. *Users*: 21,300 in Kenya (2019

census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Nairobi; Mombasa. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Creole, Arabic based. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh], for out-group communication. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 40%. Grammar. Texts. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Settled in Kenya by the British. A few being assimilated. Stable diglossia. Non-Nubi wives of Nubi men expected to learn Nubi. Muslim. *Map*: 34:18. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 50,100. Indigenous in: Uganda.

Nyala [nle] (Banyala, LuNyala, OluNyala, Olunyala). Autonym: Lunyala. *Users*: 227,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Busia and Siaya counties: Lake Victoria area, Nzoia river mouth to northwest of Luambwa and Busonga; enclave up river; Bungoma and Kakamega counties. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.32). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Dialects*: East Nyala, West Nyala. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Over 15%. Literacy rate in L2: Over 50% in Kiswahili [swh] or English [eng]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 34:13.

Okiek [oki] (Akie, Akiiek, Kinare, Ogiek, “Ndorobo” pej.). *Users*: 50 L1 speakers in Kenya and Tanzania (Austin 2008). Spoken by a small number of people (Dimmendaal and Voeltz 2007). Ethnic population: 52,600 (2019 census). *Location*: Nakuru county: east Mau escarpment. Mau forest between Amala and Ewas Ng’iro rivers near Nosogami stream (Sogoo dialect). *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Southern, Kalenjin, Okiek. A member of macrolanguage Kalenjin [kln]. *Dialects*: Okiek, Suiei, Sogoo (Sokoo). *Type*: VSO; case-marking on nouns and adjectives (2 cases: nominative and accusative); verb affixes mark person and number of subject and object; aspect and tense affixes on verbs; 17 consonants and 10 vowels; tonal (3 - high, mid, low). *Lg Use*: Some languages associated with Okiek have few remaining speakers. Akiiek in northern Tanzania now speak Maasai [mas]. Those of Kinare in Kenya now speak Gikuyu [kik]. Those in Tanzania and Kenya are not in contact with each other. Sogoo dialect may be extinct. Home, social gatherings. Many shifted to Maasai [mas] (Sommer 1992). Many shifted to Swahili [swh] (Sommer 1992). Also use English [eng]. *DLS*: Emerging (0.04). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: “Ndorobo” is a pejorative term for several hunter or forest groups that are not linguistically related (El Molo, Yaaku, Okiek, Omotik, Aasax). Christian. *Map*: 34:30. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 250. Global EGIDS level: 7 (Shifting). Also established in: Tanzania (Akie).

Olukhayo [lko] (Bakhayo, Khayo, Xaayo). Autonym: Olukhayo. *Users*: 68,700 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Busia county: Nambare area. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.341). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Olumarachi [lri]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in some primary schools. Radio. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 34:35.

Oluluyia [luy] (Luhia, Luhiya, Luyia). A macrolanguage. Population total all languages (L1 only): 3,312,200. *DLS*: . *Other*: Includes: Bukusu [bxk], Luidakho-Luisukha-Lutirichi [ida], Lukabaras [lkb], Lulogooli [rag], Lutachoni [lts], Nyala [nle], Olukhayo [lko], Olumarachi [lri], Olumarama [lrm], Olunyole [nyd], Olushisa [lks], Olutsotso [lto], Oluwanga [lwg], Saamya-Gwe [lsm] (Uganda). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,312,200.

Olumarachi [lri] (Marachi). Autonym: Olumarachi. *Users*: 65,600 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Busia county: northwest of Nzoia river. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.342). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Olukhayo [lko]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in some primary schools. Radio. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 34:36.

Olumarama [lrm] (Marama). Autonym: Olumarama. *Users*: 43,100 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Kakamega and Vihiga counties: north of Kisumu town. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.32). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Oluwanga [lwg]. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in some primary schools. Radio. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 34:38.

Olunyole [nyd] (Banyole, Banyore, Lunyore, Nyole, Nyoole, Nyore, Olunyore). Autonym: Lunyole, Olunyole. *Users*: 155,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Kakamega and Vihiga counties: above Kavirondo gulf. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.33). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Dialects*: None known. Lexical similarity: 61% with Nyole [nuj] of Uganda. *Type*: SVO. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings, church, school. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Seen as prestigious. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: More than 20%. First Oluluyia community to have a Bible school. Taught as subject in some primary schools. Literature. Radio. Bible: 2001. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 34:40.

Olusamia [lsm] (Lusaamia, Saamia, Samia, Ólusaamya). Autonym: Lusaamya-Lugwe, Ólusaamya. *Users*: 84,800 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Busia and Siaya counties: west of Ukewala to Lake Victoria. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.34). *Type*: SVO. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in some primary schools. Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Texts. Bible: 2018. *Writing*: Latin script, used since 1904. *Map*: 34:12. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 609,800. Also indigenous in: Uganda (Saamya-Gwe).

Olushisa [lks] (Kisa, Lushisa, Shisa). Autonym: Olushisa. *Users*: 35,100 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Kakamega county: Yala town northeastward. *Status*: 4 (Educational).

Class: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.32). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy].

Dialects: None known. Reportedly similar to Olumarama [lrm]. *Lg Use:* All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Taught as subject in some primary schools. Radio. *DLS:* Emerging (0.01). *Writing:* Latin script. *Map:* 34:39.

Olutsotso [lto] (Batsotso, Tsotso). Autonym: Olutsotso. *Users:* 72,700 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location:* Kakamega county: capital area. *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.32). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Lg Use:* All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Taught as subject in some primary schools. Radio. *DLS:* Emerging (0.01). *Writing:* Latin script. *Map:* 34:43.

Oluwanga [lwg] (Hanga, Kawanga, Luhanga, Luwanga, Oluhanga, Wanga). Autonym: Oluwanga. *Users:* 94,200 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Location:* Kakamega county: both banks of Nzoia river. *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Masaba-Luhya (E.32). A member of macrolanguage Oluluyia [luy]. *Dialects:* None known. Reportedly similar to Olumarama [lrm]. *Lg Use:* All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Taught as subject in some primary schools. Radio. *DLS:* Emerging (0.02). *Writing:* Latin script. *Map:* 34:37.

Omotik [omt] (Laamoot, Omotic, “Ndorobo” pej.). *Users:* 50 (1980). Ethnic population: 200 (2020 Joshua Project). *Location:* Narok county: Lemek area. *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Class:* Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Southern, Tatoga. *Dialect:* Suiei. Lexical similarity: 60% with Kalenjin [kln], 50% with Datooga [tcc]. *Lg Use:* Older adults only. Shifted to Maasai [mas]. *DLS:* Still. *Other:* “Ndorobo” is a pejorative cover term for several small hunter or forest groups, that are not linguistically related (El Molo [elo], Yaaku [muu], and Okiek [oki]). Traditional religion.

Orma [orc]. Autonym: Orma. *Users:* 92,100 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location:* Kilifi, Lamu, and Tana River counties. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Oromo. A member of macrolanguage Oromo [orm] (Ethiopia). *Dialects:* Munyo (Korokoro, Munyo Yaya), Orma. Distinct from Borana [gax]. Munyo Yaya is an ethnic group who speak a dialect of Orma. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Closed community. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Aweer [bob]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: Less than 30% in English [eng], Kiswahili [swh]. NT: 2016. *DLS:* Emerging (0.01). *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Muslim. *Map:* 34:54.

Pökoot [pko] (Pakot, Pokot, Pökot, Suk, ng’ala Pokot). Autonym: ngala Pökot. *Users:* 778,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location:* Baringo, Turkana and West Pokot counties; Nakuru and Nyandarua counties: northeast of Nakuru town. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Class:* Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Southern, Kalenjin, Pokot. A member of macrolanguage Kalenjin [kln].

Dialects: East Pokot, West Pokot. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng], especially for education and communication with outsiders. Also use Swahili [swh], especially for education and communication with outsiders. Used as L2 by Turkana [tuv]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Efforts underway to develop functional literacy in Pökoot for all ages. Literature. Radio. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2009. *DLS:* Emerging (0.09). *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Seminomadic. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map:* 34:7. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 883,000. Also indigenous in: Uganda.

Punjabi, Eastern [pan] (Eastern Panjabi, Gurmukhi, Gurumukhi, Punjabi). *Users:* 65,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location:* Nairobi. *Status:* 5 (Dispersed). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Panjabi. *Type:* SOV; postpositions; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; 15 consonant and 24 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 tones: high, mid, low). *Lg Use:* Closed community. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng], especially for business. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1959–2017. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Gurmukhi script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Most came to Kenya to build the railroad in early 20th century. Sikh, Hindu, Muslim. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Fiji, Mauritius, Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Réunion, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Rendille [rel] (Randile, Rendile). Autonym: Afi Ren'dille. *Users:* 96,300 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location:* Marsabit and Samburu counties: between Lake Turkana and Marsabit mountain. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Rendille-Boni. *Type:* SOV. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Samburu [saq]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L2: 5%–15%. Literacy activities in some churches. NT: 2018. *DLS:* Ascending (0.16). *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Nomadic. Ariaal Rendille people live in interdependent relationship with Samburu and speak Samburu [saq]. Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim. *Map:* 34:5.

Rundi [run]. Autonym: Ikirundi. *Users:* 14,000 in Kenya (2019 census), based on nationality. *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Ruanda-Rundi (D.62). *Lg Dev:* Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1967. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 12,879,050 (as L1: 12,874,850; as L2: 4,200). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Burundi. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Rwanda, Tanzania.

Sabaot [spy] (Sebei, “Mount Elgon Maasai” pej.). Autonym: Sābāwōōt. *Users:* 296,000 (2019

census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Bungoma and Trans Nzoia counties: Mount Elgon southeastern slopes. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Southern, Kalenjin, Elgon. A member of macrolanguage Kalenjin [kln]. *Dialects*: Bong’omeek (Bong’om, Pong’om), Koony (Kony), Book (Bok, Pok), Soomeek, Mosoop, Sabiiny. Related to Kupsapiiny [kpz] of Uganda. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, social gatherings, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Bukusu [bxk]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Over 30%. Literacy rate in L2: 50%. Elaborate mother-tongue education program. Taught in primary schools through grade 3. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2012. *DLS*: Emerging (0.07). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Example of language revitalization. Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 34:11.

Sagalla [tga] (Kisagala, Sagala, Saghala, Teri, kiSaghala). Autonym: Kisagalla. *Users*: 100,000 (1992 UBS). *Location*: Taita-Taveta county: Taita hills between Mwatate and Rukanga towns. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Nyika-Taita (E.741). *Dialects*: Dambi, Mugange, Teri, Kishamba, Gimba. Lexical similarity: 62% with Dawida [dav]. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 25%–40%. NT: 1994. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Distinct from Sagala [sbm] of Tanzania. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 34:48.

Samburu [saq] (Burkeneji, E Lokop, Lokop, Nkutuk, Sambur). Autonym: Sampur. *Users*: 366,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity, including Ilchamus and Njemps 33,000 (2019 census). *Location*: Isiolo, Marsabit, and Samburu counties: Lake Turkana east towards Marsabit. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Eastern, Lotuxo-Teso, Lotuxo-Maa, Ongamo-Maa. *Dialects*: Ilchamus (Chamus, Ilcamus), Njemps. Lexical similarity: 94%–88% with the Chamus dialect, 89%–77% with Maasai [mas], 59% with Ngasa [nsg] (Ongamo), 82% between Chamus and Maasai [mas]. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by El Molo [elo], Rendille [rel]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Samburu: 15%–25%, Chamus: 40%. Radio. Videos. NT: 2022. *DLS*: Ascending (0.17). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Nomadic. There is some question as to whether Chamus (Ilchamus) is a dialect of Samburu or a separate language. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 34:6.

Sindhi [snd]. *Users*: 3,300 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Northwestern, Sindhi. *Type*: SOV; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); case-marking (8 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; 24 consonant and 15 vowel phonemes. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1954. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Devanagari script, used in India. Gurmukhi script, used in India. Khojki script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,214,680 (as L1: 33,211,620; as L2: 3,060). Global

EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Philippines, Singapore. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Australia, Belize, Canada, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United States.

Singa [sgm] (Cula, Logang, Lusinga). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. *Location*: Homa Bay county: Rusinga island, Kavirondo gulf entrance. *Status*: 10 (Extinct). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Logooli-Kuria (E.406). *DLS*: Still.

Somali [som] (Standard Somali). Autonym: Af-Soomaali, Afka Soomaaliga. *Users*: 2,240,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity, including 516,000 Degodia, 139,000 Murule, 698,000 Ogaden, and 66,000 Wardei (2019 census). *Location*: Garissa, Mandera, and Wajir counties: entire eastern border area; northwest Lamu county. *Status*: 5 (Dispersed). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Somali. *Dialects*: Degodia, Ogaden, Wardei (Uardai, Wadai, Warday). *Type*: SOV; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine); enclitic definite article; verb affixes mark number, person, gender of subject; tense; comparatives; 22 consonant and 10 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 grammatical tones: high, low, falling); inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Aweer [bob]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: Somali: 15%–25%, Ogaden: 1%. Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1979. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1972. Osmanya script, no longer in use. *Other*: Daarood, Dir, Hawiye, and Ogaadeen are nomadic clan families in Kenya. Dialect differences cut across clan differences. Muslim. *Map*: 34:22. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 22,044,840 (as L1: 21,937,940; as L2: 106,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Suba [sxb] (Luo AbaSuba). Autonym: Olusuba. *Users*: 158,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Homa Bay county: Lake Victoria east shore, Mfangano and Rusinga islands. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Logooli-Kuria (E.403). *Dialects*: Suba, EgiSuba. Reportedly most similar to Suba-Simbiti [ssc]. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. All also use Dholuo [luo]. Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 10%. Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Taught as subject in some primary schools. Literature. Radio. Videos. NT: 2010. Revitalization efforts have been very effective. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 34:14.

Swahili [swh] (Arab-Swahili, Kiswahili, Kiswaheli, Kiswahili, Suahili). Autonym: Kiswahili. *Users*: 19,111,000 in Kenya, all users. L1 users: 111,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. 5,140 Amu, 91,400 Bajuni, 320 Chitundi, 1,340 Changamwe, 4,730 Jomvu, 110 Katwa, 690 Kilifi, 640 Kilindini, 240 Mtwapa, 400 Mvita, 1,160 Ngare, 1,120 Pate, 170 Shaka, 1,020 Siu, 530 Tangana, 1,450 Vumba (2019 census). L2 users: 19,000,000 (2019).

Location: Garissa and Lamu counties: Somali border to Tana river mouth, along coast and inland. *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Article 7(2)). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, G, Swahili (G.42). *Dialects:* Amu (Ozi), Mvita (Kimvita, Mombasa), Bajuni (Bajun, Gunya, Tikulu, Tikuu, Tukulu), Pemba (Hadimu, Phemba, Tambatu), Mambrui (Malindi), Pate, Siu (Siyu), Jomvu, Kilindini, Changamwe, Ngare, Vumba, Tangana, Chitundi, Faza, Katwa, Kilifi, Mtwapa, Shaka. *Type:* SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; 18 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number, object; passives; causatives; comparatives; 22 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Use:* Classical and modern literature. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L1: 80%. Literacy rate in L2: 70% in English [eng]. Taught as subject in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in some primary schools in early grades only. Fully developed. Bible: 1891–2017. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script. *Other:* Bajuni most divergent. Muslim. *Map:* 34:57. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400). Also indigenous in: Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania. Also established in: Burundi, Oman, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Comoros, Finland, Madagascar, Mayotte, New Zealand, Réunion, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Taveta [tvs] (Dabida, Kitaveta, Kitubeta, Tubeta). Autonym: Kitubheta. *Users:* 26,600 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location:* Kajiado county: east of Mount Kilimanjaro; Taita-Taveta county. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Nyika-Taita (E.74). *Lg Use:* Home, social gatherings, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng], in schools and official domains. Also use Swahili [swh], especially youth. *Lg Dev:* Literacy rate in L1: 1%–5%. Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Literacy for children in Kiswahili. NT: 1906. *DLS:* Emerging (0.04). *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Christian. *Map:* 34:47.

Terik [tec] (Nyang'ori). *Users:* 23,300 (2019 census), decreasing, based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 120,000 (2020 UNESCO). *Location:* Nandi and Uasin Gishu counties: west of Eldoret. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Class:* Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Southern, Kalenjin, Nandi-Markweta, Nandi. A member of macrolanguage Kalenjin [kln]. *Dialects:* None known. Very similar to Nandi [niq]. *Lg Use:* Adults only. Shifting to Nandi [niq]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. *DLS:* Still. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Map:* 34:46.

Toposa [toq]. Autonym: ɲatoposa. *Users:* 3,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Eastern, Lotuxo-Teso, Teso-Turkana, Turkana. *Type:* VSO (morphologically ergative); vowel harmony; questions: yes and no sentence final, content questions sentence initial and final; grammatical tone (tense, case). *Lg Dev:* Literature. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2002–2006. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 315,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: South Sudan.

Tugen [tuy]. Autonym: Tukēn. *Users*: 198,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity.

Location: Baringo, Nakuru, and Nyandarua counties: generally north of Nakuru town; some in Laikipia county. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Southern, Kalenjin, Nandi-Markweta, Nandi. A member of macrolanguage Kalenjin [kln]. *Dialects*: None known. People may not be able to use other Kalenjin [kln] literature. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng], mainly in schools and all official places. Also use Swahili [swh], mainly in schools and all official places. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script, in development. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 34:17.

Turkana [tuv] (Buma, Bume, Turkwana). Autonym: Ng’aturkana. *Users*: 1,020,000 (2019

census), based on ethnicity. 593,000 monolinguals. *Location*: Samburu and Turkana counties: west and south of Lake Turkana. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Nilo-Saharan, Satellite-Core, Core, Eastern Sudanic, Southern (n languages), Nilotic, Eastern, Lotuxo-Teso, Teso-Turkana, Turkana. *Dialects*: Northern Turkana, Southern Turkana. Inherently intelligible of Toposa [toq] speakers, but hostile to them. Partially intelligible of Ng’aKarimojong [kdj], Jie [kdj], and Nyangatom [nj], but all 5 are ethnically distinct. A few phonological, lexical, and discourse marker differences between them. Northern Turkana [tuv] and Eastern Toposa [toq] are reportedly more similar to Southern Turkana [tuv], but Western Toposa [toq] is further apart linguistically. The 4 varieties form a subgroup divided in the middle by the Kenya-Sudan border. Lexical similarity: 85% similarity with Ng’aKarimojong [kdj], 76% with Ateso [teo]. *Type*: VSO; highly inflectional; grammatical tone; vowel harmony; voiceless vowels. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Some also use English [eng]. Some also use Swahili [swh], and this is increasing. Also use Daasanach [dsh]. Also use Pökoot [pko]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 5%–10%. Literacy rate in L2: 25%–50%. Grammar. Bible: 2001. *DLS*: Ascending (0.15). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: A few Somali and Gikuyu have shops in the area. Semi-nomadic. Unfriendly to other nomadic tribes due to rivalry over livestock. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 34:1.

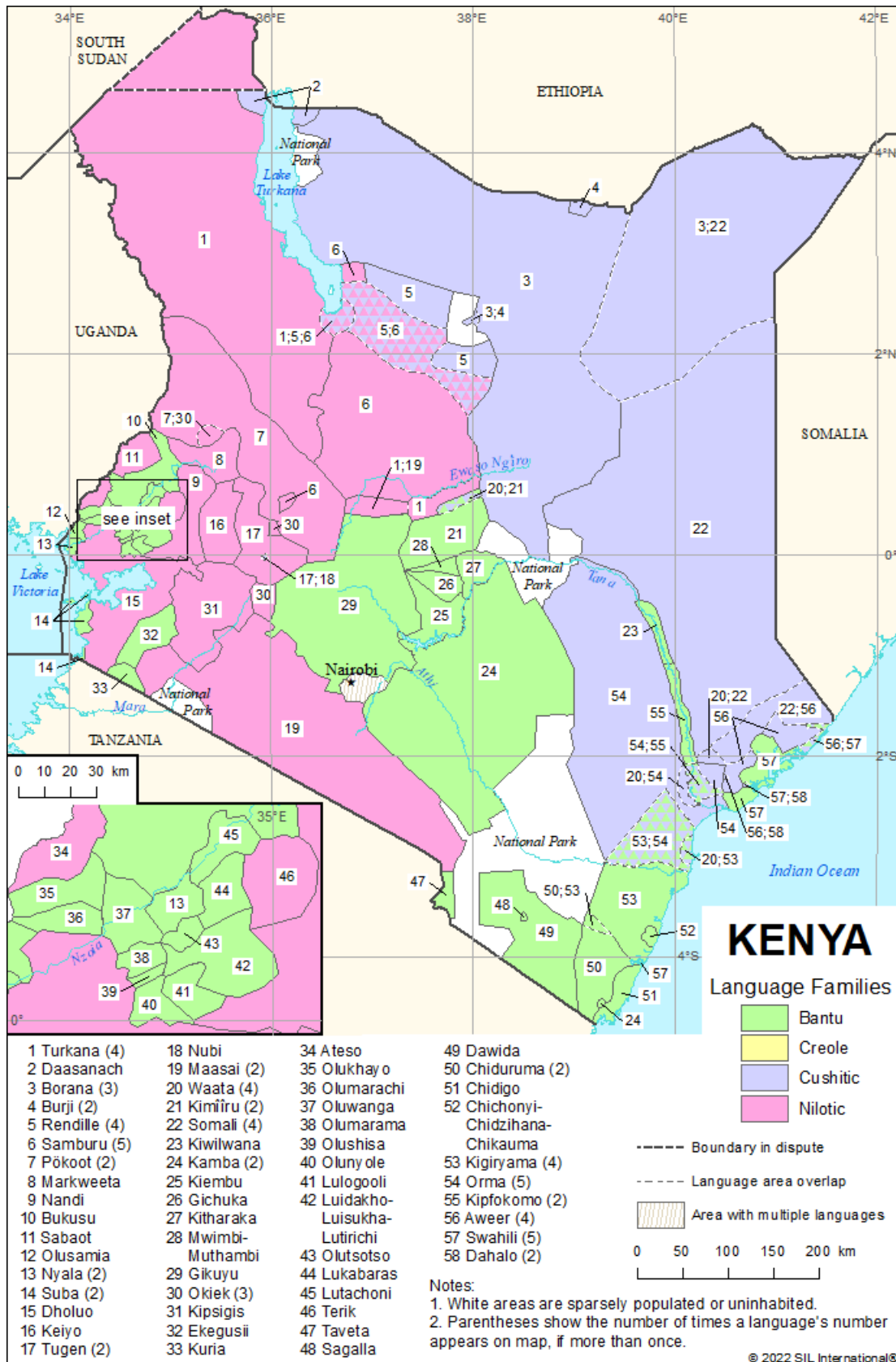
Waata [ssn] (Ariangulu, Langulo, Sanya, Sanye, Waat, Waatah, Wasanye). Autonym: Waata.

Users: 20,100 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Location*: Isiolo county: north of Meru town; Garissa and Lamu counties: east of Tana river; Kilifi county: Indian Ocean coast and inland from Formosa Bay south to Gongoni town; Tana River county: Garsen area west of Tana river. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Oromo. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Kigiryama [nyf]. Also use Kipfokomu [pkb]. Also use Kiwilwana [mlk]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 15%–25%. Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Latin script, limited usage. *Other*: Maintaining their language in spite of economic change and pressure from other languages. Distinct language from Dahalo [dal] (Sanye) or Aweer [bob]. Muslim, Christian. *Map*: 34:20.

Yaaku [muu] (Mogogodo, Mukogodo, Mukoquodo, Siegu, Yaakua, Yiaku, Yiakunte, “Ndorobo” pej., “Ntorobo” pej.). *Users*: 10 (2016 BBC). Ethnic population: 4,000 (2016 BBC). *Location*: Isiolo and Laikipia counties: Mukogodo forest west of Doldol, foothills north of Mount

Kenya; Samburu and Turkana counties: Lake Turkana south tip. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Yaaku. *Lg Use*: Most ethnic Yaaku speak Maasai [mas] as L1. Positive attitudes. Shifted to Maasai [mas]. *DLS*: Still. *Other*: “Ndorobo” is a pejorative cover term for several hunter or forest groups that are not linguistically related (El Molo [elo], Yaaku [muu], Okiek [oki], Omotik [omt]). Christian.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Kenya 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

Gikuyu [[kik](#)] *Users:* 8,150,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 8,151,850 (as L1: 8,151,100; as L2: 750).

Dholuo [[luo](#)] *Users:* 5,070,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,255,000.

Kamba [[kam](#)] *Users:* 4,660,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. 5,260,000 in Kenya, all users. L2 users: 600,000. *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,260,000 (as L1: 4,660,000; as L2: 600,000).

Ekegusii [[guz](#)] *Users:* 2,700,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. 3,200,000 in Kenya, all users. L2 users: 500,000. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,201,470 (as L1: 2,701,470; as L2: 500,000).

Somali [[som](#)] *Users:* 2,240,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity, including 516,000 Degodia, 139,000 Murule, 698,000 Ogaden, and 66,000 Wardei (2019 census). *Status:* 5 (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 22,044,840 (as L1: 21,937,940; as L2: 106,900).

Kimĩru [[mer](#)] *Users:* 1,980,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 4 (Educational).

Kipsigis [[sgc](#)] *Users:* 1,910,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Bukusu [[bxk](#)] *Users:* 1,190,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,227,100.

Maasai [[mas](#)] *Users:* 1,190,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,872,000.

Kigiryama [[nyf](#)] *Users:* 1,160,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. 1,000,000 Kigiryama; 31,000 Kambe; 126,000 Rabai; 10,700 Ribe (2019 census). *Status:* 4 (Educational).

Turkana [[tuv](#)] *Users:* 1,020,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. 593,000 monolinguals. *Status:* 5 (Developing).

100,000 to 999,999

Nandi [[niq](#)] *Users*: 938,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status*: 5* (Developing).

Pökoot [[pko](#)] *Users*: 778,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 883,000.

Borana [[gax](#)] *Users*: 627,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Ajuran 182,000, Borana 276,000, Gabra 141,000, Sakuye 27,000 (2019 census). *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,448,600.

Garre [[gex](#)] *Users*: 602,000 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 685,600.

Kiambu [[ebu](#)] *Users*: 600,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Embu 405,000; Mbeere 195,000 (2019 census). *Status*: 5 (Developing).

Chiduruma [[dug](#)] *Users*: 555,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status*: 4 (Educational).

Ateso [[teo](#)] *Users*: 418,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,778,000.

Chidigo [[dig](#)] *Users*: 410,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 576,000.

Samburu [[saq](#)] *Users*: 366,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity, including Ilchamus and Njemps 33,000 (2019 census). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous).

Dawida [[dav](#)] *Users*: 344,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status*: 5 (Developing).

Lulogooli [[rag](#)] *Users*: 335,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 335,300.

Kuria [[kuj](#)] *Users*: 314,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 738,000.

Chichonyi-Chidzihana-Chikauma [[coh](#)] *Users*: 309,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Chonyi 199,000; Jibana 38,500; Kauma 71,100 (2019 census). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous).

Sabaot [[spy](#)] *Users*: 296,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status*: 4 (Educational).

Kenyan Sign Language [[xki](#)] *Users*: 260,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL), increasing. Estimated 160,000–320,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% of total population. Other estimates: 340,000 (2007 DOOR); 600,000 (Wilson and Kakiri 2011). *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2010, Constitution, Article 7(3b) National, official and other languages; and Article 120(1) Official Languages of Parliament).

Keiyo [[eyo](#)] *Users*: 251,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous).

- Nyala** [nle] *Users:* 227,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Developing).
- Kitharaka** [thk] *Users:* 220,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. 61,600 monolinguals. *Status:* 4 (Educational).
- Gujarati** [guj] *Users:* 208,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).
- Tugen** [tuy] *Users:* 198,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).
- Suba** [sxb] *Users:* 158,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Developing).
- Luidakho-Luisukha-Lutirichi** [ida] *Users:* 156,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Idakho 54,700; Isukha 102,000; Tiriki 93,400 (2019 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing).
- Olunyole** [nyd] *Users:* 155,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Developing).
- Lukabaras** [lkb] *Users:* 137,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5* (Developing).
- Markweeta** [enb] *Users:* 129,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity, including Cherang'any 8,320 and Endo 400 (2019 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing).
- Kipfokomu** [pkb] *Users:* 112,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 4 (Educational).
- Swahili** [swh] *Users:* 111,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. 5,140 Amu, 91,400 Bajuni, 320 Chitundi, 1,340 Changamwe, 4,730 Jomvu, 110 Katwa, 690 Kilifi, 640 Kilindini, 240 Mtwapa, 400 Mvita, 1,160 Ngare, 1,120 Pate, 170 Shaka, 1,020 Siu, 530 Tangana, 1,450 Vumba (2019 census). 19,111,000 in Kenya, all users. L2 users: 19,000,000 (2019). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Article 7(2)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400).
- Maay** [ymm] *Users:* 108,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,608,000.
- Sagalla** [tga] *Users:* 100,000 (1992 UBS). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

10,000 to 99,999

- Rendille** [rel] *Users:* 96,300 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Developing).
- Oluwanga** [lwg] *Users:* 94,200 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 4 (Educational).
- Orma** [orc] *Users:* 92,100 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).
- Lutachoni** [lts] *Users:* 85,600 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5* (Developing).
- Olusamia** [lsm] *Users:* 84,800 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 609,800.

- Kacchi** [kfr] *Users:* 82,000 in Kenya (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,193,600 (as L1: 1,188,360; as L2: 5,240).
- Olutsotso** [lto] *Users:* 72,700 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 4 (Educational).
- Gichuka** [cuh] *Users:* 70,000 (1980 SIL), increasing. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).
- Mwimbi-Muthambi** [mws] *Users:* 70,000 (1980 SIL), increasing. *Status:* 5 (Developing).
- Olukhayo** [lko] *Users:* 68,700 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 4 (Educational).
- Olumarachi** [lri] *Users:* 65,600 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 4 (Educational).
- Punjabi, Eastern** [pan] *Users:* 65,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000).
- English** [eng] *Users:* 54,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), increasing, based on ethnicity. 4,244,000 in Kenya, all users. L2 users: 4,190,000 (2019). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Article 7(2)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).
- Ganda** [lug] *Users:* 50,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,019,350 (as L1: 5,627,150; as L2: 5,392,200).
- Olumarama** [lrm] *Users:* 43,100 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 4 (Educational).
- Burji** [bji] *Users:* 36,900 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,350 (as L1: 83,300; as L2: 3,050).
- Olushisa** [lks] *Users:* 35,100 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 4 (Educational).
- Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken** [acq] *Users:* 35,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,856,700.
- Chinese, Mandarin** [cmn] *Users:* 34,000 in Kenya (2019 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).
- Arabic, Omani Spoken** [acx] *Users:* 27,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,885,100.
- Taveta** [tvs] *Users:* 26,600 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Developing).
- Terik** [tec] *Users:* 23,300 (2019 census), decreasing, based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 120,000 (2020 UNESCO). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).
- Kiwilwana** [mlk] *Users:* 21,800 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5 (Developing).
- Nubi** [kcn] *Users:* 21,300 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 50,100.

Waata [ssn] *Users:* 20,100 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Daasanach [dsh] *Users:* 18,400 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity.

Population varies as people freely cross the Ethiopian border. 6,250 monolinguals. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 66,630 (as L1: 66,400; as L2: 230).

Rundi [run] *Users:* 14,000 in Kenya (2019 census), based on nationality. *Status:* Unestablished.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 12,879,050 (as L1: 12,874,850; as L2: 4,200).

Arabic, Hadrami Spoken [ayh] *Users:* 13,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,113,000.

1,000 to 9,999

Konkani, Goan [gom] *Users:* 9,600 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,725,300.

Kinyarwanda [kin] *Users:* 8,730 in Kenya (2019 census), based on nationality. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,522,750 (as L1: 14,518,160; as L2: 4,590).

Aweer [bob] *Users:* 7,600 (2009 census), increasing. 1,600 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 20,100 (2019 census). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Hindi [hin] *Users:* 6,700 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

Sindhi [snd] *Users:* 3,300 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 33,214,680 (as L1: 33,211,620; as L2: 3,060).

Toposa [toq] *Users:* 3,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 315,000.

French [fra] *Users:* 2,100 in Kenya (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Konso [kxc] *Users:* 1,300 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 248,960 (as L1: 243,300; as L2: 5,660).

100 to 999

Dahalo [dal] *Users:* 580 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 3,000 (Dimmendaal and Voeltz 2007). *Status:* 8a (Moribund).

10 to 99

Okiek [[oki](#)] *Users:* 50 L1 speakers in Kenya and Tanzania (Austin 2008). Spoken by a small number of people (Dimmendaal and Voeltz 2007). *Ethnic population:* 52,600 (2019 census). *Status:* 8b (Nearly extinct). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 250.

Omotik [[omt](#)] *Users:* 50 (1980). *Ethnic population:* 200 (2020 Joshua Project). *Status:* 8a (Moribund).

Yaaku [[muu](#)] *Users:* 10 (2016 BBC). *Ethnic population:* 4,000 (2016 BBC). *Status:* 8a (Moribund).

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El Molo [[elo](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Last fluent speaker, Kaayo, died in 1999 (2012 M. Tosco). *Ethnic population:* 1,100 (2019 census). *Status:* 9 (Dormant).

Singa [[sgm](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. *Status:* 10 (Extinct).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Kenya 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:* 4,244,000 in Kenya, all users. L1 users: 54,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), increasing, based on ethnicity. L2 users: 4,190,000 (2019). *Status:* Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Article 7(2)). *Lg Use:* Official language in most transactions. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Swahili [swh]. *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).

Swahili [swh] *Users:* 19,111,000 in Kenya, all users. L1 users: 111,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. 5,140 Amu, 91,400 Bajuni, 320 Chitundi, 1,340 Changanwe, 4,730 Jomvu, 110 Katwa, 690 Kilifi, 640 Kilindini, 240 Mtwapa, 400 Mvita, 1,160 Ngare, 1,120 Pate, 170 Shaka, 1,020 Siu, 530 Tangana, 1,450 Vumba (2019 census). L2 users: 19,000,000 (2019). *Status:* Statutory national language (2010, Constitution, Article 7(2)). *Lg Use:* Classical and modern literature. All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400).

4 (Educational)

Bukusu [bvk] *Users:* 1,190,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use:* Growing. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use English [eng], especially children in school. Some also use Swahili [swh], especially children in school. Most adults also use neighboring languages. Used as L2 by Sabaot [spy]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Bible: 2010. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,227,100.

Chidigo [dig] *Users:* 410,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Chiduruma [dug]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Chiduruma [dug]. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2020. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 576,000.

Chiduruma [dug] *Users:* 555,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Chidigo [dig]. Also use

Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Chidigo [dig]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. NT: 1999. *Writing*: Latin script.

Kamba [kam] *Users*: 5,260,000 in Kenya, all users. L1 users: 4,660,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. L2 users: 600,000. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Gichuka [cuh]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1956. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,260,000 (as L1: 4,660,000; as L2: 600,000).

Kigiryama [nyf] *Users*: 1,160,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. 1,000,000 Giryama; 31,000 Kambe; 126,000 Rabai; 10,700 Ribe (2019 census). *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Chichonyi-Chidzihana-Chikauma [coh]. Also use English [eng], which is learned by school children. Also use Kipfokomu [pkb]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Chichonyi-Chidzihana-Chikauma [coh], Kipfokomu [pkb], Waata [ssn]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Bible: 1901–2018. *Writing*: Latin script.

Kimĩru [mer] *Users*: 1,980,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Gichuka [cuh], Kiambu [ebu], Kitharaka [thk], Mwimbi-Muthambi [mws]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Videos. Bible: 1964–2011. *Writing*: Latin script.

Kipfokomu [pkb] *Users*: 112,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings, church. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Kigiryama [nyf]. Also use Swahili [swh], about 75% somewhat bilingually. Used as L2 by Kigiryama [nyf], Kiwilwana [mlk], Waata [ssn]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Videos. NT: 2003–2004. *Writing*: Latin script.

Kitharaka [thk] *Users*: 220,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. 61,600 monolinguals. *Lg Use*: Older people's dialect more prestigious due to lack of borrowings. Many now use written materials. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng], in schools and offices. Also use Gikuyu [kik]. Also use Kimĩru [mer]. Also use Swahili [swh], especially in churches, schools, jobs, and sometimes in the home. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Videos. Bible: 2018. *Writing*: Latin script, in development.

Lulogooli [rag] *Users*: 335,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Videos. Bible: 1951. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 335,300.

Olukhayo [lko] *Users*: 68,700 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *Writing*: Latin script.

Olumarachi [lri] *Users*: 65,600 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *Writing*: Latin script.

Olumarama [lrm] *Users*: 43,100 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also

use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *Writing*: Latin script.

Olusamia [lsm] *Users*: 84,800 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Writing*: Latin script, used since 1904. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 609,800.

Olushisa [lks] *Users*: 35,100 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *Writing*: Latin script.

Olutsotso [lto] *Users*: 72,700 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *Writing*: Latin script.

Oluwanga [lwg] *Users*: 94,200 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *Writing*: Latin script.

Sabaot [spy] *Users*: 296,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, social gatherings, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Bukusu [bxk]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2012. *Writing*: Latin script.

5 (Developing)

Borana [gax] *Users*: 627,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Ajuran 182,000, Borana 276,000, Gabra 141,000, Sakuye 27,000 (2019 census). *Lg Use*: Gabra and Sakuye (Saguye) ethnic groups use Borana as L1. Also spoken by younger Burji around Marsabit and Moyale. Some Garre and Ajuran speak it as L1, others Somali [som]. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Burji [bji]. *Writing*: Ethiopic script, no longer in use. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,448,600.

Dawida [dav] *Users*: 344,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Bible: 1998. *Writing*: Latin script.

Dholuo [luo] *Users*: 5,070,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Suba [sxb]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1953–1977. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,255,000.

Ekegusii [guz] *Users*: 3,200,000 in Kenya, all users. L1 users: 2,700,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. L2 users: 500,000. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Kuria [kuj]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Kuria [kuj]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1988. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,201,470 (as L1: 2,701,470; as L2: 500,000).

Gikuyu [kik] *Users*: 8,150,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, social gatherings, business. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English

[eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Gichuka [cuh], Kiambu [ebu], Kitharaka [thk]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1951–1965. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 8,151,850 (as L1: 8,151,100; as L2: 750).

Kenyan Sign Language [xki] *Users*: 260,000 (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL), increasing. Estimated 160,000–320,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% of total population. Other estimates: 340,000 (2007 DOOR); 600,000 (Wilson and Kakiri 2011). *Status*: Recognized language (2010, Constitution, Article 7(3b) National, official and other languages; and Article 120(1) Official Languages of Parliament). *Lg Use*: Church, government, courts. Mainly those in schools and over 15 years old. Neutral attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: TV. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2010–2013.

Kiambu [ebu] *Users*: 600,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Embu 405,000; Mbeere 195,000 (2019 census). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use Gikuyu [kik], due to previous teaching in schools, but limited in rural areas. Also use Kimĩru [mer], but with limited comprehension. Also use Swahili [swh], and up to 70% have low proficiency in it. *Lg Dev*: Texts. Bible: 2012. *Writing*: Latin script.

Kipsigis [sgc] *Users*: 1,910,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *Writing*: Latin script.

Kiwilwana [mlk] *Users*: 21,800 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Kipfokomu [pkb]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Waata [ssn]. *Writing*: Latin script.

Konkani, Goan [gom] *Users*: 9,600 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Used by many Asians with ancestors from Goa or north India. Not used in schools. Home, community. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Writing*: Devanagari script, official usage. Kannada script. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,725,300.

Kuria [kuj] *Users*: 314,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Ekegusii [guz]. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Ekegusii [guz]. *Writing*: Latin script, in development. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 738,000.

Luidakho-Luisukha-Lutirichi [ida] *Users*: 156,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Idakho 54,700; Isukha 102,000; Tiriki 93,400 (2019 census). *Lg Use*: Home, community, religious services. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Bible: 2014. *Writing*: Latin script.

Lukabaras [lkb] *Users*: 137,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. *Writing*: Latin script.

Lutachoni [lts] *Users*: 85,600 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: All domains. Also use

English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Bible portions: 2018.
Writing: Latin script.

Maasai [mas] *Users*: 1,190,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: The Kore dialect now speak Somali [som] as L1. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Okiek [oki], Omotik [omt], Yaaku [muu]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1991–2018. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,872,000.

Markweeta [enb] *Users*: 129,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity, including Cherang’any 8,320 and Endo 400 (2019 census). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Kalenjin [kln]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2008. *Writing*: Latin script.

Mwimbi-Muthambi [mws] *Users*: 70,000 (1980 SIL), increasing. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Kimîru [mer]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 2021. *Writing*: Latin script.

Nandi [niq] *Users*: 938,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Terik [tec]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2017. *Writing*: Latin script.

Nyala [nle] *Users*: 227,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Writing*: Latin script.

Olunyole [nyd] *Users*: 155,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings, church, school. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Seen as prestigious. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Bible: 2001. *Writing*: Latin script.

Pökoot [pko] *Users*: 778,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng], especially for education and communication with outsiders. Also use Swahili [swh], especially for education and communication with outsiders. Used as L2 by Turkana [tuv]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2009. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 883,000.

Rendille [rel] *Users*: 96,300 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Samburu [saq]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: NT: 2018. *Writing*: Latin script.

Sagalla [tga] *Users*: 100,000 (1992 UBS). *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev*: NT: 1994. *Writing*: Latin script.

Suba [sxb] *Users*: 158,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. All also use Dholuo [luo]. Also use

English [[eng](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Videos. NT: 2010. *Writing*: Latin script.

Taveta [[tvs](#)] *Users*: 26,600 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [[eng](#)], in schools and official domains. Also use Swahili [[swh](#)], especially youth. *Lg Dev*: NT: 1906. *Writing*: Latin script.

Turkana [[tuv](#)] *Users*: 1,020,000 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. 593,000 monolinguals. *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Some also use English [[eng](#)]. Some also use Swahili [[swh](#)], and this is increasing. Also use Daasanach [[dsh](#)]. Also use Pökoot [[pko](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Bible: 2001. *Writing*: Latin script.

5 (Dispersed)

Gujarati [[guj](#)] *Users*: 208,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [[eng](#)]. Also use Swahili [[swh](#)]. *Writing*: Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).

Punjabi, Eastern [[pan](#)] *Users*: 65,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Closed community. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [[eng](#)], especially for business. Also use Swahili [[swh](#)]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Gurmukhi script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000).

Somali [[som](#)] *Users*: 2,240,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity, including 516,000 Degodia, 139,000 Murule, 698,000 Ogaden, and 66,000 Wardei (2019 census). *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [[eng](#)]. Also use Swahili [[swh](#)]. Used as L2 by Aweer [[bob](#)]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1972. Osmanya script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 22,044,840 (as L1: 21,937,940; as L2: 106,900).

6a (Vigorous)

Arabic, Omani Spoken [[acx](#)] *Users*: 27,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Important for religious practice. Home, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [[eng](#)]. Also use Standard Arabic [[arb](#)]. Also use Swahili [[swh](#)]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,885,100.

Ateso [[teo](#)] *Users*: 418,000 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [[eng](#)]. Also use Swahili [[swh](#)]. *Writing*: Latin script, used since 1930. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,778,000.

Aweer [[bob](#)] *Users*: 7,600 (2009 census), increasing. 1,600 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 20,100 (2019 census). *Lg Use*: Vigorous. Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes.

Also use English [eng]. Also use Orma [orc]. Also use Somali [som]. Also use Swahili [swh].
Writing: Latin script.

Chichonyi-Chidzihana-Chikauma [coh] *Users:* 309,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Chonyi 199,000; Jibana 38,500; Kauma 71,100 (2019 census). *Lg Use:* Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Most also use Kigiryama [nyf], or other Mijikenda varieties. Most also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Kigiryama [nyf]. *Lg Dev:* Bible portions: 2016. *Writing:* Latin script, in development.

Daasanach [dsh] *Users:* 18,400 in Kenya (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. Population varies as people freely cross the Ethiopian border. 6,250 monolinguals. *Lg Use:* Home, social gatherings with no outsiders. Positive attitudes. Some also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Turkana [tuv]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 66,630 (as L1: 66,400; as L2: 230).

Garre [gex] *Users:* 602,000 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 685,600.

Gichuka [cuh] *Users:* 70,000 (1980 SIL), increasing. *Lg Use:* Home, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use Gikuyu [kik]. Also use Kamba [kam]. Also use Kimĩru [mer]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Bible portions: 2016. *Writing:* Latin script, in development.

Keiyo [eyo] *Users:* 251,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev:* Radio. *Writing:* Unwritten.

Nubi [kcn] *Users:* 21,300 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use:* Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Some also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh], for out-group communication. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 50,100.

Orma [orc] *Users:* 92,100 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use:* Vigorous. Closed community. Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by Aweer [bob]. *Lg Dev:* NT: 2016. *Writing:* Latin script.

Samburu [saq] *Users:* 366,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity, including Ilchamus and Njemps 33,000 (2019 census). *Lg Use:* Home, social gatherings, religion. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Swahili [swh]. Used as L2 by El Molo [elo], Rendille [rel]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Videos. NT: 2022. *Writing:* Latin script.

Tugen [tuy] *Users:* 198,000 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use:* Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng], mainly in schools and all official places. Also use Swahili [swh], mainly in schools and all official places. *Writing:* Latin script, in development.

Waata [ssn] *Users:* 20,100 (2019 census), increasing, based on ethnicity. *Lg Use:* Home, social gatherings. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Also use English [eng]. Also use Kigiryama [nyf]. Also use Kipfokomu [pkb]. Also use Kiwilwana [mlk]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Latin script, limited usage.

7 (Shifting)

Burji [bji] *Users:* 36,900 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use:* Home, social gatherings without outsiders. Adults only. Positive attitudes. Shifting to Borana-Arsi-Guji Oromo [gax]. *Writing:* Ethiopic script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,350 (as L1: 83,300; as L2: 3,050).

Terik [tec] *Users:* 23,300 (2019 census), decreasing, based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 120,000 (2020 UNESCO). *Lg Use:* Adults only. Shifting to Nandi [niq]. Also use Swahili [swh]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. *Writing:* Unwritten.

8a (Moribund)

Dahalo [dal] *Users:* 580 (2019 census), based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 3,000 (Dimmendaal and Voeltz 2007). *Lg Use:* Shifted to Swahili [swh] (Sommer 1992). *Writing:* Unwritten.

Omotik [omt] *Users:* 50 (1980). Ethnic population: 200 (2020 Joshua Project). *Lg Use:* Older adults only. Shifted to Maasai [mas].

Yaaku [muu] *Users:* 10 (2016 BBC). Ethnic population: 4,000 (2016 BBC). *Lg Use:* Most ethnic Yaaku speak Maasai [mas] as L1. Positive attitudes. Shifted to Maasai [mas].

8b (Nearly extinct)

Okiek [oki] *Users:* 50 L1 speakers in Kenya and Tanzania (Austin 2008). Spoken by a small number of people (Dimmendaal and Voeltz 2007). Ethnic population: 52,600 (2019 census). *Lg Use:* Some languages associated with Okiek have few remaining speakers. Akiek in northern Tanzania now speak Maasai [mas]. Those of Kinare in Kenya now speak Gikuyu [kik]. Those in Tanzania and Kenya are not in contact with each other. Sogoo dialect may be extinct. Home, social gatherings. Many shifted to Maasai [mas] (Sommer 1992). Many shifted to Swahili [swh] (Sommer 1992). Also use English [eng]. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 250.

9 (Dormant)

El Molo [elo] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Last fluent speaker, Kaayo, died in 1999 (2012 M. Tosco). Ethnic population: 1,100 (2019 census). *Lg Use:* Shifted to Samburu [saq]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

10 (Extinct)

Singa [sgm] *Users:* No known L1 speakers.

Unestablished

- Arabic, Hadrami Spoken** [[ayh](#)] *Users:* 13,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, limited usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,113,000.
- Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken** [[acq](#)] *Users:* 35,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,856,700.
- Chinese, Mandarin** [[cmn](#)] *Users:* 34,000 in Kenya (2019 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).
- French** [[fra](#)] *Users:* 2,100 in Kenya (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *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).
- Ganda** [[lug](#)] *Users:* 50,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Latin script, used since 1947. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,019,350 (as L1: 5,627,150; as L2: 5,392,200).
- Hindi** [[hin](#)] *Users:* 6,700 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).
- Kacchi** [[kfr](#)] *Users:* 82,000 in Kenya (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Devanagari script. Gujarati script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,193,600 (as L1: 1,188,360; as L2: 5,240).
- Kinyarwanda** [[kin](#)] *Users:* 8,730 in Kenya (2019 census), based on nationality. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,522,750 (as L1: 14,518,160; as L2: 4,590).
- Konso** [[kxc](#)] *Users:* 1,300 in Kenya (2019 census), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Ethiopic script, used in Church literature. Latin script, developed in the 1990s, common usage since 2014, official usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 248,960 (as L1: 243,300; as L2: 5,660).
- Maay** [[ymm](#)] *Users:* 108,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Latin script, used by Maay Erte dialect. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,608,000.
- Rundi** [[run](#)] *Users:* 14,000 in Kenya (2019 census), based on nationality. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 12,879,050 (as L1:

12,874,850; as L2: 4,200).

Sindhi [[snd](#)] *Users*: 3,300 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Devanagari script, used in India. Gurmukhi script, used in India. Khojki script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 33,214,680 (as L1: 33,211,620; as L2: 3,060).

Toposa [[toq](#)] *Users*: 3,000 in Kenya (2020 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 315,000.

Languages by County

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

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- Markweeta [enb], 24
- Pökoot [pko], 27
- Tugen [tuy], 32

Bomet

- Kipsigis [sgc], 21

Bungoma

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- Luidakho-Luisukha-Lutirichi [ida], 22
- Lutachoni [lts], 23
- Nyala [nle], 25
- Sabaot [spy], 28

Busia

- Ateso [teo], 11
- Dholuo [luo], 15
- Nyala [nle], 25
- Olukhayo [lko], 25
- Olumarachi [lri], 26
- Olusamia [lsm], 26

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- Keiyo [eyo], 19
- Markweeta [enb], 24

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- Kitharaka [thk], 21

Garissa

- Aweer [bob], 11
- Kipfokomu [pkb], 20
- Kiwilwana [mlk], 21
- Somali [som], 30
- Swahili [swh], 30
- Waata [ssn], 32

Homa Bay

- Dholuo [luo], 15

Singa [sgm], 30

Suba [sxb], 30

Isiolo

- Borana [gax], 12
- Kimîru [mer], 20
- Samburu [saq], 29
- Waata [ssn], 32
- Yaaku [muu], 32

Kajiado

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- Maasai [mas], 23
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Kakamega

- Bukusu [bxk], 12
- Dholuo [luo], 15
- Luidakho-Luisukha-Lutirichi [ida], 22
- Lukabaras [lkb], 23
- Lulogooli [rag], 23
- Lutachoni [lts], 23
- Nyala [nle], 25
- Olumarama [lrm], 26
- Olunyole [nyd], 26
- Olushisa [lks], 26
- Olutsotso [lto], 27
- Oluwanga [lwg], 27

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- Kipsigis [sgc], 21

Kiambu

- Gikuyu [kik], 17
- Maasai [mas], 23

Kilifi

- Arabic, Omani Spoken [acx], 11
- Chichonyi-Chidzihana-Chikauma [coh], 13
- Kigiryama [nyf], 20

Orma [orc], 27

Waata [ssn], 32

Kirinyaga

Gikuyu [kik], 17

Kisii

Dholuo [luo], 15

Ekegusii [guz], 15

Kisumu

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Nandi [niq], 24

Kitui

Kamba [kam], 18

Kwale

Arabic, Omani Spoken [acx], 11

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Kamba [kam], 18

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Kimĩru [mer], 20

Maasai [mas], 23

Tugen [tuy], 32

Yaaku [muu], 32

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Dahalo [dal], 14

Kipfokomu [pkb], 20

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Ekegusii [guz], 15

Kuria [kuj], 22

Mombasa

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Nairobi

Gikuyu [kik], 17

Gujarati [guj], 17

Konkani, Goan [gom], 22

Nubi [kcn], 24

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Nakuru

Gikuyu [kik], 17

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Okiek [oki], 25

Pökoot [pko], 27

Tugen [tuy], 32

Nandi

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Kigiryama [nyf], 20

Kipfokomu [pkb], 20

Kiwilwana [mlk], 21

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Languages by Family

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

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Burji [bjj], [12](#)

Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Oromo

Orma [orc], [27](#)

Oromo, Borana-Arsi-Guji [gax], [12](#)

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Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Rendille-Boni

Aweer [bob], [11](#)

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Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Somali

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Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Western Omo-Tana

Daasanach [dsh], [14](#)

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Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Gujarati

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

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Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Southern, Konkani

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Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.52)

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Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.53)

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Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.531)

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Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.54)

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Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.541)

Gichuka [cuh], 16

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Kikuyu-Kamba (E.55)

Kamba [kam], 18

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Nyika-Taita (E.701)

Kiwilwana [mlk], 21

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, E, Nyika-Taita (E.71)

Kipfokomu [pkb], 20

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Sign language, Deaf community sign language

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Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 84 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/>.

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ayh	Arabic, Hadrami Spoken, 11	lks	Olushisa, 26
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bob	Aweer, 11	lrm	Olumarama, 26
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Language Name Index

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

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- Meru**, *alt.* Kimîru [mer], 20
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- Mombasa**, *alt. dial.* Swahili [swh], 30
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