

# Ethnologue: Languages of Kuwait

## Twenty-sixth edition data

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## Contents

List of Abbreviations	3
How to Use This Digest	4
Country Overview	6
Language Status Profile	7
Statistical Summaries	8
Alphabetical Listing of Languages	10
Language Map	17
Languages by Population	18
Languages by Status	20
Languages by Family	23
Language Code Index	24
Language Name Index	25
Bibliography	26

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## List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

## How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Kuwait that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) provides detailed information on the 24 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Kuwait. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

**Primary language name** [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 18) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 20) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by Family” (page 23) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 24) 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 25) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 11 unique names are associated with the 24 languages described in this digest.

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

(page 26). 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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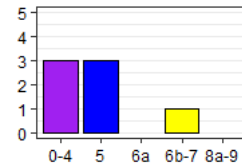
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## Country Overview

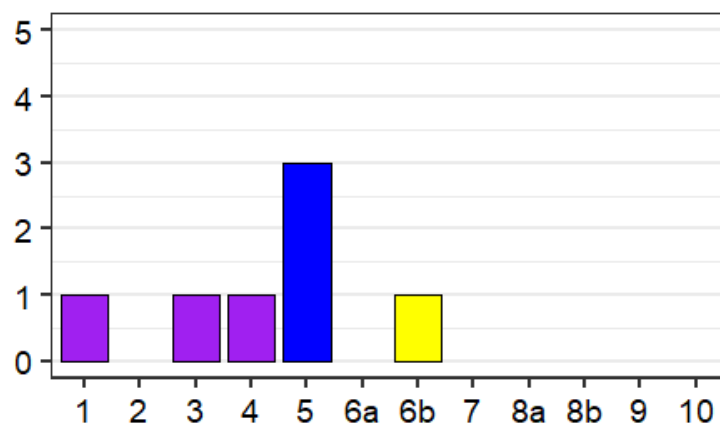
Name of country	Kuwait
Other names	State of Kuwait
Population	4,326,000 (2021 UNDESA)
Principal languages	Gulf Spoken Arabic, Standard Arabic
Literacy rate	96% (2018 UNESCO)
Deaf population	110,300
International conventions	CDE (1963), CPPDCE (2007), CSICH (2015), ICCPR (1996), UNCRPD (2013), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Holes 1990, Ingham 1982, Johnstone 1967
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Kuwait is 7. All are living languages. Of these, 1 is indigenous and 6 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 3 are institutional, 3 are developing, and 1 is in trouble. Also listed are 17 unestablished languages.</p>



See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

## Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Kuwait with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 20) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

## Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Kuwait. 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 Kuwait 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 Kuwait by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 18) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

**Table 1:** Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	1	14.3	14.3%	2,550,000	76.30390	76.30390%
100,000 to 999,999	1	14.3	28.6%	700,000	20.94617	97.25007%
10,000 to 99,999	4	57.1	85.7%	91,900	2.74993	100.00000%
Unknown	1	14.3	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	7	100.0		3,341,900	100.00000	

### Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Kuwait by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 20) for a

listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Kuwait. 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>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>		
1	1	14.3	14.3%	Unknown				
3	1	14.3	28.6%	2,550,000	76.3039	76.3039%	2,550,000	2,550,000
4	1	14.3	42.9%	27,000	0.8079	77.1118%	27,000	27,000
5	3	42.9	85.7%	737,900	22.0803	99.1921%	245,967	27,300
6b	1	14.3	100.0%	27,000	0.8079	100.0000%	27,000	27,000
<i>Totals</i>	7	100.0		3,341,900	100.0000			

### Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) name 2 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	4	57.1	2,604,300	77.9	651,075	27,300
Indo-European	3	42.9	737,600	22.1	245,867	27,000
<i>Totals</i>	7	100.0	3,341,900	100.0		

## Alphabetical Listing of Languages

**Amharic** [amh]. *Users*: 126,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, Ethiopian, South, Transversal, Amharic-Argobba. *Type*: SOV; prepositions, genitives, articles, and relatives precede noun heads; question word initial; case-marking (4 cases); verb suffixes show person, number, gender of subject and (optionally) object; passives including deponents; aspect; causatives; no comparatives; 27 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; very weak stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1840–2013. *Writing*: Braille script. Ethiopic script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 57,567,300 (as L1: 32,449,400; as L2: 25,117,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Ethiopia. Also established in: Israel. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sudan, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States.

**Arabic, Egyptian Spoken** [arz]. *Users*: 541,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1932. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Egypt. Also established in: United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Syria, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

**Arabic, Gulf Spoken** [afb]. *Users*: 2,550,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Location*: Widespread, except scattered in Al Jahra' governorate. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language, widely used in public administration. Originated from the speakers of Najdi Arabic who migrated to Kuwait in the 18th century; emerged as a mixture of various different dialects. Became widely spoken around 1914. Widespread in the Arabian Gulf region. Used in everyday life, in media, and in business. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. A member of macrolanguage Arabic [ara] (Saudi Arabia). *Dialects*: Kuwaiti Hadari Arabic, Kuwaiti Bedouin Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 17:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,097,400. Also indigenous in: Iraq, Qatar, Saudi Arabia. Also established in: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Yemen. Unestablished in: Canada, United States.

**Arabic, Levantine** [apc]. *Users*: 381,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: Mexico. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia,

Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, French Guiana, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Martinique, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Portugal, Qatar (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Saudi Arabia (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yemen.

**Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken** [acm]. *Users:* 26,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type:* SVO; 32 consonant phonemes. *Lg Dev:* Radio. TV. Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,162,050. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Iran, Iraq, Syria. Also established in: Turkey. Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, India, Lebanon, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

**Arabic, Najdi Spoken** [ars]. *Users:* 341,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Location:* Al Jahra' governorate: Ash-Sheqaya, As-Salmi, and Bir Mahafzah areas; mainly Ab Dali south to Al Jahra'. *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type:* SVO. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Bible portions: 2013. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Map:* 17:5. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,073,860. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria. Unestablished in: Canada, Qatar, United Kingdom, United States.

**Arabic, Omani Spoken** [acx]. *Users:* 27,300 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* 5\* (Developing). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type:* SVO. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,885,100. Indigenous in: Oman. Also established in: Kenya, Tanzania, United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Yemen.

**Arabic, Standard** [arb]. *Users:* 1,670,000 in Kuwait (2015 SIL), all users. *Location:* Widespread. *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1962, Constitution, Article 3). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type:* VSO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine); dual number; definite and indefinite affixes; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark number, gender of subject; aspect; 28 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; trilateral roots, few affixes. *Lg Use:* Education, official purposes. *Lg Dev:* Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1645–2008. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700. Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Saudi Arabia. Also established in 30 other countries and unestablished in 1 more.

**Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken** [acq]. *Users:* 19,000 in Kuwait (2021). *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, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

**Armenian, Western** [hyw]. *Users*: 10,600 in Kuwait (2021). *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Armenian. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Writing*: Armenian script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800). Indigenous in: Armenia, Georgia, Turkey. Also established in 20 other countries and unestablished in 14 more.

**Assyrian Neo-Aramaic** [aii]. *Users*: 10,900 in Kuwait (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1852–1919. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Syriac script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700). Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Iraq. Also established in: Armenia, Georgia, Iran, Syria. Unestablished in: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

**Bengali** [ben]. *Users*: 350,000 in Kuwait (2021 The Daily Star), based on nationality. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Eastern, Bengali-Assamese. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head both initial and final; 3 genders: male, female, neuter; content q-word initial and final; clause constituents indicated by case-marking (5 cases) and word order; verb affixes mark person, number; definite article affix; tense; passives and voice; causatives; comparatives; non-tonal; 35 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; stress on first syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1832–2016. *Writing*: Bengali (Bangla) script, primary usage. Braille script. Newa script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bangladesh, India. Also established in: Nepal, Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

**Chinese, Mandarin** [cmn]. *Users*: 4,900 in Kuwait (2020 Joshua Project). *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.

**English** [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 27,000 in Kuwait (2022 Joshua Project). *Status*: 4 (Educational). *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 Dev*: Taught as subject in most primary and secondary schools, both private and public. Taught in most tertiary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

**French** [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 11,000 in Kuwait (2021 Joshua Project). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Dev*: 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.

**Greek** [ell]. *Users*: 2,200 in Kuwait (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Greek, Attic. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives (active, medio-passive, passive); tense and aspect; comparatives; 18 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1840–1994. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Albania, Greece. Also established in: Australia, Cyprus, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Finland, Germany, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United

States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**Hindi** [hin]. *Users*: 700,000 in Kuwait (2017 Gulf News). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *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. Hindi speakers are part of the immigrant workforce in Kuwait (2019 J. Leclerc). *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: 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, Kenya, 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.

**Indonesian** [ind]. *Autonym*: Bahasa Indonesia. *Users*: 32,800 in Kuwait (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Malayo-Chamic, Malayic, Malay. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial, but quantifiers before noun; 3 noun classifiers; no articles; aspect; 19 consonants, 6 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable; 2 social registers; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1974–2000. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 199,113,300 (as L1: 43,666,200; as L2: 155,447,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Indonesia. Also established in: East Timor. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, China–Hong Kong, China–Taiwan, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sint Maarten, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, United States.

**Kurdish, Central** [ckb]. *Users*: 6,300 in Kuwait (2020 Joshua Project). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish. *Type*: SOV; no grammatical gender or case; noun head initial; tense-split ergative pattern; 9 vowel phonemes, 31 consonant phonemes (McCarus 2009). *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 2017. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,287,840. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Iran, Iraq. Unestablished in: Sweden, United States.

**Mehri** [gdq] (Mahri). *Users*: 27,000 in Kuwait (2022 Joshua Project). *Location*: Scattered individuals. *Status*: 6b\* (Threatened). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, South Arabian. *Lg*

*Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1902. *Writing*: Latin script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 228,700. Indigenous in: Oman, Yemen. Also established in: Saudi Arabia.

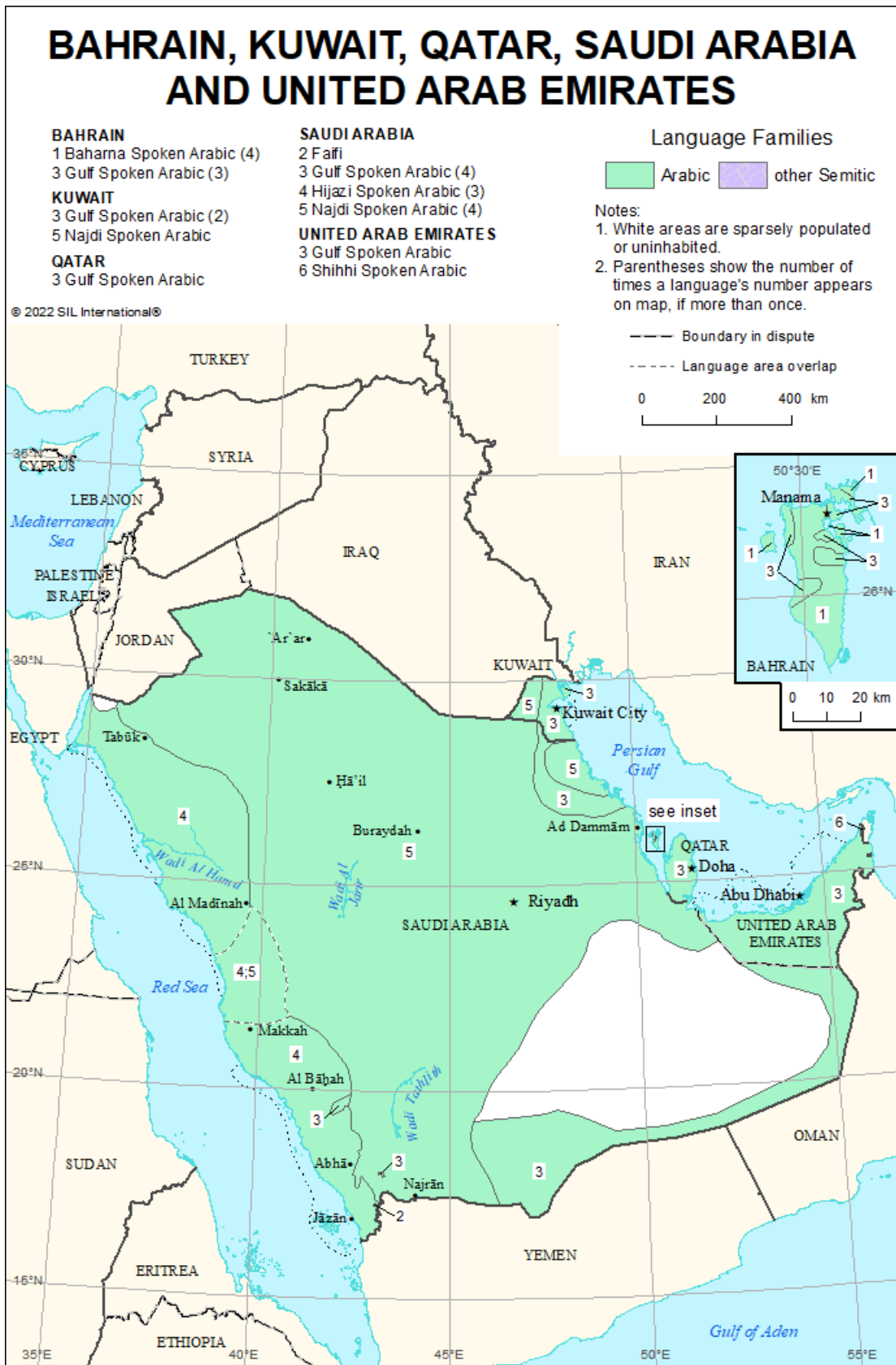
**Nepali** [npi]. *Users*: 49,800 in Kuwait (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2019), based on nationality. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Eastern, Eastern Pahari. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 11 noun classes or genders; no articles; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 5 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking (4 cases); verbal affixation marks person, number and gender of subject; split ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; causatives; non-tonal; 29 consonant and 11 vowel phonemes. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1914–2004. *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bhutan, India, Nepal. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Brunei, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

**Persian, Iranian** [pes]. *Users*: 72,400 in Kuwait (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Type*: SOV; noun head initial; no articles; tense and aspect; causatives; 23 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; stress on final syllable (or root). *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1845–1995. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Iran. Also established in: Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

**Tagalog** [tgl]. Autonym: Tagalog. *Users*: 240,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Greater Central Philippine, Central Philippine, Tagalog. *Type*: Prepositions; no articles; ergativity; tense and aspect; comparatives; 16 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1905. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Tagalog script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Philippines. Also established in: Canada, Guam, Sweden, United States. Unestablished in: American Samoa, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Brazil, Cayman Islands, China–Hong Kong, China–Macao, China–Taiwan, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Libya, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Oman, Palau, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom.

**Turkish** [tur]. Autonym: Türkçe. *Users*: 9,900 in Kuwait (2020 Joshua Project). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkish. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; indefinite articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; comparatives; 19 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony; evidentiality. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1827–2006. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey. Also established in: Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Syria, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

# Language Map



## Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Kuwait 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

**Arabic, Gulf Spoken** [afb] *Users:* 2,550,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language, widely used in public administration. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,097,400.

### 100,000 to 999,999

**Hindi** [hin] *Users:* 700,000 in Kuwait (2017 Gulf News). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

**Arabic, Egyptian Spoken** [arz] *Users:* 541,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000).

**Arabic, Levantine** [apc] *Users:* 381,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

**Bengali** [ben] *Users:* 350,000 in Kuwait (2021 The Daily Star), based on nationality. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880).

**Arabic, Najdi Spoken** [ars] *Users:* 341,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,073,860.

**Tagalog** [tgl] *Users:* 240,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

**Amharic** [amh] *Users:* 126,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 57,567,300 (as L1: 32,449,400; as L2: 25,117,900).

### 10,000 to 99,999

**Persian, Iranian** [pes] *Users:* 72,400 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000).

**Nepali** [npi] *Users:* 49,800 in Kuwait (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2019), based on nationality. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300).

**Indonesian** [ind] *Users:* 32,800 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 199,113,300 (as L1: 43,666,200; as L2: 155,447,100).

**Arabic, Omani Spoken** [acx] *Users:* 27,300 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* 5\* (Developing).  
*Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,885,100.

**English** [eng] *Users:* 27,000 in Kuwait (2022 Joshua Project). *Status:* 4 (Educational).  
*Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

**Mehri** [gdq] *Users:* 27,000 in Kuwait (2022 Joshua Project). *Status:* 6b\* (Threatened). *Worldwide:*  
Total users in all countries: 228,700.

**Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken** [acm] *Users:* 26,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished.  
*Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,162,050.

**Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken** [acq] *Users:* 19,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished.  
*Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,856,700.

**French** [fra] *Users:* 11,000 in Kuwait (2021 Joshua Project). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:*  
Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

**Assyrian Neo-Aramaic** [aii] *Users:* 10,900 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:*  
Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700).

**Armenian, Western** [hyw] *Users:* 10,600 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* 5\* (Developing). *Worldwide:*  
Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

## 1,000 to 9,999

**Turkish** [tur] *Users:* 9,900 in Kuwait (2020 Joshua Project). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:*  
Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

**Kurdish, Central** [ckb] *Users:* 6,300 in Kuwait (2020 Joshua Project). *Status:* Unestablished.  
*Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,287,840.

**Chinese, Mandarin** [cmn] *Users:* 4,900 in Kuwait (2020 Joshua Project). *Status:* Unestablished.  
*Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

**Greek** [ell] *Users:* 2,200 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all  
countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

## Unknown

**Arabic, Standard** [arb] *Users:* 1,670,000 in Kuwait (2015 SIL), all users. *Status:* 1 (National).  
Statutory national language (1962, Constitution, Article 3). *Worldwide:* Total users in all  
countries: 273,989,700.

## Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Kuwait 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)

**Arabic, Standard** [arb] *Users:* 1,670,000 in Kuwait (2015 SIL), all users. *Status:* Statutory national language (1962, Constitution, Article 3). *Lg Use:* Education, official purposes. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

### 3 (Wider communication)

**Arabic, Gulf Spoken** [afb] *Users:* 2,550,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Status:* De facto national working language, widely used in public administration. Originated from the speakers of Najdi Arabic who migrated to Kuwait in the 18th century; emerged as a mixture of various different dialects. Became widely spoken around 1914. Widespread in the Arabian Gulf region. Used in everyday life, in media, and in business. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,097,400.

### 4 (Educational)

**English** [eng] *Users:* 27,000 in Kuwait (2022 Joshua Project). *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).

### 5 (Developing)

**Arabic, Omani Spoken** [acx] *Users:* 27,300 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,885,100.

**Armenian, Western** [hyw] *Users:* 10,600 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Armenian script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

### 5 (Dispersed)

**Hindi** [hin] *Users:* 700,000 in Kuwait (2017 Gulf News). *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).

## 6b (Threatened)

**Mehri** [gdq] *Users:* 27,000 in Kuwait (2022 Joshua Project). *Writing:* Latin script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 228,700.

## Unestablished

**Amharic** [amh] *Users:* 126,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Braille script. Ethiopic script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 57,567,300 (as L1: 32,449,400; as L2: 25,117,900).

**Arabic, Egyptian Spoken** [arz] *Users:* 541,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000).

**Arabic, Levantine** [apc] *Users:* 381,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

**Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken** [acm] *Users:* 26,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,162,050.

**Arabic, Najdi Spoken** [ars] *Users:* 341,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,073,860.

**Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken** [acq] *Users:* 19,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,856,700.

**Assyrian Neo-Aramaic** [aii] *Users:* 10,900 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Cyrillic script. Syriac script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700).

**Bengali** [ben] *Users:* 350,000 in Kuwait (2021 The Daily Star), based on nationality. *Writing:* Bengali (Bangla) script, primary usage. Braille script. Newa script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 272,828,760 (as L1: 233,808,880; as L2: 39,019,880).

**Chinese, Mandarin** [cmn] *Users:* 4,900 in Kuwait (2020 Joshua Project). *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:* 11,000 in Kuwait (2021 Joshua Project). *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).

**Greek** [ell] *Users:* 2,200 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

**Indonesian** [ind] *Users:* 32,800 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 199,113,300 (as L1: 43,666,200; as L2: 155,447,100).

**Kurdish, Central** [ckb] *Users:* 6,300 in Kuwait (2020 Joshua Project). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,287,840.

**Nepali** [npi] *Users:* 49,800 in Kuwait (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2019), based on nationality. *Writing:* Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300).

**Persian, Iranian** [pes] *Users:* 72,400 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000).

**Tagalog** [tgl] *Users:* 240,000 in Kuwait (2021). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Tagalog script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

**Turkish** [tur] *Users:* 9,900 in Kuwait (2020 Joshua Project). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

## Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Kuwait. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic**

Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], [10](#)

Arabic, Omani Spoken [acx], [11](#)

Arabic, Standard [arb], [11](#)

### **Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, South Arabian**

Mehri [gdq], [14](#)

### **Indo-European, Armenian**

Armenian, Western [hyw], [12](#)

### **Indo-European, Germanic, West, English**

English [eng], [13](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani**

Hindi [hin], [14](#)

## Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 24 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/>.

<b>acm</b>	Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>cmn</b>	Chinese, Mandarin, <a href="#">12</a>
<b>acq</b>	Arabic, Ta'izzi-Adeni Spoken, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>ell</b>	Greek, <a href="#">13</a>
<b>acx</b>	Arabic, Omani Spoken, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>eng</b>	English, <a href="#">13</a>
<b>afb</b>	Arabic, Gulf Spoken, <a href="#">10</a>	<b>fra</b>	French, <a href="#">13</a>
<b>aii</b>	Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, <a href="#">12</a>	<b>gdq</b>	Mehri, <a href="#">14</a>
<b>amh</b>	Amharic, <a href="#">10</a>	<b>hin</b>	Hindi, <a href="#">14</a>
<b>apc</b>	Arabic, Levantine, <a href="#">10</a>	<b>hyw</b>	Armenian, Western, <a href="#">12</a>
<b>arb</b>	Arabic, Standard, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>ind</b>	Indonesian, <a href="#">14</a>
<b>ars</b>	Arabic, Najdi Spoken, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>npi</b>	Nepali, <a href="#">15</a>
<b>arz</b>	Arabic, Egyptian Spoken, <a href="#">10</a>	<b>pes</b>	Persian, Iranian, <a href="#">15</a>
<b>ben</b>	Bengali, <a href="#">12</a>	<b>tgl</b>	Tagalog, <a href="#">15</a>
<b>ckb</b>	Kurdish, Central, <a href="#">14</a>	<b>tur</b>	Turkish, <a href="#">16</a>

## 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.

**Egyptian Spoken Arabic**, *see* Arabic,

Egyptian Spoken [arz], 10

**Arabic, Gulf Spoken** [afb], 10, 17

*see* Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], 10

**Levantine Arabic**, *see* Arabic, Levantine [apc],

10

**Mesopotamian Spoken Arabic**, *see* Arabic,

Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], 11

**Arabic, Najdi Spoken** [ars], 17

*see* Arabic, Najdi Spoken [ars], 11

**Arabic, Omani Spoken** [acx], 11

*see* Arabic, Omani Spoken [acx], 11

**Arabic, Standard** [arb], 11

*see* Arabic, Standard [arb], 11

**Ta’izzi-Adeni Spoken Arabic**, *see* Arabic,

Ta’izzi-Adeni Spoken [acq], 11

**Armenian, Western** [hyw], 12

*see* Armenian, Western [hyw], 12

**Mandarin Chinese**, *see* Chinese, Mandarin

[cmn], 12

**English** [eng], 13

**Hindi** [hin], 14

**Central Kurdish**, *see* Kurdish, Central [ckb],

14

**Kuwaiti Bedouin Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic, Gulf

Spoken [afb], 10

**Kuwaiti Hadari Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic, Gulf

Spoken [afb], 10

**Mahri**, *alt.* Mehri [gdq], 14

**Mehri** [gdq], 14

**Iranian Persian**, *see* Persian, Iranian [pes], 15

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