

Ethnologue: Languages of Lebanon

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
Languages by Population	15
Languages by Status	17
Languages by Family	20
Language Code Index	21
Language Name Index	22
Bibliography	23

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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
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
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 Lebanon 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 17 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Lebanon. 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 15) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 17) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by Family” (page 20) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 21) 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 22) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 19 unique names are associated with the 17 languages described in this digest.

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

(page 23). 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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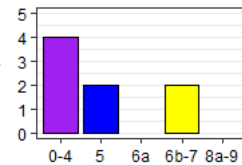
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Country Overview

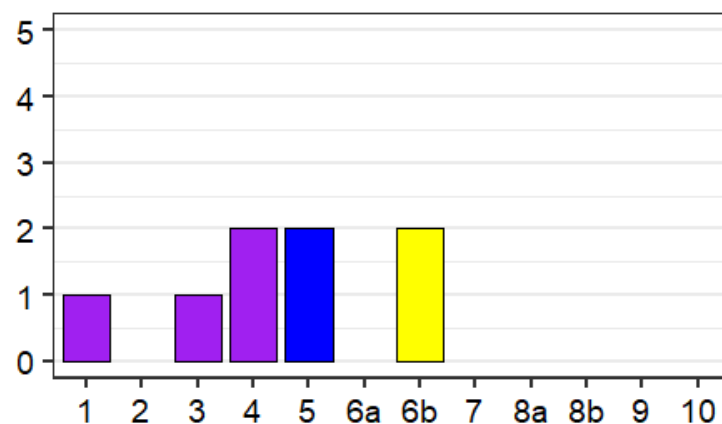
Name of country	Lebanon
Other names	Lebanese Republic
Population	6,685,000 (2022 UNDESA)
Principal languages	French, Levantine Arabic, Standard Arabic
Literacy rate	95% (2018 UNESCO)
Deaf population	12,000
International conventions	CDE (1964), CSICH (2007), ICCPR (1972), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Fischer and Jastrow 1980, Fleisch 1974, Sebeok 1963
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Lebanon is 8. All are living languages. Of these, 1 is indigenous and 7 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 4 are institutional, 2 are developing, and 2 are in trouble. Also listed are 9 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 Lebanon with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 17) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



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

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

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Lebanon. 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 Lebanon 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 Lebanon 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 15) 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	12.5	12.5%	6,400,000	93.57956	93.57956%
100,000 to 999,999	1	12.5	25.0%	336,000	4.91293	98.49249%
10,000 to 99,999	4	50.0	75.0%	103,100	1.50751	100.00000%
Unknown	2	25.0	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	8	100.0		6,839,100	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Lebanon by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the

languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 17) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Lebanon. 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			Mean	Median
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative		
1	1	12.5	12.5%	Unknown				
3	1	12.5	25.0%	6,400,000	93.5796	93.5796%	6,400,000	6,400,000
4	2	25.0	50.0%	41,200	0.6024	94.1820%	20,600	20,600
5	2	25.0	75.0%	359,000	5.2492	99.4312%	179,500	179,500
6b	2	25.0	100.0%	38,900	0.5688	100.0000%	19,450	38,900
<i>Totals</i>	8	100.0		6,839,100	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) name 3 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers		Mean	Median
	Count	Percent	Total	Percent		
Afro-Asiatic	2	25.0	6,400,000	93.6	3,200,000	6,400,000
Indo-European	5	62.5	400,200	5.9	80,040	27,050
Turkic	1	12.5	38,900	0.6	38,900	38,900
<i>Totals</i>	8	100.0	6,839,100	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz]. *Users:* 118,000 in Lebanon (2020). *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, Kuwait, Libya, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Syria, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Arabic, Levantine [apc] (Lebanese-Syrian Arabic, Syro-Lebanese Arabic). *Users:* 6,759,000 in Lebanon, all users. L1 users: 6,400,000 in Lebanon (2020). L2 users: 359,000 (2020). *Location:* Widespread. *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialects:* North Lebanese Arabic, South Lebanese Arabic (Metuali, Shii), North-Central Lebanese Arabic (Mount Lebanon Arabic), South-Central Lebanese Arabic (Druze Arabic), Standard Lebanese Arabic, Beqaa Arabic, Sunni Beirut Arabic, Saida Sunni Arabic, Iqlim-Al-Kharrub Sunni Arabic, Jdaideh Arabic. *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Domari [rmt], Northern Kurdish [kmr], Turkish [tur], Western Armenian [hyw]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Muslim, Christian, Druze. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000). Also indigenous in: Israel, Jordan, 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, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Martinique, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Portugal, Qatar (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Saudi Arabia (North Levantine Spoken Arabic), Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Venezuela, Yemen.

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm]. *Users:* 23,700 in Lebanon (2020). *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, Kuwait, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Arabic, Standard [arb]. *Users:* 5,220,000 in Lebanon (2015 SIL), all users. *Location:* Widespread. *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1943, Constitution, Article 11).

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, print publications, official purposes, communication among Arabic speaking countries. *Lg Dev:* Taught in primary and secondary schools for teaching only the following subjects: Arabic language and literature, history, geography, and civics. French [fra] or English [eng] are the languages of instruction for math and science. 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.

Armenian, Western [hyw]. *Users:* 336,000 in Lebanon (2020). *Location:* Beqaa province: Zahle district, Anjar town; Beyrouth province: Beirut suburbs Bourj Hammoud and Mezher; Mont-Liban province: El Metn district; other scattered communities; centuries-old established presence, Beirut and Tripoli cities. *Status:* 5* (Developing). De facto language of national identity. *Class:* Indo-European, Armenian. *Lg Use:* All also use Levantine Arabic [apc] (Al-Wer 2008). Many also use Turkish [tur]. *Lg Dev:* Fully developed. *Writing:* Armenian script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Christian. *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:* 2,330 in Lebanon (2020). Ethnic population: 40,000. *Location:* Beyrouth. *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, Kuwait, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Chaldean Neo-Aramaic [cld]. *Users:* 35,500 in Lebanon (2020). *Location:* Beyrouth. *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Texts. NT: 2006. *Writing:* Syriac script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 193,730 (as L1: 191,230; as L2: 2,500). Global EGIDS level: 7 (Shifting). Indigenous in: Iraq. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Germany, Netherlands, Syria, Turkey, United States.

Domari [rmt] (Dom, Qurbāti). *Users:* A few scattered and isolated speaker populations (Herin 2016). *Location:* Beqaa valley. *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Class:* Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Dom. *Dialects:* Part of the northern Domari dialect area, along with Syria and southern Turkey (Herin 2016). *Lg Use:* All also use Levantine Arabic [apc] (Herin 2016). *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Other:* Non-

indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1. Indigenous in: Turkey. Also established in: Jordan, Palestine, Syria.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 2,740,100 in Lebanon, all users. L1 users: 10,100 in Lebanon (2020). L2 users: 2,730,000 (Ramaswami et al 2012). *Location*: Scattered. *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 Use*: Used to some extent since American University of Beirut founded in 1866. Many English language publications. Not spoken on the street or in Lebanese homes. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools as a subject and as a language of instruction for the maths and sciences along with French [fra]. Taught in many tertiary schools along with French [fra]. 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] (Français). Autonym: français. *Users*: 2,541,100 in Lebanon, all users. L1 users: 31,100 in Lebanon (2022). L2 users: 2,510,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 4 (Educational). De facto national working language. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Use*: About 20% of the population speak French in their daily lives, and up to 65% of the population can read and converse in French. A number of government and private universities teach in French. *Lg Dev*: Language of instruction in many schools. Taught in all primary and secondary schools as a subject and as a language of instruction for the maths and sciences along with English [eng]. Taught in many tertiary schools along with English [eng]. Fully developed. Bible: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland. Also established in 95 other countries and unestablished in 24 more.

Greek [ell]. *Users*: 6,520 in Lebanon (2020). *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, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, 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.

Italian [ita]. Autonym: Italiano. *Users*: 6,520 in Lebanon (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Italo-Dalmatian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 23 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress mostly on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1471–1985. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Croatia, Italy, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland. Also established in 12 other countries and unestablished in 34 more.

Kurdish, Northern [kmr]. Autonym: Kurdî-Kurmancî, Kurmancî. *Users*: 23,000 in Lebanon (2020). Ethnic population: 70,000 (2020 H. Salimi). *Location*: Beqaa province: Bekah Valley; Beyrouth, Liban-Nord (Tripoli), and Liban-Sud (Sidon) provinces: scattered urban areas. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish. *Dialect*: Southwestern Kurmanji. *Lg Use*: All also use Levantine Arabic [apc]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 40%. Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Armenian script, used between 1921–1929, used in Armenia. Cyrillic script, used in Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Latin script, developed in 1932, used in Turkey and Syria. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: Georgia, Turkmenistan. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Portuguese [por]. Autonym: Português. *Users*: 2,960 in Lebanon (2020). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Portuguese-Galician. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 21 consonants, 13 vowels, 11 diphthongs; non-tonal. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1751–2017. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous.

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Portugal, Spain. Also established in 14 other countries and unestablished in 38 more.

Spanish [spa]. Autonym: Castellano, Español. *Users*: 21,900 in Lebanon (2022). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, relatives after noun heads; articles, numerals before noun heads; adjectives before or after noun heads depending on whether it is evaluative or descriptive; question word initial; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark number, person; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonants, 5 vowels, 5 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. Silbo Gomero whistled variety of Spanish used in Canary Islands. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1553–2012. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Gibraltar, Spain. Also established in 40 other countries and unestablished in 32 more.

Turkish [tur] (Türkçe). Autonym: Türkçe. *Users*: 188,900 in Lebanon, all users. L1 users: 38,900 in Lebanon (Orhan 2010). L2 users: 150,000 (2022 A. Dusséaux). *Location*: Baalbek-Hermel province: Baalbek district, Addus, Al Qaa, Duris, Hadidiye, Nananiye, and Sheymiye villages; Beirut; Liban-Nord province: Akkar district, Aydamun and Kavashra villages; Tripoli district, Tripoli city. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *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 Use*: Some young people, all adults. Also use Levantine Arabic [apc]. Used as L2 by Western Armenian [hyw]. *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, 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, Kuwait, 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.

Turoyo [tru]. Autonym: Surayt. *Users*: 29,300 in Lebanon (2015). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northwestern. *Lg Dev*: NT: 1992–2013. *Writing*: Latin script, primary usage. Syriac script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 103,100. Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Syria, Turkey. Unestablished in: Belgium, Germany, Iraq, Netherlands, United States.

Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Lebanon 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, Levantine [[apc](#)] *Users:* 6,400,000 in Lebanon (2020). 6,759,000 in Lebanon, all users. L2 users: 359,000 (2020). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

100,000 to 999,999

Armenian, Western [[hyw](#)] *Users:* 336,000 in Lebanon (2020). *Status:* 5* (Developing). De facto language of national identity. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [[arz](#)] *Users:* 118,000 in Lebanon (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000).

10,000 to 99,999

Turkish [[tur](#)] *Users:* 38,900 in Lebanon (Orhan 2010). 188,900 in Lebanon, all users. L2 users: 150,000 (2022 A. Dusséaux). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

Chaldean Neo-Aramaic [[cld](#)] *Users:* 35,500 in Lebanon (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 193,730 (as L1: 191,230; as L2: 2,500).

French [[fra](#)] *Users:* 31,100 in Lebanon (2022). 2,541,100 in Lebanon, all users. L2 users: 2,510,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* 4 (Educational). De facto national working language. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Turoyo [[tru](#)] *Users:* 29,300 in Lebanon (2015). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 103,100.

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [[acm](#)] *Users:* 23,700 in Lebanon (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,162,050.

Kurdish, Northern [[kmr](#)] *Users:* 23,000 in Lebanon (2020). Ethnic population: 70,000 (2020 H. Salimi). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800).

Spanish [[spa](#)] *Users:* 21,900 in Lebanon (2022). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

English [eng] *Users:* 10,100 in Lebanon (2020). 2,740,100 in Lebanon, all users. L2 users: 2,730,000 (Ramaswami et al 2012). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

1,000 to 9,999

Greek [ell] *Users:* 6,520 in Lebanon (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

Italian [ita] *Users:* 6,520 in Lebanon (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Portuguese [por] *Users:* 2,960 in Lebanon (2020). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200).

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii] *Users:* 2,330 in Lebanon (2020). Ethnic population: 40,000. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700).

Unknown

Domari [rmt] *Users:* A few scattered and isolated speaker populations (Herin 2016). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1.

Arabic, Standard [arb] *Users:* 5,220,000 in Lebanon (2015 SIL), all users. *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1943, Constitution, Article 11). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Lebanon 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:* 5,220,000 in Lebanon (2015 SIL), all users. *Status:* Statutory national language (1943, Constitution, Article 11). *Lg Use:* Education, print publications, official purposes, communication among Arabic speaking countries. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

3 (Wider communication)

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users:* 6,759,000 in Lebanon, all users. L1 users: 6,400,000 in Lebanon (2020). L2 users: 359,000 (2020). *Status:* De facto national working language. *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Domari [rmt], Northern Kurdish [kmr], Turkish [tur], Western Armenian [hyw]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

4 (Educational)

English [eng] *Users:* 2,740,100 in Lebanon, all users. L1 users: 10,100 in Lebanon (2020). L2 users: 2,730,000 (Ramaswami et al 2012). *Lg Use:* Used to some extent since American University of Beirut founded in 1866. Many English language publications. Not spoken on the street or in Lebanese homes. *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).

French [fra] *Users:* 2,541,100 in Lebanon, all users. L1 users: 31,100 in Lebanon (2022). L2 users: 2,510,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* De facto national working language. *Lg Use:* About 20% of the population speak French in their daily lives, and up to 65% of the population can read and converse in French. A number of government and private universities teach in French. *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).

5 (Developing)

Armenian, Western [[hyw](#)] *Users*: 336,000 in Lebanon (2020). *Status*: De facto language of national identity. *Lg Use*: All also use Levantine Arabic [[apc](#)] (Al-Wer 2008). Many also use Turkish [[tur](#)]. *Writing*: Armenian script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

5 (Dispersed)

Kurdish, Northern [[kmr](#)] *Users*: 23,000 in Lebanon (2020). Ethnic population: 70,000 (2020 H. Salimi). *Lg Use*: All also use Levantine Arabic [[apc](#)]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Armenian script, used between 1921–1929, used in Armenia. Cyrillic script, used in Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Latin script, developed in 1932, used in Turkey and Syria. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800).

6b (Threatened)

Domari [[rmt](#)] *Users*: A few scattered and isolated speaker populations (Herin 2016). *Lg Use*: All also use Levantine Arabic [[apc](#)] (Herin 2016). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1.

Turkish [[tur](#)] *Users*: 188,900 in Lebanon, all users. L1 users: 38,900 in Lebanon (Orhan 2010). L2 users: 150,000 (2022 A. Dusséaux). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. Also use Levantine Arabic [[apc](#)]. Used as L2 by Western Armenian [[hyw](#)]. *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).

Unestablished

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [[arz](#)] *Users*: 118,000 in Lebanon (2020). *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, Mesopotamian Spoken [[acm](#)] *Users*: 23,700 in Lebanon (2020). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 18,162,050.

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [[aii](#)] *Users*: 2,330 in Lebanon (2020). Ethnic population: 40,000. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Syriac script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700).

Chaldean Neo-Aramaic [[cld](#)] *Users*: 35,500 in Lebanon (2020). *Writing*: Syriac script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 193,730 (as L1: 191,230; as L2: 2,500).

Greek [[ell](#)] *Users*: 6,520 in Lebanon (2020). *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).

Italian [ita] *Users*: 6,520 in Lebanon (2020). *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Portuguese [por] *Users*: 2,960 in Lebanon (2020). *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200).

Spanish [spa] *Users*: 21,900 in Lebanon (2022). *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

Turoyo [tru] *Users*: 29,300 in Lebanon (2015). *Writing*: Latin script, primary usage. Syriac script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 103,100.

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Lebanon. 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, Levantine [apc], [10](#)

Arabic, Standard [arb], [10](#)

Indo-European, Armenian

Armenian, Western [hyw], [11](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [12](#)

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

Domari [rmt], [11](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], [13](#)

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

French [fra], [12](#)

Turkic, Southern, Turkish

Turkish [tur], [14](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 17 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/>.

acm	Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken, 10	hyw	Armenian, Western, 11
aii	Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, 11	ita	Italian, 13
apc	Arabic, Levantine, 10	kmr	Kurdish, Northern, 13
arb	Arabic, Standard, 10	por	Portuguese, 13
arz	Arabic, Egyptian Spoken, 10	rmt	Domari, 11
cld	Chaldean Neo-Aramaic, 11	spa	Spanish, 14
ell	Greek, 12	tru	Turoyo, 14
eng	English, 12	tur	Turkish, 14
fra	French, 12		

Language Name Index

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

- Egyptian Spoken Arabic**, *see* Arabic,
Egyptian Spoken [arz], 10
- Arabic, Levantine** [apc], 10
see Arabic, Levantine [apc], 10
- Mesopotamian Spoken Arabic**, *see* Arabic,
Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], 10
- Arabic, Standard** [arb], 10
see Arabic, Standard [arb], 10
- Armenian, Western** [hyw], 11
see Armenian, Western [hyw], 11
- Beqaa Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic, Levantine [apc],
10
- Dom**, *alt.* Domari [rmt], 11
- Domari** [rmt], 11
- Druze Arabic**, *alt. dial.* Arabic, Levantine
[apc], 10
- English** [eng], 12
- Français**, *alt.* French [fra], 12
- French** [fra], 12
- Iqlim-Al-Kharrub Sunni Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic,
Levantine [apc], 10
- Jdaideh Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic, Levantine [apc],
10
- Kurdish, Northern** [kmr], 13
see Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 13
- Lebanese-Syrian Arabic**, *alt.* Arabic,
Levantine [apc], 10
- Metuali**, *alt. dial.* Arabic, Levantine [apc], 10
- Mount Lebanon Arabic**, *alt. dial.* Arabic,
Levantine [apc], 10
- North Lebanese Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic,
Levantine [apc], 10
- North-Central Lebanese Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic,
Levantine [apc], 10
- Qurbāti**, *alt.* Domari [rmt], 11
- Saida Sunni Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic, Levantine
[apc], 10
- Shii**, *alt. dial.* Arabic, Levantine [apc], 10
- South Lebanese Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic,
Levantine [apc], 10
- South-Central Lebanese Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic,
Levantine [apc], 10
- Southwestern Kurmanji**, *dial.* Kurdish,
Northern [kmr], 13
- Standard Lebanese Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic,
Levantine [apc], 10
- Sunni Beirut Arabic**, *dial.* Arabic, Levantine
[apc], 10
- Syro-Lebanese Arabic**, *alt.* Arabic, Levantine
[apc], 10
- Türkçe**, *alt.* Turkish [tur], 14
- Turkish** [tur], 14

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