

Ethnologue: Languages of Palestine

Twenty-sixth edition data

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

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides detailed information on the 9 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Palestine. 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 14) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 16) 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 18) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 19) 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 20) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 16 unique names are associated with the 9 languages described in this digest.

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

(page 21). 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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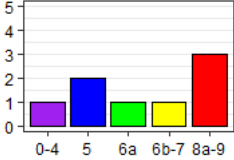
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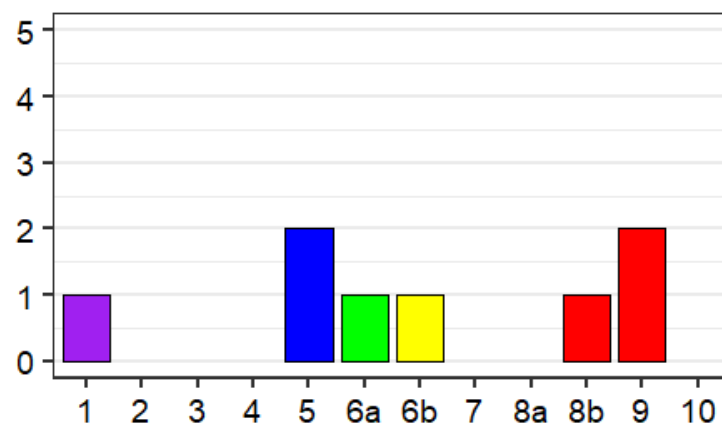
Country Overview

| Name of country | Palestine | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|-------------------|-------|-----|---|---|---|----|---|------|---|------|---|
| Other names | State of Palestine | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Population | 5,223,000 (2021 UNDESA) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Comments | Recognized by the United Nations based on the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles of 1993 (also known as the Oslo Accords), and the Interim agreement of 1995. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Principal language | Standard Arabic | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Literacy rate | 97% (2018 UNESCO) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| International conventions | CDE (2018), CPPDCE (2011), CSICH (2011), ICCPR (2014), UNCRPD (2014) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| General references | Fischer and Jastrow 1980 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Language counts | <p>The number of established languages listed for Palestine is 8. All are living languages. Of these, 4 are indigenous and 4 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 1 is institutional, 2 are developing, 1 is vigorous, 1 is in trouble, and 3 are dying. Also listed is 1 unestablished language.</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Language Vitality Counts for Palestine</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Vitality Category</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6a</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6b-7</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8a-9</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Vitality Category | Count | 0-4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6a | 1 | 6b-7 | 1 | 8a-9 | 3 |
| Vitality Category | Count | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-4 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6a | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6b-7 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8a-9 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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 Palestine with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 16) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



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

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

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Palestine. 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 Palestine 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 Palestine 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 14) 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% | 4,270,000 | 85.26697 | 85.26697% |
| 100,000 to 999,999 | 1 | 12.5 | 25.0% | 705,000 | 14.07804 | 99.34500% |
| 10,000 to 99,999 | 1 | 12.5 | 37.5% | 29,600 | 0.59108 | 99.93608% |
| 1,000 to 9,999 | 1 | 12.5 | 50.0% | 3,200 | 0.06390 | 99.99998% |
| 1 to 9 | 1 | 12.5 | 62.5% | 1 | 0.00002 | 100.00000% |
| 0 | 2 | 25.0 | 87.5% | | 0.00000 | 100.00000% |
| Unknown | 1 | 12.5 | 100.0% | | | |
| <i>Totals</i> | 8 | 100.0 | | 5,007,801 | 100.00000 | |

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Palestine 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 16) 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 Palestine. 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 | | | | |
| 5 | 2 | 25.0 | 37.5% | 4,975,000 | 99.3450 | 99.3450% | 2,487,500 | 2,487,500 |
| 6a | 1 | 12.5 | 50.0% | 29,600 | 0.5911 | 99.9361% | 29,600 | 29,600 |
| 6b | 1 | 12.5 | 62.5% | 3,200 | 0.0639 | 100.0000% | 3,200 | 3,200 |
| 8b | 1 | 12.5 | 75.0% | 1 | 0.0000 | 100.0000% | 1 | 1 |
| 9 | 2 | 25.0 | 100.0% | | 0.0000 | 100.0000% | | |
| <i>Totals</i> | 8 | 100.0 | | 5,007,801 | 100.0000 | | | |

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) 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 | | Mean | Median |
|-----------------|------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| | Count | Percent | Total | Percent | | |
| Afro-Asiatic | 6 | 75.0 | 5,004,600 | 99.9 | 834,100 | 29,600 |

| Language family | Living languages | | Number of speakers | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------|
| | <i>Count</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Mean</i> | <i>Median</i> |
| Indo-European | 2 | 25.0 | 3,201 | 0.1 | 1,600 | 1,600 |
| <i>Totals</i> | 8 | 100.0 | 5,007,801 | 100.0 | | |

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz]. *Users:* 48,000 in Palestine (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, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Syria, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Arabic, Levantine [apc]. *Users:* 4,270,000 in Palestine (2021). *Location:* Widespread. *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialects:* Fellahi, Madani. Lexical similarity: When comparing Standard Arabic [arb] to Algerian [arq], Tunisian [aeb], Palestinian [apc], Syrian [apc], Jordanian [apc], and Egyptian [arz] spoken varieties, Levantine Arabic as spoken in Palestine is the most similar to Standard Arabic (Kwaik et al 2018). *Lg Use:* Also use Hebrew [heb]. Used as L2 by Domari [rmt]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Muslim, Christian. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, 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, Levantine Bedawi Spoken [avl]. *Users:* 29,600 in Palestine (2021). Ethnic population: 40,000 (2022). *Location:* Jericho and Al Aghwar, Jerusalem and Bethlehem governorates, Judean desert, Jordan river and Dead Sea area. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialects:* South Levantine Bedawi Arabic, North Levantine Bedawi Arabic, Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Arabic. *Lg Dev:* TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Muslim. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,841,600. Also indigenous in: Egypt (Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken Arabic), Jordan. Also established in: Syria. Unestablished in: Israel.

Arabic, Standard [arb]. *Users:* 4,040,000 in Palestine (2014 SIL), all users. *Location:* Widespread. *Status:* 1 (National). De facto national language. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialects:* None known. Lexical similarity: When comparing Standard

Arabic [arb] to Algerian [arq], Tunisian [aeb], Palestinian [apc], Syrian [apc], Jordanian [apc], and Egyptian [arz] spoken varieties, South Levantine Spoken Arabic as spoken in Palestine is the most similar to Standard Arabic (Kwaik et al 2018). *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 purpose, formal speeches. *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.

Armenian, Western [hyw]. *Users*: 3,200 in Palestine (2021). *Location*: Jerusalem; Ramallah and Al-Bireh: Ramallah. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *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). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Armenia, Georgia, Turkey. Also established in 20 other countries and unestablished in 14 more.

Domari [rmt] (Dom, Nawari, Near-Eastern Gypsy). *Users*: 1 in Palestine (Matras 2019). Ethnic population: 650 (Matras 1999). *Location*: Jerusalem governorate; refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza. *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Dom. *Dialect*: Nawari. Part of the southern Domari dialect area, along with Jordan. Intelligibility limited with speakers of northern dialect (Herin 2016). *Lg Use*: Also use Levantine Arabic [apc]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Many loanwords from Arabic [arb], Kurdish, and some other Iranian languages. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Indigenous in: Turkey. Also established in: Jordan, Lebanon, Syria.

Hebrew [heb]. *Users*: 705,000 in Palestine (2021 EU). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Canaanite. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine); definite article prefixed to noun; verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; tense; comparatives; 22 consonants, 5 vowels, 4 diphthongs; non-tonal. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Levantine Arabic [apc]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. NT: 1537–2010. *Writing*: Braille script. Hebrew script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,339,180 (as L1: 5,980,580; as L2: 3,358,600). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Israel. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

Samaritan Aramaic [sam] (Shamerim). *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Palestine. No ethnic community. *Location*: Nablus governorate. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Western. *Lg Use*: Religion. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Hebrew script. Samaritan script. *Other*: Ceased as L1 for daily functions in 10th–12th centuries A.D. Samaritan Hebrew [smp] and Samaritan Aramaic secondarily mainly used as

liturgical languages. About 30% live near Nablus and speak Palestinian Arabic [apc] as L1. Others live near Tel Aviv and speak Hebrew [heb] as L1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Also indigenous in: Israel.

Samaritan Hebrew [smp] (Samaritan, Shamerim). *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Palestine. No ethnic community. *Location*: Nablus governorate. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Canaanite. *Lg Use*: Religion. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Hebrew script, no longer in use. Samaritan script. *Other*: Samaritan Hebrew survives as a liturgical language last spoken in the second century. About 30% live near Nablus and speak Palestinian Arabic [apc] as L1. Others live near Tel Aviv and speak Hebrew [heb] as L1. Jewish. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Also indigenous in: Israel (Samaritan).

Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Palestine 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*: 4,270,000 in Palestine (2021). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

100,000 to 999,999

Hebrew [[heb](#)] *Users*: 705,000 in Palestine (2021 EU). *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 9,339,180 (as L1: 5,980,580; as L2: 3,358,600).

10,000 to 99,999

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [[arz](#)] *Users*: 48,000 in Palestine (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000).

Arabic, Levantine Bedawi Spoken [[avl](#)] *Users*: 29,600 in Palestine (2021). Ethnic population: 40,000 (2022). *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,841,600.

1,000 to 9,999

Armenian, Western [[hyw](#)] *Users*: 3,200 in Palestine (2021). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

1 to 9

Domari [[rmt](#)] *Users*: 1 in Palestine (Matras 2019). Ethnic population: 650 (Matras 1999). *Status*: 8b (Nearly extinct).

0

Samaritan Aramaic [[sam](#)] *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Palestine. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known.

Samaritan Hebrew [[smp](#)] *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Palestine. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known.

Unknown

Arabic, Standard [[arb](#)] *Users:* 4,040,000 in Palestine (2014 SIL), all users. *Status:* 1 (National).

De facto national language. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Palestine 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:* 4,040,000 in Palestine (2014 SIL), all users. *Status:* De facto national language. *Lg Use:* Education, official purpose, formal speeches. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

5 (Dispersed)

Arabic, Levantine [[apc](#)] *Users:* 4,270,000 in Palestine (2021). *Lg Use:* Also use Hebrew [[heb](#)]. Used as L2 by Domari [[rmt](#)]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Hebrew [[heb](#)] *Users:* 705,000 in Palestine (2021 EU). *Lg Use:* Used as L2 by Levantine Arabic [[apc](#)]. *Writing:* Braille script. Hebrew script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 9,339,180 (as L1: 5,980,580; as L2: 3,358,600).

6a (Vigorous)

Arabic, Levantine Bedawi Spoken [[avl](#)] *Users:* 29,600 in Palestine (2021). Ethnic population: 40,000 (2022). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,841,600.

6b (Threatened)

Armenian, Western [[hyw](#)] *Users:* 3,200 in Palestine (2021). *Writing:* Armenian script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

8b (Nearly extinct)

Domari [[rmt](#)] *Users:* 1 in Palestine (Matras 2019). Ethnic population: 650 (Matras 1999). *Lg Use:* Also use Levantine Arabic [[apc](#)]. *Writing:* Unwritten.

9 (Second language only)

Samaritan Aramaic [[sam](#)] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Palestine. Ethnic population: No

ethnic community. *Lg Use:* Religion. *Writing:* Hebrew script. Samaritan script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Samaritan Hebrew [smp] *Users:* No known L1 speakers in Palestine. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Lg Use:* Religion. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Hebrew script, no longer in use. Samaritan script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: none known.

Unestablished

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz] *Users:* 48,000 in Palestine (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).

Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Palestine. 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, Aramaic, Western

Samaritan Aramaic [sam], [12](#)

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic

Arabic, Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken [avl], [11](#)

Arabic, Levantine [apc], [11](#)

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

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Canaanite

Hebrew [heb], [12](#)

Samaritan Hebrew [smp], [13](#)

Indo-European, Armenian

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

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

Domari [rmt], [12](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 9 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

| | | | |
|------------|---|------------|---------------------------------------|
| apc | Arabic, Levantine, 11 | heb | Hebrew, 12 |
| arb | Arabic, Standard, 11 | hyw | Armenian, Western, 12 |
| arz | Arabic, Egyptian Spoken, 11 | rmt | Domari, 12 |
| avl | Arabic, Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken, 11 | sam | Samaritan Aramaic, 12 |
| | | smp | Samaritan Hebrew, 13 |

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], 11

Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11
see Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11

Arabic, Levantine Bedawi Spoken [avl], 11
see Arabic, Eastern Egyptian Bedawi
Spoken [avl], 11

Arabic, Standard [arb], 11
see Arabic, Standard [arb], 11

Armenian, Western [hyw], 12
see Armenian, Western [hyw], 12

Dom, *alt.* Domari [rmt], 12

Domari [rmt], 12

Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Arabic, *dial.*
Arabic, Eastern Egyptian Bedawi
Spoken [avl], 11

Fellahi, *dial.* Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11

Hebrew [heb], 12

Madani, *dial.* Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11

Nawari, *alt.* Domari [rmt], 12
dial. Domari [rmt], 12

Near-Eastern Gypsy, *alt.* Domari [rmt], 12

North Levantine Bedawi Arabic, *dial.* Arabic,
Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken [avl],
11

Samaritan, *alt.* Samaritan Hebrew [smp], 13

Samaritan Aramaic [sam], 12

Samaritan Hebrew [smp], 13

Shamerim, *alt.* Samaritan Aramaic [sam], 12
alt. Samaritan Hebrew [smp], 13

South Levantine Bedawi Arabic, *dial.* Arabic,
Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken [avl],
11

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