

Ethnologue: Languages of Panama

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)
OVS	Object-Verb-Subject
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
SOV	Subject-Object-Verb
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
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
WFD	World Federation of the Deaf

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Panama 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 23 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Panama. 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. *Map*: Map page. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

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

The “Language Map” (page 18) shows the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 19) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 22) 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

Province” (page 25) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Panama and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 26) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 27) 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 28) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 87 unique names are associated with the 23 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 31). 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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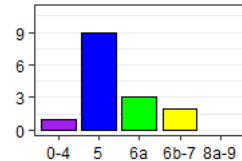
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Country Overview

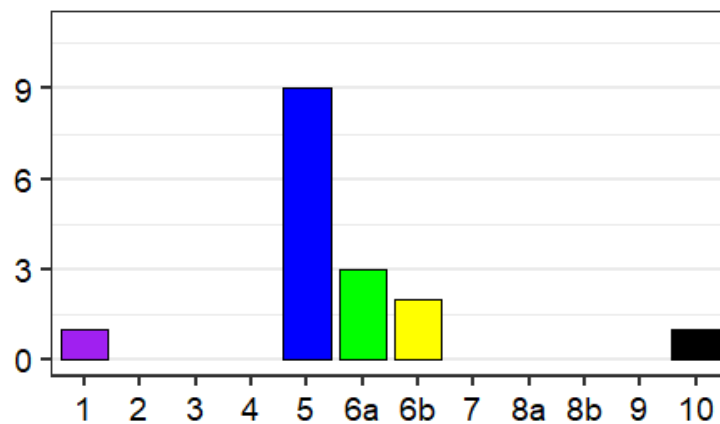
Name of country	Panama
Population	4,315,000 (2020 World Bank)
Principal language	Spanish
Literacy rate	95% (2018 UNESCO)
Deaf population	6,000
International conventions	CDE (1967), CPPDCE (2007), CSICH (2004), ICCPR (1977), UNCRPD (2007), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Campbell 1997, Cohen 1976
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Panama is 16. Of these, 15 are living and 1 is extinct. Of the living languages, 8 are indigenous and 7 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 1 is institutional, 9 are developing, 3 are vigorous, and 2 are in trouble. Also listed are 7 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 Panama 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 22) 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 Panama. 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 Panama 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 Panama 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 19) 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	6.7	6.7%	4,030,000	84.26308	84.26308%
100,000 to 999,999	3	20.0	26.7%	606,000	12.67083	96.93391%
10,000 to 99,999	4	26.7	53.3%	126,600	2.64707	99.58098%
1,000 to 9,999	3	20.0	73.3%	19,100	0.39936	99.98035%
100 to 999	1	6.7	80.0%	900	0.01882	99.99916%
10 to 99	1	6.7	86.7%	40	0.00084	100.00000%
Unknown	2	13.3	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	15	100.0		4,782,640	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Panama 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 22) 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 Panama. 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	6.7	6.7%	4,030,000	84.2631	84.2631%	4,030,000	4,030,000
5	9	60.0	66.7%	445,700	9.3191	93.5822%	49,522	22,500
6a	3	20.0	86.7%	306,000	6.3981	99.9803%	102,000	29,000
6b	2	13.3	100.0%	940	0.0197	100.0000%	470	470
<i>Totals</i>	15	100.0		4,782,640	100.0000			

Summary by language family

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

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	Count	Percent	Total	Percent	Mean	Median
Chibchan	5	33.3	248,300	5.2	49,660	18,000
Chocoan	4	26.7	29,340	0.6	7,335	6,800
Creole	1	6.7	268,000	5.6	268,000	268,000

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Indo-European	3	20.0	4,199,000	87.8	1,399,667	2,099,500
Sign language	1	6.7	9,000	0.2	9,000	9,000
Sino-Tibetan	1	6.7	29,000	0.6	29,000	29,000
<i>Totals</i>	15	100.0	4,782,640	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Levantine [apc]. *Users*: 25,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Turkey. Also established in: Mexico. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, French Guiana, Gambia, Germany, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Kuwait, Libya, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Martinique, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, 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.

Buglere [sab] (Bobota, Bofota, Bugle, Muoy, Murire, Norteny). Autonym: Buglere. *Users*: 18,000 (2012 SIL). *Location*: Veraguas province: from highlands to Caribbean coast; Ngobe Bugle province: Kusapin, Muna, and Nurum districts. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Chibchan, Chibchan A, Guaymiic. *Dialects*: Sabanero (Veraguas Sabanero), Bokotá (Bocota, Bogota, Bukueta). *Lg Use*: Vigorous in Bocas, but those in Chiriqui are losing the language (Adelaar 2007). *Lg Dev*: NT: 1988–2009. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Those in Chiriquí live among the Guaymí, with whom they are often confused (Adelaar 2007). *Map*: 18:2.

Chinese, Hakka [hak]. *Users*: 29,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Panamá province: Salsipuedes, a suburb of Panama City. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; tonal. *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1916–2012. *Writing*: Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant. Latin script, used since early 19th century. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 44,271,630 (as L1: 44,020,430; as L2: 251,200). Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: China, China–Hong Kong. Also established in 11 other countries and unestablished in 9 more.

Chinese, Yue [yue]. *Users*: 34,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Panamá City, Colón, larger towns of interior. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives, relatives, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; noun classifiers; no articles; 18 consonants, 7 vowels; tonal (6 tones: 3 level, 3 contour). *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1894–1981. *Writing*: Braille script, used in Hong Kong. Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant, official usage in Hong Kong and Macau, also used elsewhere. Latin script,

used since mid-19th century. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: China, China–Hong Kong, China–Macao. Also established in 12 other countries and unestablished in 18 more.

Emberá, Northern [emp] (Atrato, Chocó, Cholo, Darien, Darien Emberá, Ebera Bedea, Embera, Empera, Panama Embera). Autonym: Dadyi Éberã Bedea, Éberã Bedea. *Users*: 22,500 in Panama (2012 SIL). *Location*: Darién province: Chepigana district; Emberá province; Panamá province: Chepos and Chiman districts; lowland jungle along rivers, Gulf San Miguel area. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Chocoan, Emberá, Northern Emberá. *Dialects*: Related languages in order of closeness: Embera Catío [cto], Embera Baudó [bdc], Embera Tadó [tdc], Epena [sja], Embera Chamí [cmi], and Wounmeu [noa]. Panama and Colombia dialects are inherently intelligible. Northern Embera of the Upper Baudó area and downriver Embera Baudó are inherently intelligible. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head both initial and final; 2 (human, non-human); content q-word initial; no prefixes, up to 5 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking; verbal affixation marks number; ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice (by switching order of S and O); nontonal; 20 consonant and 12 vowel phonemes (6 vowels plus autosegmental nasalization). *Lg Use*: Home, friends, some churches. Positive attitudes. Also use Spanish [spa], where in Panama Province those under 30 may speak it as L1; to a lesser degree, those under 30 in the Darien Province may also speak it. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%. Literacy rate in L2: 50%. Bible reading is primary motivation for L1 literacy. Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1991–2011. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 18:6. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 72,200. Also indigenous in: Colombia.

Emberá-Catío [cto] (Catío, Embena, Epera, Katio). Autonym: Ébëra Katío. *Users*: 40 in Panama (1982 SIL). *Location*: Darién province. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Chocoan, Emberá, Northern Emberá. *Type*: 19 consonants and 12 vowels (6 oral, 6 nasal). *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible portions: 1975–2012. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 18:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,040. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Colombia (Embera Catío).

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 345,000 in Panama (2018), all users. L1 users: 169,000 (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Location*: Major cities. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *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 as L2 by San Blas Kuna [cuk], Southwestern Caribbean English Creole [jam]. *Lg Dev*: 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.

Epena [sja] (Cholo, Embera, Emberá-Saija, Epena Saija, Eperã pedee, Epéna Pedée, Saija, Southern Empera, Southern Epena). Autonym: Eperã pedee. *Location*: Panamá province: southeast low hills inland. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Chocoan, Emberá, Southern Emberá. *Dialect*: Basurudo. *Type*: 17 consonants and 21 vowels, contrasting in length and nasality. *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2005–2015. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 18:4. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,552. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Indigenous in: Colombia. Also established in: Ecuador.

French [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 44,000 in Panama (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oil, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland. Also established in 96 other countries and unestablished in 23 more.

Greek [ell]. *Users*: 3,400 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *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, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Hindi [hin]. *Users*: 15,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; content q-word in situ; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; clause constituents partially indicated by case-marking (direct, oblique),

postpositions, and word order; verbal affixation marks person, number, gender, and honorificity of subject; split ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; causatives; non-tonal; 30 consonants, 10 vowels, 2 diphthongs; stress linked to syllable weight. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1835–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Kuwait, Nepal, Singapore, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Brunei, Cambodia, Canada, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Kenya, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, Oman, 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.

Italian [ita]. Autonym: Italiano. *Users*: 21,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *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.

Japanese [jpn]. *Users*: 2,100 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Japonic. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; demonstrative, numeral, adjective, possessive, relative clause, proper noun precedes noun head; adverb precedes verb; sentence final question particle; no articles; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; 15 consonants, 5 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; pitch-accentuation pattern. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1883–2018. *Writing*: Braille script. Han, Hiragana, and Katakana scripts, primary usage. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 123,445,570 (as L1: 123,285,670; as L2: 159,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Japan. Also established in: Australia, China–Taiwan, United States. Unestablished in: American Samoa, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China–Hong Kong, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Guam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Micronesia, New Zealand, Paraguay, Philippines, Russian Federation, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom.

Kuna, Border [kvn] (Caiman Nuevo, Colombia Cuna, Cuna, Guna, Kuna de la Frontera, Long Hair Cuna, Paya-Pucuro Kuna, Tule). Autonym: Tule. *Users*: 900 in Panama (2012 SIL). *Location*: Darién province: Paya and Pucuro villages. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Chibchan, Chibchan B, Eastern Chibchan, Cuna. *Type*: SOV; 19 consonants and 5 vowels, lax and tense consonants. *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT:

1993. *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 18:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,500. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Colombia.

Kuna, San Blas [cuk] (Cuna, Guna, San Blas Cuna, Tule Kaya). Autonym: Duleigaiya. *Users*: 57,100 (2000). 10,000 in Panama City, Colón, and on banana plantations (1991 SIL). Ethnic population: 80,500 (2011 census). *Location*: Colón province: Guna Yala comarca, Metro Colón; Darién province; Emberá and Kuna Yala provinces; Panamá province: Metro Panama City. *Status*: 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2010, Law 88, 22 November 2010). *Class*: Chibchan, Chibchan B, Eastern Chibchan, Cuna. *Dialect*: Bayano (Alto Bayano, Maje). *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Also use English [eng]. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2014. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 18:8.

Ngäbere [gym] (Chiriquí, Guaymí, Ngobere, Ngäbe, Valiente). Autonym: Ngäbere. *Users*: 169,000 in Panama (2000 census). *Location*: Bocas del Toro province: Bocas del Toro and Changuinola districts; Chiriquí province: western districts, Tole district in east; Ngobe Bugle province; western Veraguas province. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Chibchan, Chibchan A, Guaymíic. *Dialects*: Valiente, Eastern Guaymí (Chiriquí, Tolé). *Type*: SOV. *Lg Use*: Also use Jamaican English Creole [jam]. Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1977–2013. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 18:5. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 171,840. Also indigenous in: Costa Rica.

Panamanian Sign Language [lsp] (Lengua de señas panameñas). *Users*: 9,000 (2008 WFD). About 0.2% of total population. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialect*: Chiriquí Sign Language (LSCH, Lengua de señas Chiriquí). *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Deaf people in the Chiriquí province of Panama assert that their sign variety, Lengua de Señas de Chiriquí (LSCH, Chiriquí Sign Language), is distinct from Panamanian Sign Language as used predominantly in the Panama-Colon corridor. They are currently working on creating their own sign language dictionary.

San Miguel French Creole [scf]. *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Last known speakers most likely survived into the late 2000s. *Location*: Veraguas province. *Status*: 10 (Extinct). *Class*: Creole, French based. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Ancestors came from Saint Lucia in mid-19th century as laborers. Spanish influences.

Southwestern Caribbean English Creole [jam] (Bocas del Toro Patois, Jamiékan, Panamanian Creole English, Panamanian Patois English, Patois, “Guari Guari” *pej.*). Autonym: Jamiékan. *Users*: 268,000 in Panama (2000). *Location*: Bocas del Toro province: Colón island; Colón province: Colón district; Panamá province: Rio Abajo in Panama City. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Creole, English based, Atlantic, Western. *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng], formerly the medium of education. Also use Spanish [spa], as a medium of education. Used as L2 by Ngäbere [gym]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2012. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Ancestors came from Barbados and Jamaica in mid-19th century to work in fruit plantations, and later to build the railway and canal. Influences from both eastern

and western Caribbean English Creole. *Map*: 18:7 (as Panamanian Creole English). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,094,530 (as L1: 3,090,840; as L2: 3,690). Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Jamaica (Jamaican English Creole). Also established in: Costa Rica. Unestablished in: Bahamas (Jamaican English Creole), Canada (Jamaican English Creole), Dominican Republic, United Kingdom, United States.

Spanish [spa] (Castellano, Español). Autonym: Castellano, Español. *Users*: 4,385,000 in Panama, all users. L1 users: 4,030,000 in Panama (Instituto Cervantes 2021). L2 users: 355,000 (Instituto Cervantes 2021). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1972, Constitution, Article 7). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian. *Dialect*: Panamanian Spanish (Español panameño). Panamanian Spanish is closely related to other varieties of Caribbean Spanish. *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*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. 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 39 other countries and unestablished in 33 more.

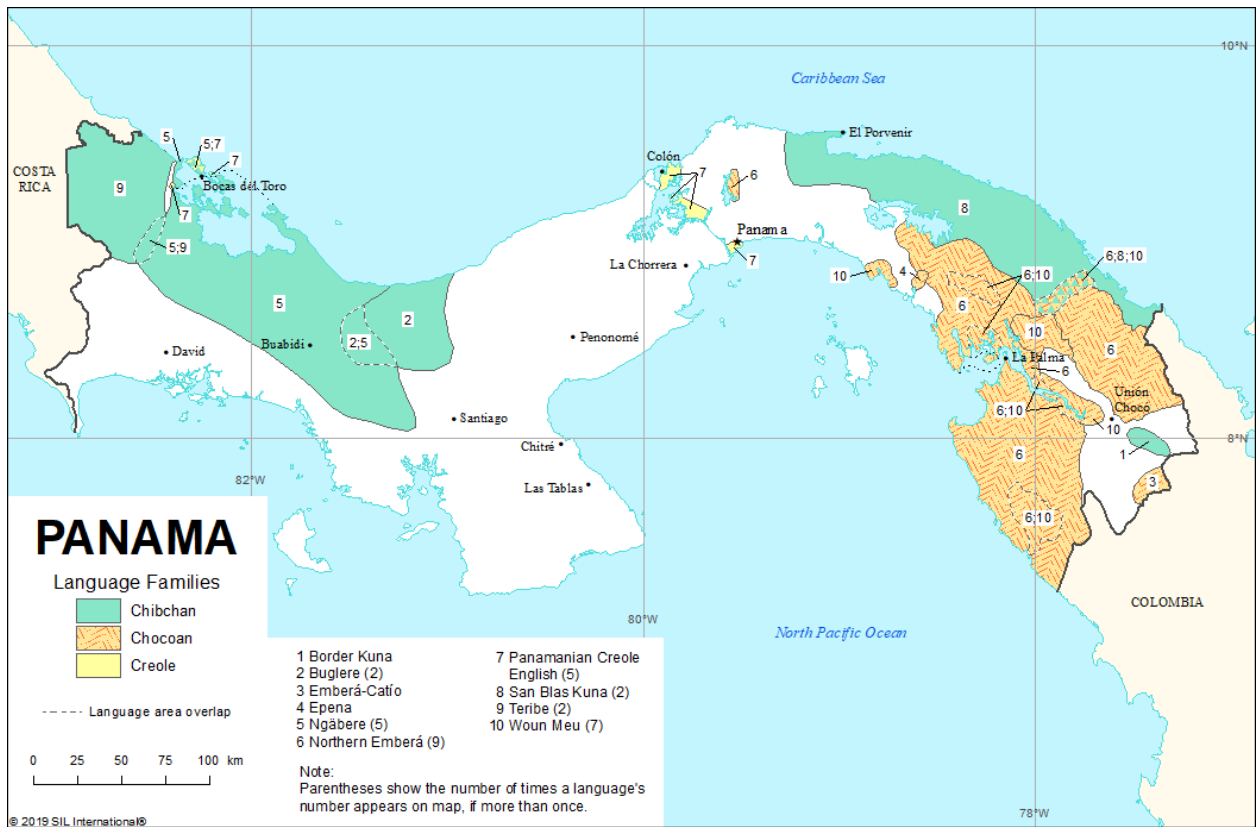
Teribe [tfr] (Nortenyó, Quequexque, Terraba, Tiribi, Tirribi). Autonym: Naso. *Users*: 3,300 in Panama (Adelaar 2007). *Location*: Bocas del Toro province: Changuinola city, along the Teribe river; Chiriquí. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Chibchan, Chibchan A. *Type*: OVS. *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. NT: 2008. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 18:9. *Worldwide*: Also established in: Costa Rica.

Woun Meu [noa] (Chanco, Chocama, Noanama, Noenama, Nonama, Waumeo, Waun Meo, Waunana, Woun Meo, Wounaan, Wounaan Meu, Wounmeu). Autonym: Woun Meu, Wounaan Meu. *Users*: 6,800 in Panama (Adelaar 2007). Many monolinguals (Adelaar 2007). *Location*: Darién, Emberá, and Panamá provinces: southeast lowlands along Panama Bay. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Chocoan. *Type*: SOV; 19 consonants and 14 vowels (7 oral, 7 nasal). *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1988–2011. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 18:10. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,800. Indigenous in: Colombia.

Yiddish, Eastern [ydd]. *Location*: Major cities. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, Yiddish. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine, feminine, neuter); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; 20 consonant, 6 vowels and 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable. *Lg Dev*: Periodicals. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1821–1936. *Writing*: Hebrew script. *Other*: Non-

indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 408,547 (as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600).
Indigenous in: Ukraine. Also established in 19 other countries and unestablished in 3 more.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Panama 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

Spanish [[spa](#)] *Users:* 4,030,000 in Panama (Instituto Cervantes 2021). 4,385,000 in Panama, all users. L2 users: 355,000 (Instituto Cervantes 2021). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1972, Constitution, Article 7). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 559,078,890 (as L1: 485,063,960; as L2: 74,014,930).

100,000 to 999,999

Southwestern Caribbean English Creole [[jam](#)] *Users:* 268,000 in Panama (2000). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,094,530 (as L1: 3,090,840; as L2: 3,690).

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 169,000 (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. 345,000 in Panama (2018), all users. *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Ngäbere [[gym](#)] *Users:* 169,000 in Panama (2000 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 171,840.

10,000 to 99,999

Kuna, San Blas [[cuk](#)] *Users:* 57,100 (2000). 10,000 in Panama City, Colón, and on banana plantations (1991 SIL). Ethnic population: 80,500 (2011 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing). Recognized language (2010, Law 88, 22 November 2010).

French [[fra](#)] *Users:* 44,000 in Panama (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Chinese, Yue [[yue](#)] *Users:* 34,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000).

Chinese, Hakka [[hak](#)] *Users:* 29,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 44,271,630 (as L1: 44,020,430; as L2: 251,200).

Arabic, Levantine [[apc](#)] *Users:* 25,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity.

Status: Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Emberá, Northern [emp] *Users:* 22,500 in Panama (2012 SIL). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 72,200.

Italian [ita] *Users:* 21,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:*

Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Buglere [sab] *Users:* 18,000 (2012 SIL). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

Hindi [hin] *Users:* 15,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:*

Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).

1,000 to 9,999

Panamanian Sign Language [lsp] *Users:* 9,000 (2008 WFD). About 0.2% of total population.

Status: 6a* (Vigorous).

Woun Meu [noa] *Users:* 6,800 in Panama (Adelaar 2007). Many monolinguals (Adelaar 2007).

Status: 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,800.

Greek [ell] *Users:* 3,400 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:*

Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

Teribe [tfr] *Users:* 3,300 in Panama (Adelaar 2007). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

Japanese [jpn] *Users:* 2,100 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:*

Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 123,445,570 (as L1: 123,285,670; as L2: 159,900).

100 to 999

Kuna, Border [kvn] *Users:* 900 in Panama (2012 SIL). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:*

Total users in all countries: 3,500.

10 to 99

Emberá-Catío [cto] *Users:* 40 in Panama (1982 SIL). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 15,040.

0

San Miguel French Creole [scf] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. Last known speakers most likely survived into the late 2000s. *Status:* 10 (Extinct).

Unknown

Epena [sja] *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,552.

Yiddish, Eastern [ydd] *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 408,547
(as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Panama 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)

Spanish [[spa](#)] *Users:* 4,385,000 in Panama, all users. L1 users: 4,030,000 in Panama (Instituto Cervantes 2021). L2 users: 355,000 (Instituto Cervantes 2021). *Status:* Statutory national language (1972, Constitution, Article 7). *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).

5 (Developing)

Buglere [[sab](#)] *Users:* 18,000 (2012 SIL). *Lg Use:* Vigorous in Bocas, but those in Chiriqui are losing the language (Adelaar 2007). *Lg Dev:* NT: 1988–2009. *Writing:* Latin script.

Emberá, Northern [[emp](#)] *Users:* 22,500 in Panama (2012 SIL). *Lg Use:* Home, friends, some churches. Positive attitudes. Also use Spanish [[spa](#)], where in Panama Province those under 30 may speak it as L1; to a lesser degree, those under 30 in the Darien Province may also speak it. *Lg Dev:* Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1991–2011. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 72,200.

Kuna, San Blas [[cuk](#)] *Users:* 57,100 (2000). 10,000 in Panama City, Colón, and on banana plantations (1991 SIL). Ethnic population: 80,500 (2011 census). *Status:* Recognized language (2010, Law 88, 22 November 2010). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Also use English [[eng](#)]. Also use Spanish [[spa](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2014. *Writing:* Latin script.

Ngäbere [[gym](#)] *Users:* 169,000 in Panama (2000 census). *Lg Use:* Also use Jamaican English Creole [[jam](#)]. Also use Spanish [[spa](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1977–2013. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 171,840.

Teribe [[tfr](#)] *Users:* 3,300 in Panama (Adelaar 2007). *Lg Use:* Also use Spanish [[spa](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. NT: 2008. *Writing:* Latin script.

Woun Meu [[noa](#)] *Users:* 6,800 in Panama (Adelaar 2007). Many monolinguals (Adelaar 2007). *Lg Use:* Also use Spanish [[spa](#)]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,800.

Yiddish, Eastern [[ydd](#)] *Writing:* Hebrew script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 408,547 (as L1: 401,947; as L2: 6,600).

5 (Dispersed)

English [eng] *Users*: 345,000 in Panama (2018), all users. L1 users: 169,000 (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by San Blas Kuna [cuk], Southwestern Caribbean English Creole [jam]. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Dupleyan 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).

Epena [sja] *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,552.

6a (Vigorous)

Chinese, Hakka [hak] *Users*: 29,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Writing*: Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant. Latin script, used since early 19th century. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 44,271,630 (as L1: 44,020,430; as L2: 251,200).

Panamanian Sign Language [lsp] *Users*: 9,000 (2008 WFD). About 0.2% of total population. *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary.

Southwestern Caribbean English Creole [jam] *Users*: 268,000 in Panama (2000). *Lg Use*: Also use English [eng], formerly the medium of education. Also use Spanish [spa], as a medium of education. Used as L2 by Ngäbere [gym]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,094,530 (as L1: 3,090,840; as L2: 3,690).

6b (Threatened)

Emberá-Catío [cto] *Users*: 40 in Panama (1982 SIL). *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,040.

Kuna, Border [kvn] *Users*: 900 in Panama (2012 SIL). *Lg Use*: Also use Spanish [spa]. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,500.

10 (Extinct)

San Miguel French Creole [scf] *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Last known speakers most likely survived into the late 2000s. *Writing*: Unwritten.

Unestablished

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users*: 25,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

- Chinese, Yue** [yue] *Users:* 34,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Lg Use:* Also use Spanish [spa]. *Writing:* Braille script, used in Hong Kong. Han script, Simplified variant. Han script, Traditional variant, official usage in Hong Kong and Macau, also used elsewhere. Latin script, used since mid-19th century. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000).
- French** [fra] *Users:* 44,000 in Panama (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).
- Greek** [ell] *Users:* 3,400 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *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).
- Hindi** [hin] *Users:* 15,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. Latin script, recent informal usage, especially online on social media. Mahajani script, no longer in use, historic usage. Newa script, no longer in use, historic usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 609,454,770 (as L1: 344,650,870; as L2: 264,803,900).
- Italian** [ita] *Users:* 21,000 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *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).
- Japanese** [jpn] *Users:* 2,100 in Panama (2021 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Braille script. Han, Hiragana, and Katakana scripts, primary usage. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 123,445,570 (as L1: 123,285,670; as L2: 159,900).

Languages by Province

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

Bocas del Toro

Ngäbere [gym], 15
 Southwestern Caribbean English Creole
 [jam], 15
 Teribe [tfr], 16

Chiriquí

Ngäbere [gym], 15
 Teribe [tfr], 16

Colón

Kuna, San Blas [cuk], 15
 Southwestern Caribbean English Creole
 [jam], 15

Darién

Emberá, Northern [emp], 12
 Emberá-Catío [cto], 12
 Kuna, Border [kvn], 14
 Kuna, San Blas [cuk], 15
 Woun Meu [noa], 16

Emberá

Emberá, Northern [emp], 12

Kuna, San Blas [cuk], 15
 Woun Meu [noa], 16

Guna Yala

Kuna, San Blas [cuk], 15

Ngobe Bugle

Buglere [sab], 11
 Ngäbere [gym], 15

Panamá

Chinese, Hakka [hak], 11
 Emberá, Northern [emp], 12
 Epena [sja], 13
 Kuna, San Blas [cuk], 15
 Southwestern Caribbean English Creole
 [jam], 15
 Woun Meu [noa], 16

Veraguas

Buglere [sab], 11
 Ngäbere [gym], 15
 San Miguel French Creole [scf], 15

Languages by Family

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

Chibchan, Chibchan A

Teribe [tfr], [16](#)

Chibchan, Chibchan A, Guaymiic

Buglere [sab], [11](#)

Ngäbere [gym], [15](#)

Chibchan, Chibchan B, Eastern Chibchan, Cuna

Kuna, Border [kvn], [14](#)

Kuna, San Blas [cuk], [15](#)

Chocoan

Woun Meu [noa], [16](#)

Chocoan, Emberá, Northern Emberá

Embera Catío [cto], [12](#)

Emberá, Northern [emp], [12](#)

Chocoan, Emberá, Southern Emberá

Epena [sja], [13](#)

Creole, English based, Atlantic, Western

Jamaican English Creole [jam], [15](#)

Creole, French based

San Miguel French Creole [scf], [15](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [12](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, Yiddish

Yiddish, Eastern [ydd], [16](#)

Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Castilian

Spanish [spa], [16](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Panamanian Sign Language [lsp], [15](#)

Sino-Tibetan, Chinese

Chinese, Hakka [hak], [11](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 23 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	jpn	Japanese, 14
cto	Embera Catío, 12	kvn	Kuna, Border, 14
cuk	Kuna, San Blas, 15	lsp	Panamanian Sign Language, 15
ell	Greek, 13	noa	Woun Meu, 16
emp	Emberá, Northern, 12	sab	Buglere, 11
eng	English, 12	scf	San Miguel French Creole, 15
fra	French, 13	sja	Epena, 13
gym	Ngäbere, 15	spa	Spanish, 16
hak	Chinese, Hakka, 11	tfr	Teribe, 16
hin	Hindi, 13	ydd	Yiddish, Eastern, 16
ita	Italian, 14	yue	Chinese, Yue, 11
jam	Jamaican English Creole, 15		

Language Name Index

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

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