

Ethnologue: Languages of Qatar

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
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
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 Qatar 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 18 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Qatar. 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 16) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 18) 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 12 unique names are associated with the 18 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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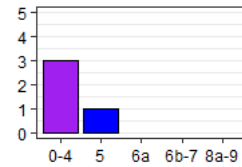
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Country Overview

Name of country	Qatar
Other names	State of Qatar
Population	2,931,000 (2021 UNDESA)
Principal languages	Gulf Spoken Arabic, Standard Arabic
Literacy rate	97% (2015 World Factbook)
Deaf population	31,100
International conventions	CPPDCE (2009), CSICH (2008), ICCPR (2018), UNCRPD (2008), UNDRIP (2007)

General references

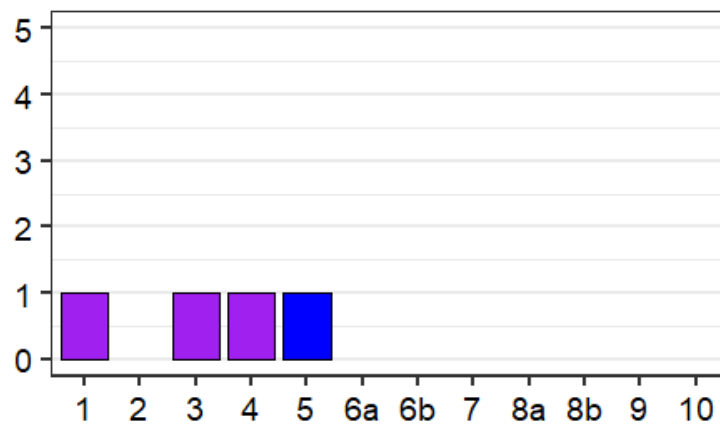
Language counts The number of established languages listed for Qatar is 4. All are living languages. Of these, 1 is indigenous and 3 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 3 are institutional and 1 is developing. Also listed are 14 unestablished languages.



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 Qatar 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 18) 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 Qatar. 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 Qatar 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 Qatar 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 16) 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
100,000 to 999,999	2	50.0	50.0%	1,108,000	99.21203	99.21203%
1,000 to 9,999	1	25.0	75.0%	8,800	0.78797	100.00000%
Unknown	1	25.0	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	4	100.0		1,116,800	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Qatar 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 18) 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 Qatar. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

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

Table 2: Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers				
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
1	1	25.0	25.0%	Unknown				
3	1	25.0	50.0%	815,000	72.9764	72.9764%	815,000	815,000
4	1	25.0	75.0%	8,800	0.7880	73.7643%	8,800	8,800
5	1	25.0	100.0%	293,000	26.2357	100.0000%	293,000	293,000
<i>Totals</i>	4	100.0		1,116,800	100.0000			

Summary by language family

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

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Afro-Asiatic	2	50.0	815,000	73.0	407,500	815,000
Indo-European	2	50.0	301,800	27.0	150,900	150,900
<i>Totals</i>	4	100.0	1,116,800	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz]. *Users:* 230,000 in Qatar (2017 Egypt Independent), based on nationality. *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, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Syria, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb] (Gulf Arabic, Qatari). *Users:* 815,000 in Qatar (2021). *Location:* Widespread. *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language, absent from formal education. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialects:* North Qatari Arabic, South Qatari Arabic. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Muslim. *Map:* 15:3. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,097,400. Also indigenous in: Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia. Also established in: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Yemen. Unestablished in: Canada, United States.

Arabic, Hijazi Spoken [acw]. *Users:* 28,700 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,795,700. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Saudi Arabia. Also established in: Eritrea, United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: United States.

Arabic, Najdi Spoken [ars]. *Users:* 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type:* SVO. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Bible portions: 2013. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,073,860. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria. Unestablished in: Canada, Kuwait, United Kingdom, United States.

Arabic, North Levantine Spoken [apc]. *Users:* 974,000 in Qatar (2021). *Location:* Widespread. *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. Lebanese comprise one of the largest expatriate communities in Qatar where they seek work opportunities and education (2016 J. Leclerc). *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 (Levantine Arabic), Jordan (Levantine Arabic), Lebanon (Levantine Arabic), Palestine (Levantine Arabic), Syria (Levantine Arabic), Turkey (Levantine Arabic). Also established in: Mexico (Levantine Arabic). Unestablished in: Argentina (Levantine Arabic), Australia (Levantine Arabic), Austria (Levantine Arabic),

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

Arabic, Standard [arb]. *Users*: 1,100,000 in Qatar (2015 SIL), all users. *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2003, Constitution, Article 1). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type*: VSO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine); dual number; definite and indefinite affixes; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark number, gender of subject; aspect; 28 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; trilateral roots, few affixes. *Lg Use*: Education, official purposes, formal speeches. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in tertiary schools for all programs except for natural science, business, and engineering. Fully developed. Bible: 1645–2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 273,989,700. Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Saudi Arabia. Also established in 30 other countries and unestablished in 1 more.

Arabic, Sudanese Spoken [apd]. *Users*: 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1978. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 42,373,370 (as L1: 33,373,370; as L2: 9,000,000). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: South Sudan, Sudan. Also established in: Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Germany, Libya, Norway, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

Armenian, Western [hyw]. *Users*: 8,800 in Qatar (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *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 21 other countries and unestablished in 13 more.

Balochi, Southern [bcc]. *Users*: 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Balochi. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1999. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,570,700. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Iran, Pakistan. Also established in: Oman, United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Saudi Arabia.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 43,400 in Qatar (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in primary and secondary schools from grade 4. Taught in tertiary schools for natural science, business and engineering programs. 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 168 other countries and unestablished in 15 more.

French [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 126,800 in Qatar, all users. L1 users: 8,800 in Qatar (2021). L2 users: 118,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 4 (Educational). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in secondary schools in the final 2 years. 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.

Malayalam [mal]. *Users*: 81,700 in Qatar (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Dravidian, Southern, Tamil-Kannada, Tamil-Kodagu, Tamil-Malayalam, Malayalam. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); case-marking (7 cases); tense; 37 consonants, 11 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; light stress on first syllable; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1841–2004. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script, used since 1998. Malayalam script, primary usage. *Other*:

Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 37,359,380 (as L1: 36,647,680; as L2: 711,700). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Ireland, Israel, Malaysia, Oman, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Nepali [npi]. *Users*: 285,000 in Qatar (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2019), based on nationality. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Eastern, Eastern Pahari. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; 11 noun classes or genders; no articles; content q-word in situ; 1 prefix, up to 5 suffixes; clause constituents indicated by case-marking (4 cases); verbal affixation marks person, number and gender of subject; split ergativity; both tense and aspect; passives and voice; causatives; non-tonal; 29 consonant and 11 vowel phonemes. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1914–2004. *Writing*: Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bhutan, India, Nepal. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Brunei, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Persian, Iranian [pes] (Persian, Western Farsi). *Users*: 293,000 in Qatar (2021). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian. *Type*: SOV; noun head initial; no articles; tense and aspect; causatives; 23 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; stress on final syllable (or root). *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1845–1995. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Iran. Also established in: Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Tajikistan, United Arab Emirates. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kuwait, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

Sinhala [sin]. *Users*: 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Outer Languages, Southern, Sinhalese-Maldivian. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); indefinite article suffix; case-marking (5 cases); tense and aspect; causatives; 23 consonants and 13 vowels; non-tonal; distinctive diglossia. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1823–1982. *Writing*: Braille script. Sinhala script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 17,553,910 (as L1: 15,542,810; as L2: 2,011,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Sri Lanka. Also established in: Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Sweden, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

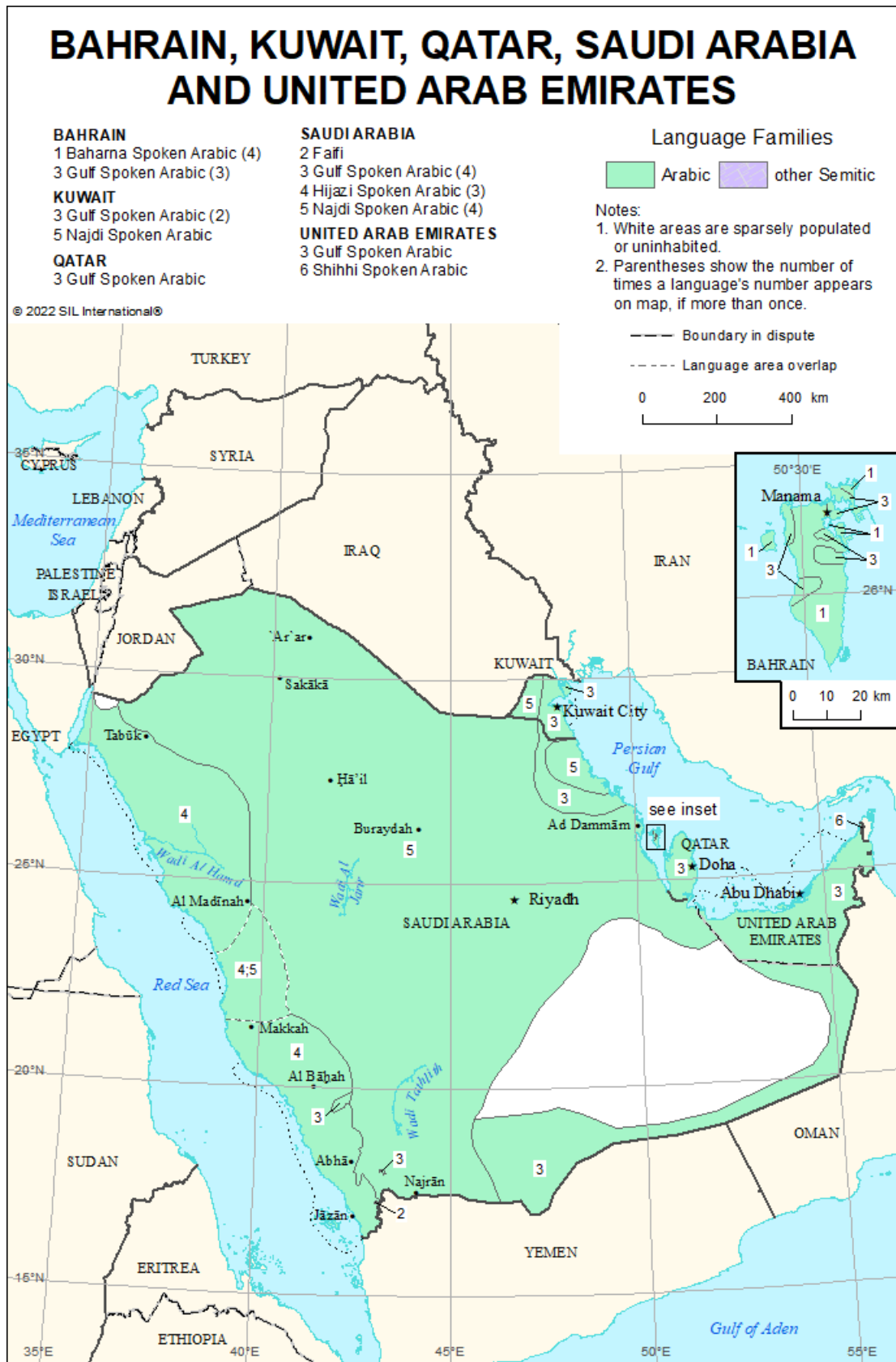
Tagalog [tgl]. Autonym: Tagalog. *Users*: 132,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*:

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

Tamil [tam]. *Users*: 28,700 in Qatar (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Dravidian, Southern, Tamil-Kannada, Tamil-Kodagu, Tamil-Malayalam, Tamil. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; gender (rational, non-rational); no articles; case-marking (8 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives (affective, effective); tense; no comparatives; 18 consonants, 10 vowels and 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1727–2002. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Tamil script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India, Sri Lanka. Also established in: Fiji, Malaysia, Martinique, Mauritius, Pakistan, Réunion, Singapore, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Belize, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Guadeloupe, Ireland, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Urdu [urd]. *Users*: 186,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Western Hindi, Hindustani. *Type*: SOV; postposition; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; direct and oblique cases; verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; 35 consonants, 21 vowels; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1843–1998. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Bangladesh (Bihari), Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, Nepal, South Africa. Unestablished in: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Qatar 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.

100,000 to 999,999

Arabic, North Levantine Spoken [apc] *Users:* 974,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished.

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

Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb] *Users:* 815,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language, absent from formal education. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,097,400.

Persian, Iranian [pes] *Users:* 293,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000).

Nepali [npi] *Users:* 285,000 in Qatar (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2019), based on nationality. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300).

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz] *Users:* 230,000 in Qatar (2017 Egypt Independent), based on nationality. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000).

Urdu [urd] *Users:* 186,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

Tagalog [tgl] *Users:* 132,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

10,000 to 99,999

Malayalam [mal] *Users:* 81,700 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 37,359,380 (as L1: 36,647,680; as L2: 711,700).

Arabic, Najdi Spoken [ars] *Users:* 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,073,860.

Arabic, Sudanese Spoken [apd] *Users:* 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 42,373,370 (as L1: 33,373,370; as L2: 9,000,000).

Balochi, Southern [bcc] *Users:* 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,570,700.

Sinhala [sin] *Users:* 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all

countries: 17,553,910 (as L1: 15,542,810; as L2: 2,011,100).

English [eng] *Users:* 43,400 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Arabic, Hijazi Spoken [acw] *Users:* 28,700 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,795,700.

Tamil [tam] *Users:* 28,700 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000).

1,000 to 9,999

Armenian, Western [hyw] *Users:* 8,800 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

French [fra] *Users:* 8,800 in Qatar (2021). 126,800 in Qatar, all users. L2 users: 118,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* 4 (Educational). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Unknown

Arabic, Standard [arb] *Users:* 1,100,000 in Qatar (2015 SIL), all users. *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2003, Constitution, Article 1). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Qatar are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

1 (National)

Arabic, Standard [arb] *Users:* 1,100,000 in Qatar (2015 SIL), all users. *Status:* Statutory national language (2003, Constitution, Article 1). *Lg Use:* Education, official purposes, formal speeches. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

3 (Wider communication)

Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb] *Users:* 815,000 in Qatar (2021). *Status:* De facto national working language, absent from formal education. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,097,400.

4 (Educational)

French [fra] *Users:* 126,800 in Qatar, all users. L1 users: 8,800 in Qatar (2021). L2 users: 118,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *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 (Dispersed)

Persian, Iranian [pes] *Users:* 293,000 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000).

Unestablished

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz] *Users:* 230,000 in Qatar (2017 Egypt Independent), based on nationality. *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, Hijazi Spoken [acw] *Users:* 28,700 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,795,700.

Arabic, Najdi Spoken [ars] *Users:* 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,073,860.

Arabic, North Levantine Spoken [apc] *Users:* 974,000 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

Arabic, Sudanese Spoken [apd] *Users:* 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 42,373,370 (as L1: 33,373,370; as L2: 9,000,000).

Armenian, Western [hyw] *Users:* 8,800 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Armenian script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

Balochi, Southern [bcc] *Users:* 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,570,700.

English [eng] *Users:* 43,400 in Qatar (2021). *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).

Malayalam [mal] *Users:* 81,700 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Braille script, used since 1998. Malayalam script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 37,359,380 (as L1: 36,647,680; as L2: 711,700).

Nepali [npi] *Users:* 285,000 in Qatar (International Organization for Migration (IOM) 2019), based on nationality. *Writing:* Braille script. Devanagari script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,587,570 (as L1: 16,903,270; as L2: 8,684,300).

Sinhala [sin] *Users:* 59,000 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Braille script. Sinhala script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,553,910 (as L1: 15,542,810; as L2: 2,011,100).

Tagalog [tgl] *Users:* 132,000 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Tagalog script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 83,054,910 (as L1: 28,746,910; as L2: 54,308,000).

Tamil [tam] *Users:* 28,700 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Tamil script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000).

Urdu [urd] *Users:* 186,000 in Qatar (2021). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, primary usage. Braille script. Devanagari script, used in India (Ahmad 2011). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 231,717,940 (as L1: 70,555,140; as L2: 161,162,800).

Languages by Family

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

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic

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

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

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Southwestern, Persian

Persian, Iranian [pes], [13](#)

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

French [fra], [12](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 18 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/>.

acw	Arabic, Hijazi Spoken, 10	fra	French, 12
afb	Arabic, Gulf Spoken, 10	hyw	Armenian, Western, 11
apc	Arabic, Levantine, 10	mal	Malayalam, 12
apd	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken, 11	npi	Nepali, 13
arb	Arabic, Standard, 11	pes	Persian, Iranian, 13
ars	Arabic, Najdi Spoken, 10	sin	Sinhala, 13
arz	Arabic, Egyptian Spoken, 10	tam	Tamil, 14
bcc	Balochi, Southern, 12	tgl	Tagalog, 13
eng	English, 12	urd	Urdu, 14

Language Name Index

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

Egyptian Spoken Arabic, *see* Arabic,

Egyptian Spoken [arz], [10](#)

Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], [10](#), [15](#)

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

Hijazi Spoken Arabic, *see* Arabic, Hijazi

Spoken [acw], [10](#)

Najdi Spoken Arabic, *see* Arabic, Najdi

Spoken [ars], [10](#)

North Levantine Spoken Arabic, *see* Arabic,

Levantine [apc], [10](#)

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

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

Sudanese Spoken Arabic, *see* Arabic,

Sudanese Spoken [apd], [11](#)

Western Armenian, *see* Armenian, Western

[hyw], [11](#)

Southern Balochi, *see* Balochi, Southern

[bcc], [12](#)

French [fra], [12](#)

Gulf Arabic, *alt.* Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], [10](#)

North Qatari Arabic, *dial.* Arabic, Gulf

Spoken [afb], [10](#)

Persian, *alt.* Persian, Iranian [pes], [13](#)

Persian, Iranian [pes], [13](#)

see Persian, Iranian [pes], [13](#)

Qatari, *alt.* Arabic, Gulf Spoken [afb], [10](#)

South Qatari Arabic, *dial.* Arabic, Gulf

Spoken [afb], [10](#)

Western Farsi, *alt.* Persian, Iranian [pes], [13](#)

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