

Ethnologue: Languages of Réunion

Twenty-sixth edition data

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Contents

List of Abbreviations	3
How to Use This Digest	4
Country Overview	6
Language Status Profile	7
Statistical Summaries	8
Alphabetical Listing of Languages	10
Language Map	14
Languages by Population	15
Languages by Status	17
Languages by Family	19
Language Code Index	20
Language Name Index	21
Bibliography	22

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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
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
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
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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 Réunion 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 12 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Réunion. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

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

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

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 15) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 17) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by Family” (page 19) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 20) 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 21) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 7 unique names are associated with the 12 languages described in this digest.

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

(page 22). 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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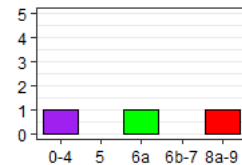
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Country Overview

Name of country	Réunion
Other names	Department of Réunion
Sovereignty status	Overseas department and integral part of France
Population	901,700 (2021 UNDESA)
Principal language	French
Literacy rate	
General references	Holm 1989

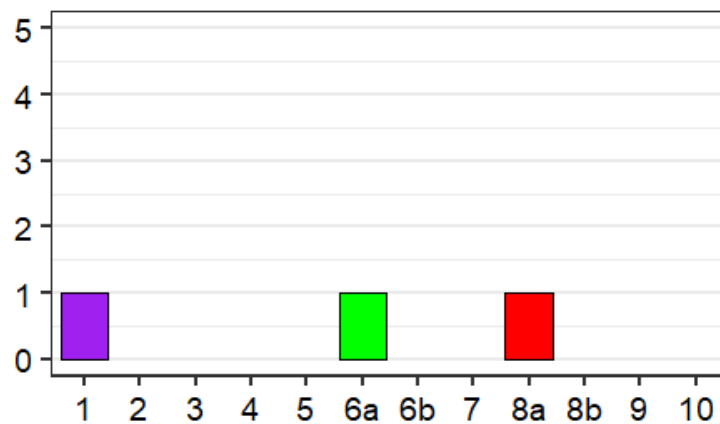
Language counts The number of established languages listed for Réunion is 3. All are living languages. Of these, 1 is indigenous and 2 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 1 is institutional, 1 is vigorous, and 1 is dying. Also listed are 9 unestablished languages.



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 Réunion with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 17) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



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

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

Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Réunion. 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 Réunion 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 Réunion by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 15) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

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

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

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

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
100,000 to 999,999	2	66.7	66.7%	690,000	93.87755	93.87755%
10,000 to 99,999	1	33.3	100.0%	45,000	6.12245	100.00000%
<i>Totals</i>	3	100.0		735,000	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Réunion by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 17) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level

reported here is for the status of the language in Réunion. 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	33.3	33.3%	192,000	26.1224	26.1224%	192,000	192,000
6a	1	33.3	66.7%	498,000	67.7551	93.8776%	498,000	498,000
8a	1	33.3	100.0%	45,000	6.1224	100.0000%	45,000	45,000
<i>Totals</i>	3	100.0		735,000	100.0000			

Summary by language family

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

Table 3: Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	<i>Count</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>Median</i>
Creole	1	33.3	498,000	67.8	498,000	498,000
Dravidian	1	33.3	45,000	6.1	45,000	45,000
Indo-European	1	33.3	192,000	26.1	192,000	192,000
<i>Totals</i>	3	100.0	735,000	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Chinese, Hakka [hak]. *Users*: 11,700 in Réunion (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; tonal. *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 12 other countries and unestablished in 8 more.

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn]. *Users*: 3,100 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Sino-Tibetan, Chinese. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; 6 full (concrete meaning) word classes; no articles; passives; 24 consonants, 8 vowels, 6 diphthongs; tonal (4 phonemic tones). *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1874–1983. *Writing*: Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: China. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 60 more.

Chinese, Yue [yue]. *Users*: 14,400 in Réunion (2021). *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 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.

Comorian, Ndzwani [wni]. Autonym: Shindzwani. *Users*: 3,600 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, G, Swahili (G.44). *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 2011. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 384,600. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Indigenous in: Comoros. Unestablished in: Madagascar.

Comorian, Ngazidja [zdj]. Autonym: Shingazidja. *Users*: 4,900 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, G, Swahili (G.44). *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1976–2007. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Other*:

Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 437,900. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Comoros. Unestablished in: Madagascar.

French [fra] (Français). Autonym: français. *Users*: 799,000 in Réunion, all users. L1 users: 192,000 in Réunion (2021). L2 users: 607,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1958, French Constitution, Article 2). *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 in all primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Maps*: 14, 14. *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.

Gujarati [guj]. *Users*: 21,600 in Réunion (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Gujarati. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; split ergativity; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 31 consonants, 8 vowels, 2 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1823–2005. *Writing*: Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India. Also established in: Bahrain, Fiji, Kenya, Pakistan, Singapore, Tanzania, Zambia. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burundi, Canada, Iran, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Oman, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.

Malagasy [plt] (Malgache). Autonym: Malagasy, Malagasy ôfisialy. *Users*: 23,400 in Réunion (2021). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Austronesian, Malayo-Polynesian, Greater Barito, East, Malagasy. *Type*: VOS; prepositions; noun head initial; definite article; verb affixes mark person, number; active, passive and circumstantial voices; tense; causatives; 29 consonants, 5 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable; inclusive/exclusive pronouns. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1835–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,549,160 (as L1: 7,548,360; as L2: 800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Madagascar (Merina Malagasy). Also established in: Comoros. Unestablished in: Canada (Merina Malagasy), Mauritius, Mayotte.

Punjabi, Eastern [pan]. *Users*: 3,500 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate

Divisions, Western, Panjabi. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; gender (masculine/feminine); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject; passives; tense and aspect; 15 consonant and 24 vowel phonemes; tonal (3 tones: high, mid, low). *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1959–2017. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Gurmukhi script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000). Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: India, Pakistan. Also established in: Fiji, Kenya, Mauritius, Singapore. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

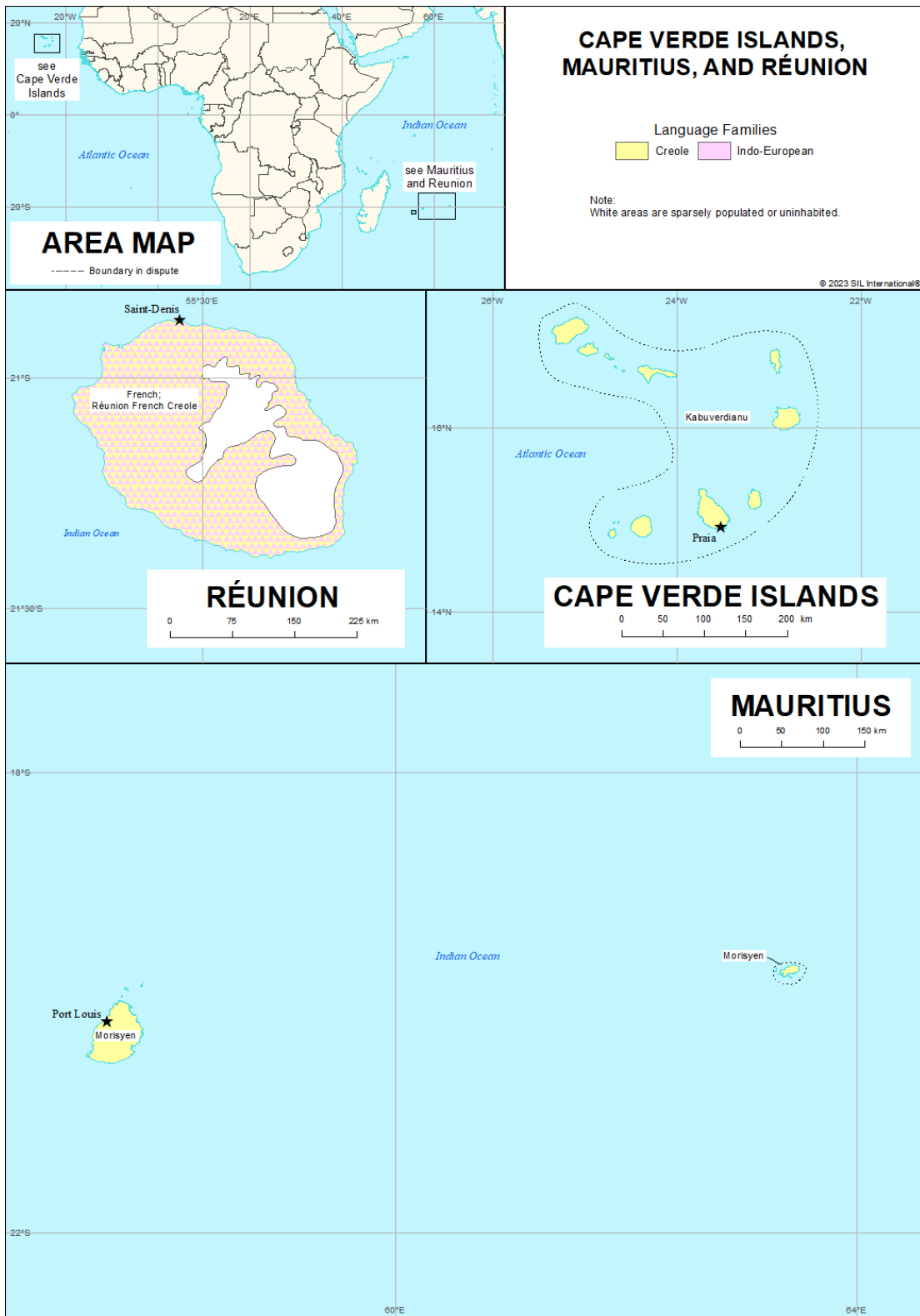
Réunion French Creole [rcf] (Créole réunionnais). Autonym: Kréol réunionné. *Users*: 498,000 in Réunion (2021). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Creole, French based. *Lg Use*: 25% are white, poor, live in the mountainous interior, and speak archaic highland varieties. 25% are Indian, live in coastal lowlands, and speak the basilect. 45% are African or mixed race, live in coastal lowlands, and speak the basilect. Positive attitudes, which are increasing. Also use French [fra]. Used as L2 by Tamil [tam]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Bible portions: 2017. *DLS*: Ascending (0.14). *Writing*: Latin script. *Maps*: 14, 14. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 809,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also established in: France. Unestablished in: Madagascar.

Swahili [swh]. Autonym: Kiswahili. *Users*: 26,000 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, G, Swahili (G.42). *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; 18 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number, object; passives; causatives; comparatives; 22 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1891–2017. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Kenya, Mozambique, Somalia, Tanzania. Also established in: Burundi, Oman, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Comoros, Finland, Madagascar, Mayotte, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Tamil [tam]. *Users*: 45,000 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 126,000 (Murugaiyan 2013). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 8a (Moribund). *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 Use*: Shifted to French [fra]. Shifted to Réunion French Creole [rcf]. *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. 90% describe themselves as Indian origin. Hindu. *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, Singapore, South Africa. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Belize, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Guadeloupe, Ireland, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Réunion 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

Réunion French Creole [[rcf](#)] *Users:* 498,000 in Réunion (2021). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 809,000.

French [[fra](#)] *Users:* 192,000 in Réunion (2021). 799,000 in Réunion, all users. L2 users: 607,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1958, French Constitution, Article 2). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

10,000 to 99,999

Tamil [[tam](#)] *Users:* 45,000 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 126,000 (Murugaiyan 2013). *Status:* 8a (Moribund). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,640,030 (as L1: 78,587,030; as L2: 8,053,000).

Swahili [[swh](#)] *Users:* 26,000 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400).

Malagasy [[plt](#)] *Users:* 23,400 in Réunion (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,549,160 (as L1: 7,548,360; as L2: 800).

Gujarati [[guj](#)] *Users:* 21,600 in Réunion (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).

Chinese, Yue [[yue](#)] *Users:* 14,400 in Réunion (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 86,633,370 (as L1: 86,116,370; as L2: 517,000).

Chinese, Hakka [[hak](#)] *Users:* 11,700 in Réunion (2021). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 44,271,630 (as L1: 44,020,430; as L2: 251,200).

1,000 to 9,999

Comorian, Ngazidja [[zdj](#)] *Users:* 4,900 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 437,900.

Comorian, Ndzwani [[wni](#)] *Users:* 3,600 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 384,600.

Punjabi, Eastern [[pan](#)] *Users:* 3,500 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Status:*

Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000).

Chinese, Mandarin [[cmn](#)] *Users*: 3,100 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity.

Status: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Réunion 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)

French [[fra](#)] *Users*: 799,000 in Réunion, all users. L1 users: 192,000 in Réunion (2021). L2 users: 607,000 (Marcoux et al 2022). *Status*: Statutory national language (1958, French Constitution, Article 2). *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).

6a (Vigorous)

Réunion French Creole [[rcf](#)] *Users*: 498,000 in Réunion (2021). *Lg Use*: 25% are white, poor, live in the mountainous interior, and speak archaic highland varieties. 25% are Indian, live in coastal lowlands, and speak the basilect. 45% are African or mixed race, live in coastal lowlands, and speak the basilect. Positive attitudes, which are increasing. Also use French [[fra](#)]. Used as L2 by Tamil [[tam](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Bible portions: 2017. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 809,000.

8a (Moribund)

Tamil [[tam](#)] *Users*: 45,000 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. Ethnic population: 126,000 (Murugaiyan 2013). *Lg Use*: Shifted to French [[fra](#)]. Shifted to Réunion French Creole [[rcf](#)]. *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).

Unestablished

Chinese, Hakka [[hak](#)] *Users*: 11,700 in Réunion (2021). *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).

Chinese, Mandarin [[cmn](#)] *Users*: 3,100 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing*: Bopomofo script, used since 1913, revised in 1920 and 1932, mainly used in Taiwan. Braille script. Han script, Simplified variant, used since 1956, official in Mainland China (1956) and Singapore (1969), also used elsewhere. Han script, Traditional variant, used since mid-19th century, official in Taiwan, also used elsewhere. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users

in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

Chinese, Yue [yue] *Users:* 14,400 in Réunion (2021). *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).

Comorian, Ndzwani [wni] *Users:* 3,600 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 384,600.

Comorian, Ngazidja [zdj] *Users:* 4,900 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 437,900.

Gujarati [guj] *Users:* 21,600 in Réunion (2021). *Writing:* Braille script. Gujarati script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).

Malagasy [plt] *Users:* 23,400 in Réunion (2021). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,549,160 (as L1: 7,548,360; as L2: 800).

Punjabi, Eastern [pan] *Users:* 3,500 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. Gurmukhi script, primary usage. Khojki script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 52,077,070 (as L1: 48,299,070; as L2: 3,778,000).

Swahili [swh] *Users:* 26,000 in Réunion (2022 Joshua Project), based on ethnicity. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 71,558,080 (as L1: 16,164,680; as L2: 55,393,400).

Languages by Family

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

Creole, French based

Réunion French Creole [rcf], [12](#)

Dravidian, Southern, Tamil-Kannada, Tamil-Kodagu, Tamil-Malayalam, Tamil

Tamil [tam], [12](#)

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

French [fra], [11](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 12 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/>.

cmn	Chinese, Mandarin, 10	rcf	Réunion French Creole, 12
fra	French, 11	swh	Swahili, 12
guj	Gujarati, 11	tam	Tamil, 12
hak	Chinese, Hakka, 10	wni	Comorian, Ndzwani, 10
pan	Punjabi, Eastern, 11	yue	Chinese, Yue, 10
plt	Malagasy, Merina, 11	zdj	Comorian, Ngazidja, 10

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.

Hakka Chinese, *see* Chinese, Hakka [hak], 10

Mandarin Chinese, *see* Chinese, Mandarin [cmn], 10

Yue Chinese, *see* Chinese, Yue [yue], 10

Ndzwani Comorian, *see* Comorian, Ndzwani [wni], 10

Ngazidja Comorian, *see* Comorian, Ngazidja [zdj], 10

Créole réunionnais, *alt.* Réunion French Creole [rcf], 12

Français, *alt.* French [fra], 11

French [fra], 11, 14

Kréol réunionné, *alt.* Réunion French Creole [rcf], 12

Eastern Punjabi, *see* Punjabi, Eastern [pan], 11

Réunion French Creole [rcf], 12, 14

Tamil [tam], 12

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