

Ethnologue: Languages of Syria

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)
NCRP	North Caucasus Regional Partnership
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)
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 Syria 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 24 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Syria. 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 18) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 20) 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 Governorate” (page 23) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Syria and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 24) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 25) 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 26) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 81 unique names are associated with the 24

languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 29). 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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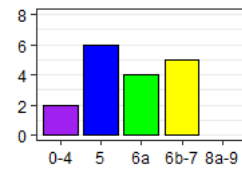
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Country Overview

Name of country	Syria
Other names	Syrian Arab Republic
Population	18,276,000 (2021 census)
Principal languages	Levantine Arabic, Standard Arabic
Literacy rate	86% (2015 World Factbook)
Deaf population	902,600
International conventions	CPPDCE (2008), CSICH (2005), ICCPR (1969), UNCRPD (2009), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Fischer and Jastrow 1980, Ingham 1982, Sebeok 1963

Language counts

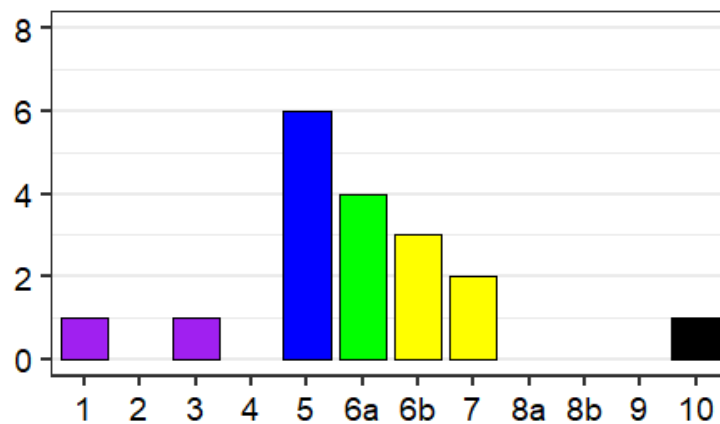
The number of established languages listed for Syria is 18. Of these, 17 are living and 1 is extinct. Of the living languages, 7 are indigenous and 10 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 2 are institutional, 6 are developing, 4 are vigorous, and 5 are in trouble. Also listed are 6 unestablished languages.



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 Syria 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 20) 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 Syria. 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 Syria 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 Syria 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 18) 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
10,000,000 to 99,999,999	1	5.9	5.9%	14,600,000	74.80735	74.80735%
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	3	17.6	23.5%	4,090,000	20.95630	95.76365%
100,000 to 999,999	2	11.8	35.3%	464,000	2.37744	98.14109%
10,000 to 99,999	9	52.9	88.2%	362,800	1.85891	100.00000%
Unknown	2	11.8	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	17	100.0		19,516,800	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Syria 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 20) 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 Syria. 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	5.9	5.9%	Unknown				
3	1	5.9	11.8%	14,600,000	74.8073	74.8073%	14,600,000	14,600,000
5	6	35.3	47.1%	3,037,200	15.5620	90.3693%	506,200	55,000
6a	4	23.5	70.6%	1,640,200	8.4040	98.7734%	410,050	185,500
6b	3	17.6	88.2%	198,800	1.0186	99.7920%	66,267	99,400
7	2	11.8	100.0%	40,600	0.2080	100.0000%	20,300	20,300
<i>Totals</i>	17	100.0		19,516,800	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 4 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
Abkhaz-Adyghe	2	11.8	60,100	0.3	30,050	30,050
Afro-Asiatic	9	52.9	16,444,800	84.3	1,827,200	117,500
Indo-European	4	23.5	1,480,000	7.6	370,000	60,000

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>
Turkic	2	11.8	1,531,900	7.8	765,950	765,950
<i>Totals</i>	17	100.0	19,516,800	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

- Abkhaz** [abk]. *Users*: 5,000 in Syria (2014 NCRP). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Abkhaz-Adyghe, Abkhaz-Abazin. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2015. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used since 1860s. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1984, used in Turkey. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 172,180. Global EGIDS level: 2 (Provincial). Indigenous in: Georgia. Also established in: Turkey. Unestablished in: Germany, Russian Federation, Ukraine.
- Adyghe** [ady] (Adygey, West Circassian). *Users*: 25,300 in Syria (2019). *Location*: As Suwayda' governorate: Salkhad district; Dara'a governorate: Dar'a district. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Abkhaz-Adyghe, Circassian. *Type*: SOV; 57 consonants and 3 vowels. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1991. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Map*: 17:12. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 613,700. Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Turkey. Unestablished in: Egypt, Germany, North Macedonia.
- Arabic, Egyptian Spoken** [arz]. *Users*: 70,200 in Syria (2019). *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, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.
- Arabic, Levantine** [apc] (Lebanese-Syrian Arabic, Syro-Lebanese Arabic, il-lahje š-šāmiyye). *Users*: 14,600,000 in Syria (2021). *Location*: Al Ladhīqiyah, Al Qunaytirah, As Suwayda', Dara'a, and Tartus governorates; Hauran region; widespread along Mediterranean coast. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language. Became a dominant language following the Muslim conquest (634–638). Widely spoken in the Levant region. Used in day-to-day communication. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. A member of macrolanguage Arabic [ara] (Saudi Arabia). *Dialect*: Horani. There is an urban standard dialect based on Damascus speech. Beirut dialect well accepted. Aleppo dialect shows Mesopotamian (North Syrian) influence. Lexical similarity (based on percentage of common words): 37% with Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) [arb] (Harrat et al 2015). *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Domari [rmt], Northern Kurdish [kmr], Turoyo [tru], Western Neo-Aramaic [amw]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *DLS*: Ascending (0.23). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other*: Druze, Christian, Jewish, Muslim. *Map*: 17:1 (as Arabic, North Levantine Spoken). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000). Also indigenous in: Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine,

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

Arabic, Levantine Bedawi Spoken [avl]. *Users:* 71,000 in Syria (2019). *Location:* As Suwayda' and Dara'a governorates in southwest corner; Hauran region southwest, from the border to within 35 km of Damascus. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Lg Dev:* TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Non-indigenous. Muslim, Christian. *Map:* 17:11. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,841,600. Indigenous in: Egypt (Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken Arabic), Jordan, Palestine. Unestablished in: Israel.

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm] (Furati, Mesopotamian Gelet Arabic, North Syrian Arabic). *Users:* 49,200 in Syria (2019). *Location:* Ar Raqqa and Halab governorates: Buhayrat al Asad reservoir at center; Dayr az Zawr governorate: along the Euphrates; west Hamah, central Hims, and east Idlib governorates. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialect:* Euphrates Cluster. *Type:* SVO; 32 consonant phonemes. *Lg Dev:* Radio. TV. Grammar. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Muslim, Christian, Jewish. *Map:* 17:2. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,162,050. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Iran, Iraq. Also established in: Turkey. Unestablished in: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, India, Kuwait, Lebanon, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen.

Arabic, Najdi Spoken [ars] (Bedawi, Najdi). *Users:* 1,220,000 in Syria (2019). *Location:* Widespread; eastern Syrian desert. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type:* SVO. *Lg Use:* Spoken by Bedouins. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Bible portions: 2013. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Map:* 17:8. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,073,860. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia. Unestablished in: Canada, Kuwait, Qatar, United Kingdom, United States.

Arabic, North Mesopotamian Spoken [ayp] (Maslawi, Mesopotamian Qeltu Arabic, Moslawi, Syro-Mesopotamian Arabic). *Users:* 300,000 in Syria (1992). *Location:* Al Hasakah governorate: Damascus toward north border with Turkey. *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Class:* Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Dialects:* Mardini Aramaic (Abdul-Massih, Jesrawi, Mardilli, Mardini), Euphrates Group. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. NT: 2012. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Other:* Muslim, Christian. *Map:* 17:5. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries:

10,263,460. Also indigenous in: Iraq, Turkey. Also established in: Jordan. Unestablished in: Belgium, Germany, Norway, Sweden.

Arabic, Standard [arb]. *Users*: 15,900,000 in Syria (2015 SIL), all users. *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1973, Constitution, Article 4). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic. *Type*: VSO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine); dual number; definite and indefinite affixes; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark number, gender of subject; aspect; 28 consonant and 6 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on first syllable; trilateral roots, few affixes. *Lg Use*: Education, print publications, official purposes, formal speeches. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1645–2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, primary usage. Braille script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 273,989,700. Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Saudi Arabia. Also established in 30 other countries and unestablished in 1 more.

Armenian, Western [hyw]. *Users*: 60,000 in Syria (2019). *Location*: Al Ladhqiyyah governorate: Kessab and Latakia; Idlib governorate: Jisr al-Shughur. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Armenian. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Writing*: Armenian script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Christian. *Map*: 17:7. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800). Indigenous in: Armenia, Georgia, Turkey. Also established in 20 other countries and unestablished in 14 more.

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii] (Assyrian, Lishana Aturaya, Neo-Syriac, Suret, Sureth, Suryaya Swadaya). *Users*: 164,000 in Syria (2019). Ethnic population: 700,000. *Location*: Al Hasakah governorate: Khabur river banks, Turkey border, over 30 villages; some in Al Hasakah city. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Grammar. Bible: 1852–1919. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Syriac script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 17:4. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700). Indigenous in: Iraq. Also established in: Armenia, Georgia, Iran. Unestablished in: Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Greece, Italy, Kuwait, Lebanon, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Azerbaijani, South [azb] (Azeri, Turkmen, Turkomen). *Users*: 31,900 in Syria (2019). *Location*: Hamah and Hims governorates: isolated central enclaves in both. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani. *Lg Use*: Also use Arabic [ara]. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 2013. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iraq and Iran. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Not written in Syria. Muslim. *Map*: 17:9. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,935,990 (as L1: 14,932,010; as L2: 3,980). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Iran, Turkey. Also established in: Azerbaijan, Iraq. Unestablished in: Canada, Sweden, United States.

Chaldean Neo-Aramaic [cld]. *Users*: 5,430 in Syria (2019). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Texts. NT: 2006. *Writing*: Syriac script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all

countries: 193,730 (as L1: 191,230; as L2: 2,500). Global EGIDS level: 7 (Shifting). Indigenous in: Iraq. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Germany, Lebanon, Netherlands, Turkey, United States.

Chechen [che]. *Users*: 4,420 in Syria (2019). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Nakh-Daghestanian, Nakh, Chechen-Ingush. *Type*: Ergative case system; many consonants and vowels; extensive inflectional morphology, many nominal cases, several gender classes; complex sentences by chaining participial clauses; verbs have gender agreement with the direct object or intransitive subject, but no person agreement (Nichols 1995). *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2012. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used between 1925–1938. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,687,700. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Georgia, Jordan. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Egypt, Germany, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Domari [rmt] (Barake, Dom, Gypsy, Kurbat, Middle Eastern Romani, Nawar, Qurbāti, Tsigene). *Users*: A few scattered and isolated speaker populations (Herin 2016). Ethnic population: 10,000 (2022 A. Dusséaux). *Location*: Ar Raqqa governorate: scattered nomadic groups; north, western rural areas. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Dom. *Dialects*: Nawar (Nawari), Kurbati (Ghorbati), Beirut, Nablos, Barake. Part of the northern Domari dialect area, along with Lebanon and southern Turkey. Limited intelligibility with speakers of the southern dialect (Herin 2016). *Lg Use*: All also use Levantine Arabic [apc] (Herin 2016). Some also use Northern Kurdish [kmr] (Herin 2016). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Arabic influence. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1. Indigenous in: Turkey. Also established in: Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine.

French [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 10,100 in Syria (2019). *Status*: Unestablished. *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*: 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.

Kabardian [kbd]. *Users*: 34,800 in Syria (2019). *Location*: Dimashq governorate; Damascus, Aleppo, possibly other cities. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Abkhaz-Adyghe, Circassian. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1993–2007. *Writing*: Cyrillic script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,849,800. Indigenous in: Russian Federation. Also established in: Jordan, Turkey. Unestablished in: Germany, Saudi

Arabia, United States.

Kurdish, Northern [kmr] (Ezdiki, Kurdî, Kurmancî, Kurmanji). Autonym: Kurdî-Kurmancî, Kurmancî. *Users*: 1,370,000 in Syria (2019). *Location*: Al Hasakah governorate: Al Hasakah city northwest border; Halab governorate: north of Euphrates reservoir; Ar Raqqa governorate: area surrounding capital. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Western, Northwestern, Kurdish. *Dialects*: Southwestern Kurmanji (Afrini), Southern Kurmanji. *Lg Use*: Also use Levantine Arabic [apc]. Used as L2 by Domari [rmt]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Periodicals. Radio. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Armenian script, used between 1921–1929, used in Armenia. Cyrillic script, used in Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Latin script, developed in 1932, used in Turkey and Syria. *Other*: Muslim, Yezidi. *Map*: 17:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, Turkey. Also established in: Georgia, Lebanon, Turkmenistan. Unestablished in: Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Mlahsö [lhs] (Melasó, Mlahso, Mlahsô, Mlahso, Suryoyo). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. The last speaker, Ibrahim Hanna, died in 1998. *Location*: Al Hasakah governorate: Qamishli town. *Status*: 10 (Extinct). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northwestern. *Dialects*: None known. Reportedly similar to Turoyo [tru]. *Lg Use*: Mlahsö was still spoken by a handful of people in 1970s. One nearly deaf woman still knew Mlahsö well, but had no one to speak it to (1999). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: A different language from Turoyo [tru], also called Suryoyo.

Ossetic [oss]. *Users*: 50,000 in Syria (2019). *Location*: Dara'a province. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Northeastern. *Dialects*: Iron, Digor. *Lg Dev*: Bible: 2022. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used in Russia since 1844 and in Georgia since 1954. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, used in Georgia until 1954. Latin script, used in Russia during the 1920s–1930s. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 487,050. Indigenous in: Georgia, Russian Federation. Also established in: Turkey. Unestablished in: Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

Persian, Iranian [pes]. *Users*: 47,000 in Syria (2019). *Status*: Unestablished. *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. *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, Qatar, 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, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

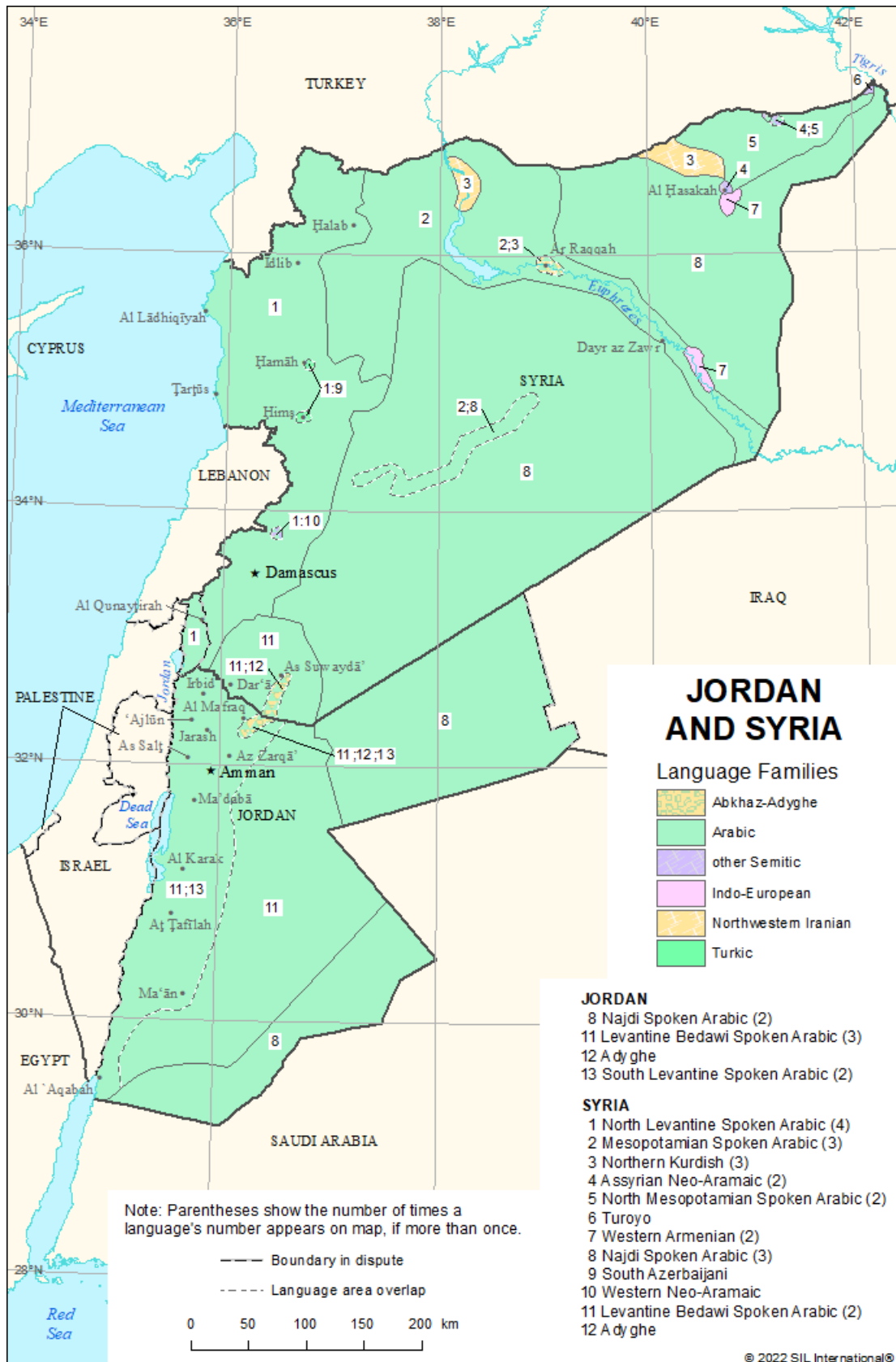
Turkish [tur] (Turkmen, Turkoman). Autonym: Türkçe. *Users*: 1,500,000 in Syria (Mustafa 2015).

Location: Al Ladhīqiyah governorate: Bayirbucak; Ar Raqqah governorate: Raqqa and Tell Abyad; Dimashq governorate: Damascus; Halab governorate: Aleppo; Hamah governorate; Hims governorate: Homs. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Turkic, Southern, Turkish. *Dialects*: Kilis, Antep, Urfa, Hatay. *Type*: SOV; postpositions; noun head final; indefinite articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; causatives; comparatives; 19 consonant and 8 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on final syllable; vowel harmony; evidentiality. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1827–2006. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey. Also established in: Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Uzbekistan. Unestablished in: Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States.

Turoyo [tru] (Surayt, Suryoyo, Syryoyo, Turani). Autonym: Surayt. *Users*: 23,200 in Syria (2019). *Location*: Al Hasakah governorate: far northeast corner, Tigris river near Cizre. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northwestern. *Lg Use*: Home. Shifting to Levantine Arabic [apc]. Also use Standard Arabic [arb], in schools and trade. Also use Syriac [syc], in church. *Lg Dev*: NT: 1992–2013. *Writing*: Latin script, primary usage. Syriac script. *Other*: Religious capital is Damascus; formerly at Tur 'Abdin, Turkey. Christian. *Map*: 17:6. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 103,100. Global EGIDS level: 6b (Threatened). Also indigenous in: Turkey. Unestablished in: Belgium, Germany, Iraq, Lebanon, Netherlands, United States.

Western Neo-Aramaic [amw] (Loghtha Siryanooytha, Maaloula, Maalula, Neo-Western Aramaic, Siryoon). *Users*: 17,400 (2019). *Location*: Rif Dimashq governorate: Al-Qutayfah district, Bakh'a, Jubb 'Adin, and Ma'lula villages; Qalamoun mountains, 50 km north of Damascus. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Western. *Dialects*: Maaloula (Ma'lu:la, Ma'lula, Maalula), Bakh'a (Bax'a), Jub-'adin (Jubb 'Adi:n). Little dialect variation. *Lg Use*: Home, and as literary and religious language. Shifting to Levantine Arabic [apc]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Texts. NT: 2017. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Syriac script, Western variant. *Other*: Christian. *Map*: 17:10.

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Syria 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.

10,000,000 to 99,999,999

Arabic, Levantine [apc] *Users:* 14,600,000 in Syria (2021). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). De facto national working language. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

1,000,000 to 9,999,999

Turkish [tur] *Users:* 1,500,000 in Syria (Mustafa 2015). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

Kurdish, Northern [kmr] *Users:* 1,370,000 in Syria (2019). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800).

Arabic, Najdi Spoken [ars] *Users:* 1,220,000 in Syria (2019). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,073,860.

100,000 to 999,999

Arabic, North Mesopotamian Spoken [ayp] *Users:* 300,000 in Syria (1992). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,263,460.

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii] *Users:* 164,000 in Syria (2019). Ethnic population: 700,000. *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700).

10,000 to 99,999

Arabic, Levantine Bedawi Spoken [avl] *Users:* 71,000 in Syria (2019). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,841,600.

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz] *Users:* 70,200 in Syria (2019). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 102,436,230 (as L1: 77,436,230; as L2: 25,000,000).

Armenian, Western [hyw] *Users:* 60,000 in Syria (2019). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

Ossetic [oss] *Users:* 50,000 in Syria (2019). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 487,050.

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm] *Users:* 49,200 in Syria (2019). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,162,050.

Persian, Iranian [pes] *Users:* 47,000 in Syria (2019). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 78,623,350 (as L1: 57,192,350; as L2: 21,431,000).

Kabardian [kbd] *Users:* 34,800 in Syria (2019). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,849,800.

Azerbaijani, South [azb] *Users:* 31,900 in Syria (2019). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,935,990 (as L1: 14,932,010; as L2: 3,980).

Adyghe [ady] *Users:* 25,300 in Syria (2019). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 613,700.

Turoyo [tru] *Users:* 23,200 in Syria (2019). *Status:* 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 103,100.

Western Neo-Aramaic [amw] *Users:* 17,400 (2019). *Status:* 7 (Shifting).

French [fra] *Users:* 10,100 in Syria (2019). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

1,000 to 9,999

Chaldean Neo-Aramaic [cld] *Users:* 5,430 in Syria (2019). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 193,730 (as L1: 191,230; as L2: 2,500).

Abkhaz [abk] *Users:* 5,000 in Syria (2014 NCRP). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 172,180.

Chechen [che] *Users:* 4,420 in Syria (2019). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,687,700.

0

Mlahsö [lhs] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. The last speaker, Ibrahim Hanna, died in 1998. *Status:* 10 (Extinct).

Unknown

Domari [rmt] *Users:* A few scattered and isolated speaker populations (Herin 2016). Ethnic population: 10,000 (2022 A. Dusséaux). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1.

Arabic, Standard [arb] *Users:* 15,900,000 in Syria (2015 SIL), all users. *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1973, Constitution, Article 4). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 273,989,700.

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Syria 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*: 15,900,000 in Syria (2015 SIL), all users. *Status*: Statutory national language (1973, Constitution, Article 4). *Lg Use*: Education, print publications, 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, Levantine [[apc](#)] *Users*: 14,600,000 in Syria (2021). *Status*: De facto national working language. Became a dominant language following the Muslim conquest (634–638). Widely spoken in the Levant region. Used in day-to-day communication. *Lg Use*: Used as L2 by Domari [[rmt](#)], Northern Kurdish [[kmr](#)], Turoyo [[tru](#)], Western Neo-Aramaic [[amw](#)]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1940–1973. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 47,595,360 (as L1: 47,236,360; as L2: 359,000).

5 (Developing)

Adyghe [[ady](#)] *Users*: 25,300 in Syria (2019). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used in Turkey. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 613,700.

Armenian, Western [[hyw](#)] *Users*: 60,000 in Syria (2019). *Writing*: Armenian script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,582,290 (as L1: 1,576,490; as L2: 5,800).

Ossetic [[oss](#)] *Users*: 50,000 in Syria (2019). *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used in Russia since 1844 and in Georgia since 1954. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, used in Georgia until 1954. Latin script, used in Russia during the 1920s–1930s. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 487,050.

5 (Dispersed)

Azerbaijani, South [[azb](#)] *Users*: 31,900 in Syria (2019). *Lg Use*: Also use Arabic [[ara](#)]. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iraq and Iran. Arabic script, Nastaliq variant, used in Iran. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,935,990 (as L1: 14,932,010; as L2: 3,980).

Kurdish, Northern [kmr] *Users:* 1,370,000 in Syria (2019). *Lg Use:* Also use Levantine Arabic [apc]. Used as L2 by Domari [rmt]. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, used in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Armenian script, used between 1921–1929, used in Armenia. Cyrillic script, used in Armenia, Russia, and Azerbaijan. Latin script, developed in 1932, used in Turkey and Syria. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 15,789,810 (as L1: 15,785,010; as L2: 4,800).

Turkish [tur] *Users:* 1,500,000 in Syria (Mustafa 2015). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1928 or 1929, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 90,028,000 (as L1: 84,010,500; as L2: 6,017,500).

6a (Vigorous)

Arabic, Levantine Bedawi Spoken [avl] *Users:* 71,000 in Syria (2019). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,841,600.

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm] *Users:* 49,200 in Syria (2019). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,162,050.

Arabic, Najdi Spoken [ars] *Users:* 1,220,000 in Syria (2019). *Lg Use:* Spoken by Bedouins. *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 18,073,860.

Arabic, North Mesopotamian Spoken [ayp] *Users:* 300,000 in Syria (1992). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,263,460.

6b (Threatened)

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii] *Users:* 164,000 in Syria (2019). Ethnic population: 700,000. *Writing:* Cyrillic script. Syriac script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 563,630 (as L1: 559,930; as L2: 3,700).

Domari [rmt] *Users:* A few scattered and isolated speaker populations (Herin 2016). Ethnic population: 10,000 (2022 A. Dusséaux). *Lg Use:* All also use Levantine Arabic [apc] (Herin 2016). Some also use Northern Kurdish [kmr] (Herin 2016). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1.

Kabardian [kbd] *Users:* 34,800 in Syria (2019). *Writing:* Cyrillic script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,849,800.

7 (Shifting)

Turoyo [tru] *Users:* 23,200 in Syria (2019). *Lg Use:* Home. Shifting to Levantine Arabic [apc]. Also use Standard Arabic [arb], in schools and trade. Also use Syriac [syc], in church. *Writing:* Latin script, primary usage. Syriac script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 103,100.

Western Neo-Aramaic [amw] *Users:* 17,400 (2019). *Lg Use:* Home, and as literary and religious

language. Shifting to Levantine Arabic [apc]. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. Texts. NT: 2017. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant. Syriac script, Western variant.

10 (Extinct)

Mlahsö [lhs] *Users*: No known L1 speakers. The last speaker, Ibrahim Hanna, died in 1998. *Lg Use*: Mlahsö was still spoken by a handful of people in 1970s. One nearly deaf woman still knew Mlahsö well, but had no one to speak it to (1999). *Lg Dev*: Grammar.

Unestablished

Abkhaz [abk] *Users*: 5,000 in Syria (2014 NCRP). *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used since 1860s. Georgian (Mkhedruli and Mtavruli) script, no longer in use. Latin script, used since 1984, used in Turkey. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 172,180.

Arabic, Egyptian Spoken [arz] *Users*: 70,200 in Syria (2019). *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).

Chaldean Neo-Aramaic [cld] *Users*: 5,430 in Syria (2019). *Writing*: Syriac script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 193,730 (as L1: 191,230; as L2: 2,500).

Chechen [che] *Users*: 4,420 in Syria (2019). *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script, used between 1925–1938. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,687,700.

French [fra] *Users*: 10,100 in Syria (2019). *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).

Persian, Iranian [pes] *Users*: 47,000 in Syria (2019). *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).

Languages by Governorate

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

Al Hasakah

Arabic, North Mesopotamian Spoken [ayp],
12

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], 13

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 15

Mlahsö [lhs], 15

Turoyo [tru], 16

Al Ladhīqiyah

Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11

Armenian, Western [hyw], 13

Turkish [tur], 16

Al Qunaytirah

Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11

Ar Raqqah

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], 12

Domari [rmt], 14

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 15

Turkish [tur], 16

As Suwayda'

Adyghe [ady], 11

Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11

Arabic, Levantine Bedawi Spoken [av1], 12

Dara'a

Adyghe [ady], 11

Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11

Arabic, Levantine Bedawi Spoken [av1], 12

Ossetic [oss], 15

Dayr az Zawr

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], 12

Dimashq

Kabardian [kbd], 14

Turkish [tur], 16

Halab

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], 12

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], 15

Turkish [tur], 16

Hamah

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], 12

Azerbaijani, South [azb], 13

Turkish [tur], 16

Hims

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], 12

Azerbaijani, South [azb], 13

Turkish [tur], 16

Idlib

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], 12

Armenian, Western [hyw], 13

Rif Dimashq

Western Neo-Aramaic [amw], 16

Tartus

Arabic, Levantine [apc], 11

Languages by Family

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

Abkhaz-Adyghe, Circassian

Adyghe [ady], [11](#)

Kabardian [kbd], [14](#)

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northeastern

Assyrian Neo-Aramaic [aii], [13](#)

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Eastern, Central, Northwestern

Mlahsö [lhs], [15](#)

Turoyo [tru], [16](#)

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, Aramaic, Western

Western Neo-Aramaic [amw], [16](#)

Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic

Arabic, Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken [avl], [12](#)

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

Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken [acm], [12](#)

Arabic, Najdi Spoken [ars], [12](#)

Arabic, North Mesopotamian Spoken [ayp], [12](#)

Arabic, Standard [arb], [13](#)

Indo-European, Armenian

Armenian, Western [hyw], [13](#)

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

Domari [rmt], [14](#)

Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Iranian, Eastern, Northeastern

Ossetic [oss], [15](#)

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

Kurdish, Northern [kmr], [15](#)

Turkic, Southern, Azerbaijani

Azerbaijani, South [azb], [13](#)

Turkic, Southern, Turkish

Turkish [tur], [16](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 24 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/>.

abk	Abkhaz, 11	azb	Azerbaijani, South, 13
acm	Arabic, Mesopotamian Spoken, 12	che	Chechen, 14
ady	Adyghe, 11	cld	Chaldean Neo-Aramaic, 13
aii	Assyrian Neo-Aramaic, 13	fra	French, 14
amw	Western Neo-Aramaic, 16	hyw	Armenian, Western, 13
apc	Arabic, Levantine, 11	kbd	Kabardian, 14
arb	Arabic, Standard, 13	kmr	Kurdish, Northern, 15
ars	Arabic, Najdi Spoken, 12	lhs	Mlahsö, 15
arz	Arabic, Egyptian Spoken, 11	oss	Ossetic, 15
avl	Arabic, Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Spoken, 12	pes	Persian, Iranian, 15
ayp	Arabic, North Mesopotamian Spoken, 12	rmt	Domari, 14
		tru	Turoyo, 16
		tur	Turkish, 16

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.

- Abdul-Massih**, *alt. dial.* Arabic, North Mesopotamian Spoken [ayp], 12
- Adygey**, *alt.* Adyghe [ady], 11
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