

Ethnologue: Languages of Zambia

Twenty-sixth edition data

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List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
ACHPR	African Charter on Human Peoples' Rights (1987)
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
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
SVO	Subject-Verb-Object
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDRIP	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns
WFD	World Federation of the Deaf

How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Zambia 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 54 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Zambia. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

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

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

The “Language Map” (page 24) shows the locations of the listed languages. If the location of a language is given on a map, the *Map* element of the language entry indicates the page number of the map. If the language is identified on a map by name, but that name differs from the primary name in the language entry, the name on the map is given in parentheses. If the language is represented on the map by an index number, rather than by its name, the index number is given following the page number (with a colon as separator).

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 25) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 30) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by

Province” (page 36) lists the top-level administrative subdivisions of Zambia and the languages located within each. “Languages by Family” (page 38) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 42) 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 43) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 238 unique names are associated with the 54 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography” (page 49). 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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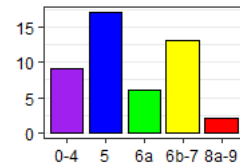
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Country Overview

Name of country	Zambia
Other names	Republic of Zambia
Population	18,394,000 (2020 World Bank)
Principal language	English
Literacy rate	87% (2018 UNESCO)
Deaf population	16,000 (2008 WFD)
International conventions	ACHPR (1984), CDE (2006), CSICH (2006), ICCPR (1984), UNCRPD (2010), UNDRIP (2007)
General references	Brenzinger 1998, Ohannessian and Kashoki 1978

Language counts

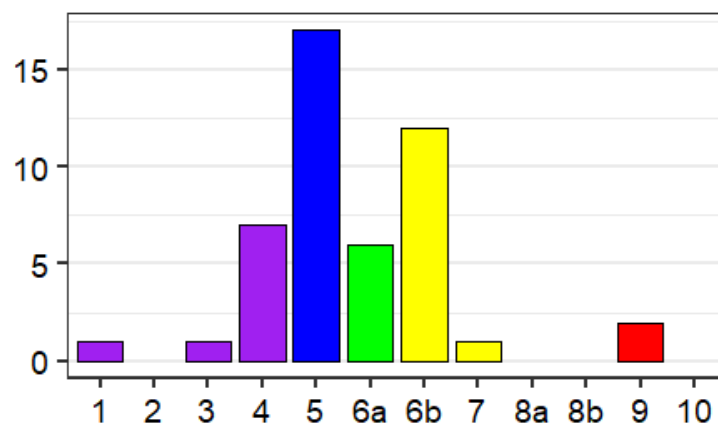
The number of established languages listed for Zambia is 47. All are living languages. Of these, 38 are indigenous and 9 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 9 are institutional, 17 are developing, 6 are vigorous, 13 are in trouble, and 2 are dying. Also listed are 7 unestablished languages.



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 Zambia 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 30) 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 Zambia. 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 Zambia 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 Zambia 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 25) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

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

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

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

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
1,000,000 to 9,999,999	3	6.4	6.4%	7,320,000	63.76768	63.76768%
100,000 to 999,999	13	27.7	34.0%	3,470,000	30.22867	93.99634%
10,000 to 99,999	21	44.7	78.7%	667,100	5.81140	99.80774%
1,000 to 9,999	5	10.6	89.4%	21,410	0.18651	99.99425%
100 to 999	2	4.3	93.6%	660	0.00575	100.00000%
0	2	4.3	97.9%		0.00000	100.00000%
Unknown	1	2.1	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	47	100.0		11,479,170	100.00000	

Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Zambia 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 30) 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 Zambia. 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	2.1	2.1%	15,300	0.1333	0.1333%	15,300	15,300
3	1	2.1	4.3%	43,000	0.3746	0.5079%	43,000	43,000
4	7	14.9	19.1%	8,534,000	74.3434	74.8512%	1,219,143	612,000
5	17	36.2	55.3%	2,604,800	22.6915	97.5428%	153,224	96,000
6a	6	12.8	68.1%	162,840	1.4186	98.9613%	27,140	14,850
6b	12	25.5	93.6%	119,030	1.0369	99.9983%	9,919	12,000
7	1	2.1	95.7%	200	0.0017	100.0000%	200	200
9	2	4.3	100.0%		0.0000	100.0000%		
<i>Totals</i>	47	100.0		11,479,170	100.0000			

Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 11) name 5 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>
Indo-European	3	6.4	152,300	1.3	50,767	41,000
Khoe-Kwadi	1	2.1	200	0.0	200	200
Niger-Congo	40	85.1	11,312,270	98.5	282,807	36,200
Pidgin	2	4.3		0.0		
Sign language	1	2.1	14,400	0.1	14,400	14,400
<i>Totals</i>	47	100.0	11,479,170	100.0		

Alphabetical Listing of Languages

Afrikaans [afr]. Autonym: Afrikaans. *Users*: 96,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, Low Saxon-Low Franconian, Low Franconian. *Type*: SVO (SOV in subordinate clauses); prepositions; noun head final; definite and indefinite articles; passives; tense; 20 consonants, 16 vowels, 9 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1933–2000. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1953. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 17,674,200 (as L1: 7,359,600; as L2: 10,314,600). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Botswana, South Africa. Also established in: Eswatini, Malawi, Namibia. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Netherlands, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.

Aushi [auh] (Abaushi, Avaushi, Ba-Usi, Bahushi, Bahusi, Batushi, Ikyausi, Ushi, Usi, Uzhi, Wa-Usi, Waushi, Wauzhi). *Users*: 100,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Location*: Luapula province. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Bemba (M.402). *Type*: SVO. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *DLS*: Still. *Map*: 24:12. *Worldwide*: Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Bemba [bem] (Chibemba, Chiwemba, Cibemba, Ichibemba, Wemba). Autonym: IciBemba. *Users*: 3,810,000 in Zambia (2010 census), decreasing. 3,730,000 Bemba, 12,800 Chishinga, 37,900 Kabende, 15,000 Lunda, 1,680 Mukulu, 11,500 Unga (2010 census). Ethnic population: 2,890,000 (2010 census). 2,630,000 Bemba, 64,400 Chishinga, 45,000 Kabende, 119,000 Lunda, 5,130 Mukulu, 24,900 Unga (2010 census). *Location*: Eastern, Luapula, Muchinga, and Northern provinces; possibly Copperbelt province. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). Town Bemba is a widely used lingua franca in urban areas, with higher social status than other languages except English [eng], and is used for educational and administrative purposes. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Bemba (M.42). *Dialects*: Lembue, Lomotua (Lomotwa), Ngoma, Nwesi, Town Bemba, Lunda (Luapula), Chishinga, Kabende, Mukulu, Ng'umbo, Twa of Bangweulu, Unga. Town Bemba has a Bemba base with heavy code mixing with English and neighboring Bantu languages. *Type*: SVO. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1–4. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. *Bible*: 1956–2003. *DLS*: Vital (0.49). *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:10. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,110,000. Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Bwile [bwc]. *Users*: 19,600 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 55,600 (2010 census). *Location*: Luapula province. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Bemba (M.401). *Dialects*: None known. Not closely related to other languages. *Lg Use*: Home, community.

Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. *DLS*: Still. *Map*: 24:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 32,000. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Chichewa [nya] (Chewa, Chicheŵa, Chinyanja, Cinyanja, Nyanja). Autonym: Chicheŵa. *Users*: 2,180,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 500,000 Chewa, 40,000 Kunda 1,640,000 Nyanja (2010 census). Ethnic population: 1,060,000 (2010 census). 930,000 Chewa, 83,500 Kunda, 50,800 Nyanja (2010 census). *Location*: Central and Eastern provinces. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, N, Chewa-Nyanja (N.31). *Dialects*: Chewa (Cewa), Peta (Chipeta, Cipeta, Malawi, Marave, Maravi), Chingoni (Ngoni), Manganja (Waganga), Nyasa, Kunda. *Type*: SVO. *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. Used as L2 by Yao [yao]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 60%. Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1–4. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1905–1998. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Kunda dialect is distinct from Kunda [kdn] of Mozambique. *Map*: 24:14. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,380,700. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Malawi, Mozambique (Nyanja). Also established in: Zimbabwe. Unestablished in: Eswatini.

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn]. *Users*: 48,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *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.

Chokwe [cjk] (Ciokwe, Cokwe, Djok, Shioko, Tschioke, Tshokwe). Autonym: Cokwe. *Users*: 17,700 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 61,900 (2010 census). *Location*: North-Western province. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.11). *Dialect*: Minungo. *Lg Use*: Home, traditional ceremonies, market. Used by all. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1970–1990. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 24:24. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,731,700. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

English [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 3,215,300 in Zambia, all users. L1 users: 15,300 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). L2 users: 3,200,000 (2018). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (1991, Constitution, Article 1(3)). *Class*: Indo-

European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Use*: Spoken as L1 mostly by Europeans. A small minority of Zambian Africans speak it as a L1. Language of Parliament. Home, education, business. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Taught in all primary and secondary schools. Taught in all tertiary schools. 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: 1,076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

French [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 7,200 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *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.

Fwe [fwe] (Cifwè, Mafwe, Sifwe). Autonym: Cifwè. *Users*: 12,000 in Zambia (Gunnink 2018). *Location*: Western province: Imusho and Sinjembela areas, parts of the Mutomena, along the Zambia-Angola border. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Subiya-Totela (K.402). *Lg Use*: All domains. Used by all. All also use Lozi [loz] (Gunnink 2018). Many also use Mbukushu [mhw] (Gunnink 2018). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 2011. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 26,000. Also indigenous in: Namibia.

Greek [ell]. *Users*: 9,700 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Greek, Attic. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (3 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives (active, medio-passive, passive); tense and aspect; comparatives; 18 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1840–1994. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Albania, Greece. Also established in: Australia, Cyprus, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine. Unestablished in: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil,

Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Finland, Germany, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe.

- Gujarati** [gʊj]. *Users*: 41,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 5* (Dispersed). *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. Hindu. *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. Unestablished in: Australia, Bangladesh, Botswana, Burundi, Canada, Iran, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Oman, Réunion, South Africa, Sri Lanka, United Kingdom, United States, Zimbabwe.
- Ila** [ilb] (Shukulumbwe, Sukulumbwe). Autonym: Chiila. *Users*: 82,900 (2010 census). Ethnic population: 97,400 (2010 census). *Location*: Central and Southern provinces: Kafue river west bend. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Lenje-Tonga (M.63). *Dialects*: Lundwe, Lumbu, Ila. *Lg Use*: Home, community, traditional ceremonies. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1915–2016. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:21.
- Italian** [ita]. Autonym: Italiano. *Users*: 12,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Italo-Dalmatian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 23 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress mostly on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1471–1985. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Croatia, Italy, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland. Also established in 12 other countries and unestablished in 34 more.
- Kaonde** [kqn] (Chikahonde, Chikaonde, Kahonde, Kawonde, Luba Kaonde). Autonym: kiiKaonde. *Users*: 206,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Location*: Central, Copperbelt, North-Western, and Western provinces: northwest of Mumbwa. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, L, Kaonde (L.41). *Dialects*: None known. Not closely related to other languages. *Lg Use*: Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Literacy campaigns, agricultural extension services. Taught as

subject in primary schools in grades 1–4. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Bible: 1975. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:22. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 242,000. Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Khwedam [xuu] (!Hukwe, Black Bushman, Cazama, Glanda-Khwe, Hukwe, Khwe, Kxoe, Mbara Kwengo, Mbarakwena, Schekere, Vazama, Water Bushmen, Xu, Xuhwe, Xun, Zama). Autonym: Khwedam. *Users*: 200 in Zambia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Location*: Western province: Shangombo district, Kashasha ki liwanika, Namafumbwana, and Sanze. *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Class*: Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Northwest. *Dialect*: ||Xo-Kxoe. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Lozi [loz]. *Lg Dev*: Radio. Dictionary. Bible portions: 2010. *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 2006. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 24:33. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,860. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Angola, Botswana, Namibia. Unestablished in: South Africa.

Kuhane [sbs] (Chikuahane, Chikwahane, Echisubia, Ikuhane, Subia, Subiya, Supia). *Users*: 1,350 in Zambia (2010 census). *Location*: Southern province: southwest corner; Western province: southeast corner; along Zambezi river. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Subiya-Totela (K.42). *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:39. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,870. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Botswana, Namibia.

Kunda [kdn] (Chikunda, Mu Chikunda). Autonym: Mu Chikunda. *Users*: 6,760 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 31,300 (2010 census). *Location*: Eastern province; Lusaka province: Luangwa district; small areas in Central and Northern provinces. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, N, Senga-Sena (N.42). *Lg Use*: Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: NT: 2009. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Distinct from Kunda dialect of Chichewa [nya] or Kunda of Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Map*: 24:15. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 162,760. Also indigenous in: Mozambique, Zimbabwe.

Lala-Bisa [leb] (Biza-Lala). Autonym: Chilala. *Users*: 353,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 750 Ambo, 112,000 Bisa, 201,000 Lala, 1,620 Luano, 37,700 Swaka (2010 census). Ethnic population: 590,000 (2010 census). 2,450 Ambo, 198,000 Bisa, 392,000 Lala (2010 census). *Location*: Central, Eastern, Muchinga, and Northern provinces: east along Luangwa river (Bisa dialect), southwest (Lala dialect); Copperbelt province: Masaiti district. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Lala-Bisa-Lamba (M.51). *Dialects*: Ambo, Luano, Swaka, Bisa (Biisa, Ichibisa, Wisa, Wiza), Lala (Ichilala). *Lg Use*: Home, traditional ceremonies, community. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. NT: 1947–2000. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:13. *Worldwide*: Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Lamba [lam]. Autonym: ChiLamba, IchiLamba. *Users*: 201,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 198,000 Lamba, 2,250 Lima (2010 census). *Location*: Central, Copperbelt, and North-Western provinces. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo,

Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Lala-Bisa-Lamba (M.54).

Dialects: Lamba, Lima (Bulima). *Lg Use:* Home, community. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1959. *DLS:* Emerging (0.06). *Writing:* Latin script. *Map:* 24:23. *Worldwide:* Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Lambya [lai] (ChiLambya). Autonym: ChiLambya. *Users:* 17,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc).

Location: Muchinga province: Isoka district. *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Nyiha-Safwa (M.201). *Dialect:* Southern Lambya. *Lg Dev:* Texts. NT: 2016. *Writing:* Latin script. *Map:* 24:8. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 106,900. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Malawi, Tanzania.

Lenje [leh] (Chinamukuni, Ciina, Ciina Mukuni, Lengi, Lenji, Mukuni). Autonym: Chilenje.

Users: 128,000 (2010 census). *Location:* Central province: Lukanga swamp area; Copperbelt province: border areas south; Lusaka province. *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Lenje-Tonga (M.61). *Dialects:* Twa (Lukanga), Lenje. *Lg Use:* Home, community, traditional ceremonies. Used by all. Also use Tonga [toi]. *Lg Dev:* Bible: 2004. *DLS:* Emerging (0.06). *Writing:* Latin script. *Map:* 24:17.

Lozi [loz] (Kololo, Kolololo, Rotse, Rozi, Rutse, Silozi, Tozvi, seRotse). Autonym: siLozi. *Users:*

612,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Location:* Southern province: Livingstone area; Western province: Barotseland. *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Lozi (K.21). *Lg Use:* Home, church, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Used as L2 by Fwe [fwe], Khwedam [xuu], Nkoya [nka]. *Lg Dev:* Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1–4. Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1951–2009. *DLS:* Ascending (0.16). *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Recognized for educational and administrative purposes. *Map:* 24:32. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 734,000. Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Botswana, Zimbabwe. Also established in: Namibia.

Luchazi [lch] (Chiluchazi, Cujazi, Lucazi, Lujash, Lujasi, Lutshase, Luxage, Ponda). Autonym:

Chiluchazi. *Users:* 29,600 in Zambia (2010 census). *Location:* North-Western province. *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.13). *Lg Dev:* Grammar. Bible: 1963. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Map:* 24:25. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 430,900. Indigenous in: Angola. Unestablished in: Namibia.

Lunda [lun]. Autonym: chiLunda. *Users:* 225,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 214,000 Lunda,

10,900 Ndembu (2010 census). *Location:* Luapula province: between Mweru and Bangweula lakes; North-Western province, northern Kabompo and Mwinilunga districts; Western province: Kabongo river area. *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, L, Lunda (L.52). *Dialects:* Kosa

(Koosa), Ndembu, Humbu, Kawiku. Reportedly similar to Ruund [rnd] of Democratic Republic of the Congo. *Lg Use*: Home, community. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Literacy campaigns, agricultural extension services. Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1–4. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Bible: 1962–2012. *DLS*: Emerging (0.11). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Distinct from Luunda, a dialect of Bemba [bem]. *Map*: 24:11. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 403,000. Also indigenous in: Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Luvale [lue] (Balovale, Lovale, Lubale). Autonym: Chiluvale, Luvale. *Users*: 171,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Location*: North-Western and Western provinces. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.14). *Lg Use*: Recognized for educational and administrative purposes. A dominant regional language. Home, community, traditional ceremonies. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1–4. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Grammar. Bible: 1955–1970. *DLS*: Emerging (0.09). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 24:27. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 510,000. Also indigenous in: Angola.

Luyana [lyn] (Aluyi, Ca-Luiana, Esiluyana, Louyi, Lui, Luyaana, Luyi, Rouyi, Si-Luyana). *Users*: 2,880 in Zambia (2010 census). 1,000 Kwandi, 1,400 Kwangwa, 480 Luyana (2010 census). *Location*: Western province: east Lozi-Luyana area. *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.31). *Dialects*: Kwandi, Kwanga (Kwangwa), Mbumi (Mbume). Mbowe dialect may be a separate language. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 2011. *Map*: 24:30. *Worldwide*: Unestablished in: Botswana, Namibia.

Mambwe-Lungu [mgr] (Mambe-Lungu, Mambwe-Rungu). Autonym: ichiMambwe. *Users*: 207,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 64,500 Lungu, 142,000 Mambwe (2010 census). *Location*: Northern province: south of Lake Tanganyika. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Fipa-Mambwe (M.14). *Dialects*: Mambwe (Cimambwe, Ichimambwe, Kimambwe), Lungu (Adong, Ichirungu, Rungu), Fipa-Mambwe (Kifipa cha Kimambwe). Uncertain intelligibility between Fipa-Mambwe [fip] (Tanzania) and other dialects. Minor dialect differences between Mambwe and Lungu. *Lg Use*: Home, community, market. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Bible: 2013. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:4. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 213,680. Also indigenous in: Tanzania.

Mashi [mho] (Masi). *Users*: 18,800 in Zambia (2010 census). *Location*: Western province. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.34). *Dialects*: North Kwandu, South Kwandu, Mashi. Dialect subgroup. *Lg Use*: Home, community. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 2013. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 2011. *Other*: Nomadic. Different from Mashi [shr] (Shi) which is related to Havu [hav] (Democratic Republic of the Congo). Traditional religion.

Map: 24:34. Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 21,430. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Angola.

Mbowe [mxo] (Esimbowe). *Users:* 460 (2010 census). *Location:* North-Western province: Zambezi district; Western province: Lukulu district; Zambezi river area. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.32). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. *DLS:* Still. *Map: 24:26.*

Mbukushu [mhw] (Gova, Kusso, Mambukush, Mampukush, Mbukuhu, Mbukushi, Thimukushu). *Autonym:* Thimbukushu. *Users:* 10,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Location:* Western province: Kwando river area. *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.333). *Lg Use:* Administration. Some young people, all adults. Used as L2 by Fwe [fwe]. *Lg Dev:* Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1986. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Traditional religion, Christian. *Map: 24:36. Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 95,010. Global EGIDS level: 4 (Educational). Also indigenous in: Angola, Botswana, Namibia.

Mbunda [mck] (Chimbunda, Chimbúunda, Gimbunda, Kimbunda, Mbuunda). *Autonym:* Chimbúunda. *Users:* 83,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Location:* North-Western province: north Barotseland. *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.15). *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Bible: 2006. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Different from Mbuun (Mbunda) [zmp] in the Democratic Republic of Congo). *Map: 24:28. Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 218,000. Also indigenous in: Angola.

Ndebele [nde]. *Autonym:* isiNdebele. *Users:* 13,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Location:* Central province: Mumbwa district. *Status:* Unestablished. *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Nguni (S.44). *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Bible: 1978. *Writing:* Latin script. *Other:* Non-indigenous. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,050,310 (as L1: 1,649,200; as L2: 1,401,110). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Indigenous in: Botswana, Zimbabwe. Unestablished in: Australia, Canada.

Nkoya [nka] (shiNkoya). *Autonym:* Shinkoya. *Users:* 36,200 (2010 census). 1,190 Mashasha, 35,000 Nkoya (2010 census). *Location:* North-Western province: Kabompo district; Southern and Western provinces: Mankoya area. *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Class:* Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, L, Nkoya (L.60). *Dialects:* Nkoya, Mbowela (Mbwela, Mbwera, Shimbwera), Lushangi, Shasha (Mashasha), Lukolwe (Kolwe). *Lg Use:* Home, traditional ceremonies, community. Also use Lozi [loz]. *Lg Dev:* Bible: 2020. *DLS:* Emerging (0.02). *Writing:* Latin script. *Map: 24:31.*

Nsenga [nse] (Cinsenga, Senga). *Autonym:* Chinsenga. *Users:* 405,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 76,000 Ngoni, 329,000 Nsenga (2010 census). Ethnic population: 1,570,000 (2010 census). 503,000 Ngoni, 661,000 Nsenga (2010 census). *Location:* Eastern province: Petauke district;

Lusaka province: Chongwe and Luangwa districts. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, N, Senga-Sena (N.41). *Dialects*: Nsenga, Ngoni (Mpezeni), Kunda-Nsenga. *Lg Use*: Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. NT: 1923–2016. *DLS*: Emerging (0.02). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Distinct from Senga dialect of Tumbuka [tum]. Christian, traditional religion. *Map*: 24:16. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 627,100. Also indigenous in: Mozambique, Zimbabwe.

Nyamwanga [mwn] (Ichinamwanga, Inamwanga, Mwanga, Namwanga). Autonym: Chinamwanga. *Users*: 140,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 135,000 Nyamwanga, 4,220 Tambo (2010 census). *Location*: Northern province: east; Muchinga province: Chama district. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Nyiha-Safwa (M.22). *Dialects*: Iwa, Tambo (Tembo). *Lg Use*: Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Texts. Bible: 1982. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:5. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 281,000. Also indigenous in: Tanzania.

Nyiha [nih] (Ishinyiha, Nyika, Nyixa, Shinyiha). Autonym: Ishinyiha, Shinyiha. *Users*: 356,000 in Zambia (Johnstone 1993). *Location*: Muchinga province: Chama and Isoka districts; near Malawi border. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Nyiha-Safwa (M.23). *Dialects*: Wandya, Nyika. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; noun classes; verbal affixation for subject, object, tense, aspect, mood and derivation; 34 consonant phonemes; 10 vowel phonemes; tonal. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1913–2021. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: May be the same as Lambya [lai] of Tanzania and Malawi. Different from Nyika [nyf] (Nika, Giryama) of Kenya. *Map*: 24:6. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 632,000. Also indigenous in: Tanzania (Tanzania Nyiha).

Nyika [nkɪ] (Chinyika, Kinyika). *Users*: 9,300 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Muchinga province: Isoka district, Mulekatembo village area. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Nyiha-Safwa (M.23). *Lg Use*: All domains. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 24:7. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,300. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Malawi.

Pidgin Bantu [fng] (Basic Zulu, Chikabanga, Isilololo, Isipiki, Lololo, Piki, “Fanagalo” *pej.*, “Fanakalo” *pej.*, “Fanekolo” *pej.*, “Isikula” *pej.*). *Users*: 5,100 in Zambia, all users. L1 users: No known L1 speakers in Zambia. L2 users: 5,100 (2006). No ethnic community. *Location*: Widely dispersed, towns and mining areas. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Pidgin, Zulu based. *Dialect*: Cikabanga. *Lg Use*: Negative attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Rejected by most Africans because it was imported from Zimbabwe and South Africa by Europeans who did not want Africans to learn English (Adler 1977). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,100 (as L1: ; as L2: 5,100). Indigenous in: South Africa. Also established in: Zimbabwe. Unestablished in: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia.

Portuguese [por]. Autonym: Português. *Users*: 5,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Ibero-Romance, West Iberian, Portuguese-Galician. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 21 consonants, 13 vowels, 11 diphthongs; non-tonal. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1751–2017. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Portugal, Spain. Also established in 14 other countries and unestablished in 38 more.

Sala [shq]. *Users*: 23,500 (2010 census). *Location*: Central province; west Lusaka and Southern (Mazabuka) provinces. *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Lenje-Tonga (M.631). *Dialects*: None known. Intelligible of Tonga [toi] and possibly Ila [ilb]. *Lg Use*: Used by all. *DLS*: Still. *Map*: 24:20.

Serbian [srp]. *Users*: 4,800 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Western. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; comparatives; 25 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes, the ‘r’ also functioning as a vocalic (or syllabic) consonant; nontonal. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. *Bible*: 1804–1868. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,213,776 (as L1: 10,193,976; as L2: 19,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia. Also established in: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Turkey. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Libya, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States.

Settla [sta] (Kisetla, Kisetlla). *Users*: No known L1 speakers. No ethnic community. *Location*: Central province: north of Lusaka city. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Class*: Pidgin, Swahili based. *DLS*: Emerging (0.01). *Other*: Limited vocabulary and grammar. May also be in Kenya.

Shona [sna] (Chishona, chiShona). Autonym: Chishona. *Users*: 12,700 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 21,900 (2010 census). *Location*: Lusaka province: southeast of the capital; Southern province: Slavonga district; possibly Central province: near Zimbabwe border. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, S, Shona (S.10). *Dialect*: Korekore (Budya, Goba, Gova, Gowa, Korikori, Makorekore, Northern Shona, Wakorikori). Korekore is the main dialect in Zambia, with subdialect Goba. *Type*: SVO; noun head initial; 13 noun classes; no articles; verb affixes mark person, number, object; passives; causatives; 31 consonants, 5 vowels, 2 diphthongs; tonal (2 tones: high, low). *Lg Use*: Home, community. *Lg Dev*:

Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1949–1980. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Map*: 24:18. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,873,630 (as L1: 7,371,360; as L2: 3,502,270). Global EGIDS level: 3 (Wider communication). Also indigenous in: Zimbabwe. Also established in: Botswana (Zezuru). Unestablished in: Australia, Canada, Malawi, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States.

Simaa [sie]. *Users*: 16,700 in Zambia (2010 census). 1,980 Imilangu, 9,300 Koma, 2,870 Mwenyi, 2,530 Simaa. Ethnic population: 27,600 (2010 census). 3,630 Imilangu, 14,300 Koma, 4,600 Mwenyi, 5,000 Simaa (2010 census). *Location*: Western province: Lozi-Luyana area. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.35). *Dialects*: Simaa, Mulonga, Imilangu, Mwenyi, Nyengo, Makoma (Koma), Liyuwa. Imigangu may be a dialect of Luyana [lyn]. *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Latin script, developed in 2011. *Map*: 24:29. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 19,700. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Angola (Makoma).

Soli [sby] (Chisoli). *Users*: 34,100 (2010 census). *Location*: Lusaka province; Central province: Mkusi district, east of Lusaka; Southern province: border areas. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Lenje-Tonga (M.62). *Dialects*: A more distinct language or dialect of the Tonga group. *Lg Use*: Used by all. *Lg Dev*: NT: 2018. *DLS*: Emerging (0.06). *Writing*: Latin script. *Map*: 24:19.

Swahili, Congo [swc] (Kiswahili). Autonym: Kiswahili. *Users*: 43,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Northern province: Kaputa and Mporokoso districts; Copperbelt province: Masaiti district. *Status*: 3 (Wider communication). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, G, Swahili (G.40). *Lg Dev*: Bible: 1960–1997. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Map*: 24:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 11,143,000 (as L1: 2,043,000; as L2: 9,100,000). Indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Taabwa [tap] (Ichitaabwa, Rungu, Tabwa). *Users*: 31,600 in Zambia (2010 census). 4,120 Shila, 27,500 Taabwa (2010 census). *Location*: Congo-Kinshasa border, Northern and Luapula provinces surrounding Lake Chishi. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Bemba (M.41). *Dialect*: Shila. *Lg Use*: Used by all. *Lg Dev*: NT: 2007. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Traditional religion. *Map*: 24:2. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 281,600. Also indigenous in: Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Tonga [toi] (Batonga, Plateau Tonga, Zambezi, iciTonga). Autonym: Chitonga. *Users*: 1,330,000 in Zambia (2010 census), increasing. 55,600 Toka-Leya, 1,270,000 Tonga (2010 census). *Location*: Southern province: with Ila [ilb] language users; Western province: Sesheke district; small Lusaka border areas. *Status*: 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Lenje-Tonga (M.64). *Dialects*:

Chitonga, Leya, Toka (Southern Tonga), We (Valley Tonga), Shanjo (Sanjo), Twa of Kafwe (Kafue Twa), Mala. *Lg Use*: Recognized for educational and administrative purposes. Home, community, market, administration. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Used as L2 by Lenje [leh]. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in primary schools in grades 1–4. Literature. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Grammar. Bible: 1963–1996. *DLS*: Ascending (0.16). *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Different from Tonga [tog] of Malawi, Tonga [toh] of Mozambique, or Tsonga (Tonga) [tso] of Mozambique. *Map*: 24:37. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,530,000. Also indigenous in: Zimbabwe.

Totela [ttl] (Echitotela). *Users*: 1,120 (2010 census). *Location*: Western province: north of Subia; Southern province: Kazungula district. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Subiya-Totela (K.41). *DLS*: Still. *Writing*: Unwritten. *Map*: 24:38.

Tumbuka [tum] (Chitumbuka, Tambuka, Tew, Timbuka, Tombucas, Tumboka). Autonym: Chitumbuka. *Users*: 366,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 79,500 Senga, 285,000 Tumbuka, 2,000 Yombe (2010 census). *Location*: Eastern province: northern third; Muchinga province: Isoka district. *Status*: 5* (Developing). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, N, Tumbuka (N.21). *Dialects*: Chitumbuka, Chikamanga (Henga, Kamanga), Kandawire, Chipoka, Yombe, Senga, Fungwe, Wenya, Nenya, Ngoni (Magodi), Fililwa (Filirwa), Hewe (Hewa), Nthali. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1957–2017. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Senga dialect is distinct from Nsenga [nse] of Petauke District. *Map*: 24:9. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,316,000. Also indigenous in: Malawi.

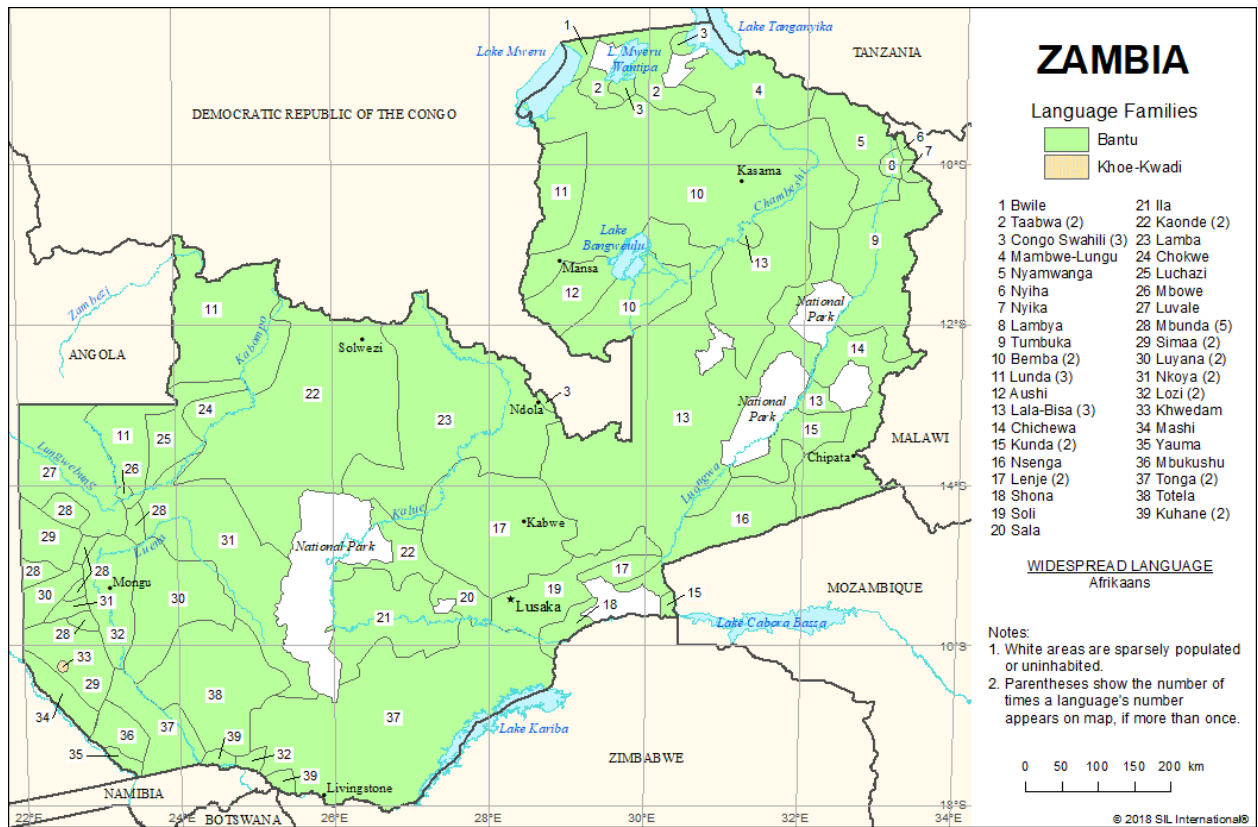
Yao [yao] (Achawa, Adsawa, Adsoa, Ajawa, Ayawa, Ayo, Chichawa, Chiyao, Ciyao, Djao, Haiiao, Hiao, Hyao, Jao, Veiao, Wajao). Autonym: Ciyawo. *Users*: 200 families or more in the 1970s (F. Banda). *Location*: Eastern province: Chipata district, Kapata township; Katete district. *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, P, Yao (P.21). *Dialects*: Makale (Cimakale), Massaniga (Cimassaniga). *Lg Use*: Positive attitudes. Also use Chichewa [nya]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 2014. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Non-indigenous. Muslim. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,728,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Indigenous in: Malawi, Mozambique. Also established in: Tanzania.

Yauma [yax]. *Users*: 12,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Location*: Western province: southwest corner, Kwando river area. *Status*: 6b (Threatened). *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.16). *Lg Use*: Some young people, all adults. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1978. *Writing*: Latin script, plans for future development using this script. *Map*: 24:35. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 29,100. Global EGIDS level: 6a (Vigorous). Also indigenous in: Angola.

Zambian Sign Language [zsl] (ZAMSL). *Users*: 14,400 (2008 WFD). 14,400 deaf signers out of 16,000 total deaf (2008 WFD), less than 0.1% of total population. Another estimate: 50,000–100,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). *Location*:

Scattered. *Status*: 5 (Developing). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Indigenous signing developed in an oralist deaf school starting in 1955, with later influence from American Sign Language [ase] due to its use in education (1997 V. Chanda). Fingerspelling system similar to French Sign Language [fsl]. *Type*: One-handed fingerspelling. *Lg Use*: Some deaf schools. All domains. Used by all. *Lg Dev*: TV. Dictionary. Agencies: Zambian National Association of the Deaf (ZNAD); Association of Sign Language Interpreters of Zambia (ASLIZ). *DLS*: Emerging (0.02).

Language Map



Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Zambia are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

1,000,000 to 9,999,999

Bemba [[bem](#)] *Users:* 3,810,000 in Zambia (2010 census), decreasing. 3,730,000 Bemba, 12,800 Chishinga, 37,900 Kabende, 15,000 Lunda, 1,680 Mukulu, 11,500 Unga (2010 census). Ethnic population: 2,890,000 (2010 census). 2,630,000 Bemba, 64,400 Chishinga, 45,000 Kabende, 119,000 Lunda, 5,130 Mukulu, 24,900 Unga (2010 census). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,110,000.

Chichewa [[nya](#)] *Users:* 2,180,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 500,000 Chewa, 40,000 Kunda, 1,640,000 Nyanja (2010 census). Ethnic population: 1,060,000 (2010 census). 930,000 Chewa, 83,500 Kunda, 50,800 Nyanja (2010 census). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,380,700.

Tonga [[toi](#)] *Users:* 1,330,000 in Zambia (2010 census), increasing. 55,600 Toka-Leya, 1,270,000 Tonga (2010 census). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,530,000.

100,000 to 999,999

Lozi [[loz](#)] *Users:* 612,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 734,000.

Nsenga [[nse](#)] *Users:* 405,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 76,000 Ngoni, 329,000 Nsenga (2010 census). Ethnic population: 1,570,000 (2010 census). 503,000 Ngoni, 661,000 Nsenga (2010 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 627,100.

Tumbuka [[tum](#)] *Users:* 366,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 79,500 Senga, 285,000 Tumbuka, 2,000 Yombe (2010 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,316,000.

Nyiha [[nih](#)] *Users:* 356,000 in Zambia (Johnstone 1993). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 632,000.

Lala-Bisa [[leb](#)] *Users:* 353,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 750 Ambo, 112,000 Bisa, 201,000 Lala, 1,620 Luano, 37,700 Swaka (2010 census). Ethnic population: 590,000 (2010 census). 2,450 Ambo, 198,000 Bisa, 392,000 Lala (2010 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

Lunda [lun] *Users:* 225,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 214,000 Lunda, 10,900 Ndembu (2010 census). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 403,000.

Mambwe-Lungu [mgr] *Users:* 207,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 64,500 Lungu, 142,000 Mambwe (2010 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 213,680.

Kaonde [kqn] *Users:* 206,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 242,000.

Lamba [lam] *Users:* 201,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 198,000 Lamba, 2,250 Lima (2010 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing).

Luvale [lue] *Users:* 171,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Status:* 4 (Educational). Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 510,000.

Nyamwanga [mwn] *Users:* 140,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 135,000 Nyamwanga, 4,220 Tambo (2010 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 281,000.

Lenje [leh] *Users:* 128,000 (2010 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Aushi [auh] *Users:* 100,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Status:* 6a* (Vigorous).

10,000 to 99,999

Afrikaans [afr] *Users:* 96,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,674,200 (as L1: 7,359,600; as L2: 10,314,600).

Mbunda [mck] *Users:* 83,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 218,000.

Ila [ilb] *Users:* 82,900 (2010 census). Ethnic population: 97,400 (2010 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn] *Users:* 48,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,138,222,350 (as L1: 939,237,350; as L2: 198,985,000).

Swahili, Congo [swc] *Users:* 43,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 3 (Wider communication). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,143,000 (as L1: 2,043,000; as L2: 9,100,000).

Gujarati [guj] *Users:* 41,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 5* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 62,116,220 (as L1: 57,076,220; as L2: 5,040,000).

Nkoya [nka] *Users:* 36,200 (2010 census). 1,190 Mashasha, 35,000 Nkoya (2010 census). *Status:*

5* (Developing).

Soli [sby] *Users:* 34,100 (2010 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Taabwa [tap] *Users:* 31,600 in Zambia (2010 census). 4,120 Shila, 27,500 Taabwa (2010 census). *Status:* 5 (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 281,600.

Luchazi [lch] *Users:* 29,600 in Zambia (2010 census). *Status:* 5* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 430,900.

Sala [shq] *Users:* 23,500 (2010 census). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous).

Bwile [bwc] *Users:* 19,600 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 55,600 (2010 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 32,000.

Mashi [mho] *Users:* 18,800 in Zambia (2010 census). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 21,430.

Chokwe [cjk] *Users:* 17,700 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 61,900 (2010 census). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,731,700.

Lambya [lai] *Users:* 17,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 106,900.

Simaa [sie] *Users:* 16,700 in Zambia (2010 census). 1,980 Imilangu, 9,300 Koma, 2,870 Mwenyi, 2,530 Simaa. Ethnic population: 27,600 (2010 census). 3,630 Imilangu, 14,300 Koma, 4,600 Mwenyi, 5,000 Simaa (2010 census). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 19,700.

English [eng] *Users:* 15,300 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). 3,215,300 in Zambia, all users. L2 users: 3,200,000 (2018). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (1991, Constitution, Article 1(3)). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

Zambian Sign Language [zsl] *Users:* 14,400 (2008 WFD). 14,400 deaf signers out of 16,000 total deaf (2008 WFD), less than 0.1% of total population. Another estimate: 50,000–100,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). *Status:* 5 (Developing).

Ndebele [nde] *Users:* 13,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,050,310 (as L1: 1,649,200; as L2: 1,401,110).

Shona [sna] *Users:* 12,700 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 21,900 (2010 census). *Status:* 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,873,630 (as L1: 7,371,360; as L2: 3,502,270).

Fwe [fwe] *Users:* 12,000 in Zambia (Gunnink 2018). *Status:* 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 26,000.

Italian [ita] *Users:* 12,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Yauma [yax] *Users:* 12,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status:* 6b (Threatened). *Worldwide:*

Total users in all countries: 29,100.

Mbukushu [[mhw](#)] *Users*: 10,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: 6b (Threatened).

Worldwide: Total users in all countries: 95,010.

1,000 to 9,999

Greek [[ell](#)] *Users*: 9,700 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

Nyika [[nkv](#)] *Users*: 9,300 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 14,300.

French [[fra](#)] *Users*: 7,200 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Kunda [[kdn](#)] *Users*: 6,760 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 31,300 (2010 census). *Status*: 6a (Vigorous). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 162,760.

Portuguese [[por](#)] *Users*: 5,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200).

Serbian [[srp](#)] *Users*: 4,800 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,213,776 (as L1: 10,193,976; as L2: 19,800).

Luyana [[lyn](#)] *Users*: 2,880 in Zambia (2010 census). 1,000 Kwandi, 1,400 Kwangwa, 480 Luyana (2010 census). *Status*: 6a* (Vigorous).

Kuhane [[sbs](#)] *Users*: 1,350 in Zambia (2010 census). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 40,870.

Totela [[ttl](#)] *Users*: 1,120 (2010 census). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened).

100 to 999

Mbowe [[mxo](#)] *Users*: 460 (2010 census). *Status*: 6b (Threatened).

Khwedam [[xuu](#)] *Users*: 200 in Zambia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Status*: 7 (Shifting). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 7,860.

Yao [[yao](#)] *Users*: 200 families or more in the 1970s (F. Banda). *Status*: 6b* (Threatened). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 3,728,000.

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Pidgin Bantu [[fng](#)] *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Zambia. 5,100 in Zambia, all users. L2 users: 5,100 (2006). Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status*: 9 (Second language only). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 5,100 (as L1: ; as L2: 5,100).

Settla [[sta](#)] *Users*: No known L1 speakers. Ethnic population: No ethnic community. *Status*: 9

(Second language only).

Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Zambia 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)

English [[eng](#)] *Users:* 3,215,300 in Zambia, all users. L1 users: 15,300 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). L2 users: 3,200,000 (2018). *Status:* Statutory national language (1991, Constitution, Article 1(3)). *Lg Use:* Spoken as L1 mostly by Europeans. A small minority of Zambian Africans speak it as a L1. Language of Parliament. Home, education, business. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *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).

3 (Wider communication)

Swahili, Congo [[swc](#)] *Users:* 43,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 11,143,000 (as L1: 2,043,000; as L2: 9,100,000).

4 (Educational)

Bemba [[bem](#)] *Users:* 3,810,000 in Zambia (2010 census), decreasing. 3,730,000 Bemba, 12,800 Chishinga, 37,900 Kabende, 15,000 Lunda, 1,680 Mukulu, 11,500 Unga (2010 census). Ethnic population: 2,890,000 (2010 census). 2,630,000 Bemba, 64,400 Chishinga, 45,000 Kabende, 119,000 Lunda, 5,130 Mukulu, 24,900 Unga (2010 census). *Status:* Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). Town Bemba is a widely used lingua franca in urban areas, with higher social status than other languages except English [[eng](#)], and is used for educational and administrative purposes. *Lg Use:* Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev:* Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1956–2003. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,110,000.

Chichewa [[nya](#)] *Users:* 2,180,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 500,000 Chewa, 40,000 Kunda, 1,640,000 Nyanja (2010 census). Ethnic population: 1,060,000 (2010 census). 930,000 Chewa, 83,500 Kunda, 50,800 Nyanja (2010 census). *Status:* Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. Used as L2 by Yao [[yao](#)]. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,380,700.

Kaonde [[kqn](#)] *Users:* 206,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Status:* Recognized language (1994,

Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Lg Use*: Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Bible: 1975. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 242,000.

Lozi [loz] *Users*: 612,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Status*: Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Lg Use*: Home, church, community. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Used as L2 by Fwe [fwe], Khwedam [xuu], Nkoya [nka]. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1951–2009. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 734,000.

Lunda [lun] *Users*: 225,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 214,000 Lunda, 10,900 Ndembu (2010 census). *Status*: Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Lg Use*: Home, community. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Dictionary. Bible: 1962–2012. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 403,000.

Luvale [lue] *Users*: 171,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Status*: Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Lg Use*: Recognized for educational and administrative purposes. A dominant regional language. Home, community, traditional ceremonies. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Newspapers. Radio. TV. Grammar. Bible: 1955–1970. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 510,000.

Tonga [toi] *Users*: 1,330,000 in Zambia (2010 census), increasing. 55,600 Toka-Leya, 1,270,000 Tonga (2010 census). *Status*: Recognized language (1994, Citizen of Zambia Act, Article 16(2d), Article 17). *Lg Use*: Recognized for educational and administrative purposes. Home, community, market, administration. Used by all. Positive attitudes. Used as L2 by Lenje [leh]. *Lg Dev*: Literature. Newspapers. Radio. TV. Grammar. Bible: 1963–1996. *Writing*: Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,530,000.

5 (Developing)

Ila [ilb] *Users*: 82,900 (2010 census). Ethnic population: 97,400 (2010 census). *Lg Use*: Home, community, traditional ceremonies. Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. NT: 1915–2016. *Writing*: Latin script.

Lala-Bisa [leb] *Users*: 353,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 750 Ambo, 112,000 Bisa, 201,000 Lala, 1,620 Luano, 37,700 Swaka (2010 census). Ethnic population: 590,000 (2010 census). 2,450 Ambo, 198,000 Bisa, 392,000 Lala (2010 census). *Lg Use*: Home, traditional ceremonies, community. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. NT: 1947–2000. *Writing*: Latin script.

Lamba [lam] *Users*: 201,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 198,000 Lamba, 2,250 Lima (2010 census). *Lg Use*: Home, community. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Grammar. Texts. Bible: 1959. *Writing*: Latin script.

Lenje [leh] *Users*: 128,000 (2010 census). *Lg Use*: Home, community, traditional ceremonies. Used by all. Also use Tonga [toi]. *Lg Dev*: Bible: 2004. *Writing*: Latin script.

Luchazi [[lch](#)] *Users:* 29,600 in Zambia (2010 census). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 430,900.

Mambwe-Lungu [[mgr](#)] *Users:* 207,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 64,500 Lungu, 142,000 Mambwe (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Home, community, market. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. Bible: 2013. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 213,680.

Mbunda [[mck](#)] *Users:* 83,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 218,000.

Nkoya [[nka](#)] *Users:* 36,200 (2010 census). 1,190 Mashasha, 35,000 Nkoya (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Home, traditional ceremonies, community. Also use Lozi [[loz](#)]. *Lg Dev:* Bible: 2020. *Writing:* Latin script.

Nsenga [[nse](#)] *Users:* 405,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 76,000 Ngoni, 329,000 Nsenga (2010 census). Ethnic population: 1,570,000 (2010 census). 503,000 Ngoni, 661,000 Nsenga (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev:* Grammar. NT: 1923–2016. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 627,100.

Nyamwanga [[mwn](#)] *Users:* 140,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 135,000 Nyamwanga, 4,220 Tambo (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Positive attitudes. *Lg Dev:* Texts. Bible: 1982. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 281,000.

Nyiha [[nih](#)] *Users:* 356,000 in Zambia (Johnstone 1993). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 632,000.

Soli [[sby](#)] *Users:* 34,100 (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Used by all. *Lg Dev:* NT: 2018. *Writing:* Latin script.

Taabwa [[tap](#)] *Users:* 31,600 in Zambia (2010 census). 4,120 Shila, 27,500 Taabwa (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Used by all. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 281,600.

Tumbuka [[tum](#)] *Users:* 366,000 in Zambia (2010 census). 79,500 Senga, 285,000 Tumbuka, 2,000 Yombe (2010 census). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,316,000.

Zambian Sign Language [[zsl](#)] *Users:* 14,400 (2008 WFD). 14,400 deaf signers out of 16,000 total deaf (2008 WFD), less than 0.1% of total population. Another estimate: 50,000–100,000 deaf signers, assuming 0.3%–0.6% (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). *Lg Use:* Some deaf schools. All domains. Used by all. *Lg Dev:* TV. Dictionary.

5 (Dispersed)

Afrikaans [[afr](#)] *Users:* 96,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script, used since 1953. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 17,674,200 (as L1: 7,359,600; as L2: 10,314,600).

Gujarati [[guj](#)] *Users:* 41,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *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).

6a (Vigorous)

Aushi [auh] *Users:* 100,000 in Zambia (2010 census). *Lg Dev:* Grammar.

Chokwe [cjk] *Users:* 17,700 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 61,900 (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Home, traditional ceremonies, market. Used by all. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,731,700.

Fwe [fwe] *Users:* 12,000 in Zambia (Gunnink 2018). *Lg Use:* All domains. Used by all. All also use Lozi [loz] (Gunnink 2018). Many also use Mbukushu [mhw] (Gunnink 2018). *Writing:* Latin script, developed in 2011. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 26,000.

Kunda [kdn] *Users:* 6,760 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 31,300 (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Used by all. Positive attitudes. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 162,760.

Luyana [lyn] *Users:* 2,880 in Zambia (2010 census). 1,000 Kwandi, 1,400 Kwangwa, 480 Luyana (2010 census). *Lg Dev:* Dictionary. *Writing:* Latin script, developed in 2011.

Sala [shq] *Users:* 23,500 (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Used by all.

6b (Threatened)

Bwile [bwc] *Users:* 19,600 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 55,600 (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Home, community. Some young people, all adults. Positive attitudes. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 32,000.

Kuhane [sbs] *Users:* 1,350 in Zambia (2010 census). *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 40,870.

Lambya [lai] *Users:* 17,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 106,900.

Mashi [mho] *Users:* 18,800 in Zambia (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Home, community. *Lg Dev:* Bible portions: 2013. *Writing:* Latin script, developed in 2011. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 21,430.

Mbowe [mxo] *Users:* 460 (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults.

Mbukushu [mhw] *Users:* 10,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use:* Administration. Some young people, all adults. Used as L2 by Fwe [fwe]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 95,010.

Nyika [nkv] *Users:* 9,300 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use:* All domains. *Writing:* Unwritten. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 14,300.

Shona [sna] *Users:* 12,700 in Zambia (2010 census). Ethnic population: 21,900 (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Home, community. *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,873,630 (as L1: 7,371,360; as L2: 3,502,270).

Simaa [sie] *Users:* 16,700 in Zambia (2010 census). 1,980 Imilangu, 9,300 Koma, 2,870 Mwenyi, 2,530 Simaa. *Ethnic population:* 27,600 (2010 census). 3,630 Imilangu, 14,300 Koma, 4,600 Mwenyi, 5,000 Simaa (2010 census). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. *Writing:* Latin script, developed in 2011. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 19,700.

Totela [ttl] *Users:* 1,120 (2010 census). *Writing:* Unwritten.

Yao [yao] *Users:* 200 families or more in the 1970s (F. Banda). *Lg Use:* Positive attitudes. Also use Chichewa [nya]. *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,728,000.

Yauma [yax] *Users:* 12,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Lg Use:* Some young people, all adults. *Writing:* Latin script, plans for future development using this script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 29,100.

7 (Shifting)

Khwedam [xuu] *Users:* 200 in Zambia (Brenzinger 2013b). *Lg Use:* Shifting to Lozi [loz]. *Writing:* Latin script, developed in 2006. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 7,860.

9 (Second language only)

Pidgin Bantu [fng] *Users:* 5,100 in Zambia, all users. L1 users: No known L1 speakers in Zambia. L2 users: 5,100 (2006). *Ethnic population:* No ethnic community. *Lg Use:* Negative attitudes. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 5,100 (as L1: ; as L2: 5,100).

Settla [sta] *Users:* No known L1 speakers. *Ethnic population:* No ethnic community.

Unestablished

Chinese, Mandarin [cmn] *Users:* 48,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *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).

French [fra] *Users:* 7,200 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

Greek [ell] *Users:* 9,700 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, used in Ukraine. Greek script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 13,088,220 (as L1: 12,992,220; as L2: 96,000).

Italian [ita] *Users:* 12,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

Ndebele [[nde](#)] *Users:* 13,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 3,050,310 (as L1: 1,649,200; as L2: 1,401,110).

Portuguese [[por](#)] *Users:* 5,000 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 263,638,850 (as L1: 236,266,650; as L2: 27,372,200).

Serbian [[srp](#)] *Users:* 4,800 in Zambia (2017 J. Leclerc). *Writing:* Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,213,776 (as L1: 10,193,976; as L2: 19,800).

Languages by Province

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

Central

Chichewa [nya], 12
 Ila [ilb], 14
 Kaonde [kqn], 14
 Kunda [kdn], 15
 Lala-Bisa [leb], 15
 Lamba [lam], 15
 Lenje [leh], 16
 Sala [shq], 20
 Settla [sta], 20
 Shona [sna], 20
 Soli [sby], 21

Copperbelt

Bemba [bem], 11
 Kaonde [kqn], 14
 Lala-Bisa [leb], 15
 Lamba [lam], 15
 Lenje [leh], 16
 Swahili, Congo [swc], 21

Eastern

Bemba [bem], 11
 Chichewa [nya], 12
 Kunda [kdn], 15
 Lala-Bisa [leb], 15
 Nsenga [nse], 18
 Tumbuka [tum], 22
 Yao [yao], 22

Luapula

Aushi [auh], 11
 Bemba [bem], 11
 Bwile [bwc], 11
 Lunda [lun], 16
 Taabwa [tap], 21

Lusaka

Kunda [kdn], 15

Lenje [leh], 16
 Nsenga [nse], 18
 Sala [shq], 20
 Shona [sna], 20
 Soli [sby], 21
 Tonga [toi], 21

Muchinga

Bemba [bem], 11
 Lala-Bisa [leb], 15
 Lambya [lai], 16
 Nyamwanga [mwn], 19
 Nyiha [nih], 19
 Nyika [nkvi], 19
 Tumbuka [tum], 22

Northern

Bemba [bem], 11
 Kunda [kdn], 15
 Lala-Bisa [leb], 15
 Mambwe-Lungu [mgr], 17
 Nyamwanga [mwn], 19
 Swahili, Congo [swc], 21
 Taabwa [tap], 21

North-Western

Chokwe [cjk], 12
 Kaonde [kqn], 14
 Lamba [lam], 15
 Luchazi [lch], 16
 Lunda [lun], 16
 Luvale [lue], 17
 Mbowe [mxo], 18
 Nkoya [nka], 18

Southern

Ila [ilb], 14
 Kuhane [sbs], 15
 Lozi [loz], 16

Nkoya [nka], 18

Sala [shq], 20

Shona [sna], 20

Soli [sby], 21

Tonga [toi], 21

Totela [ttl], 22

Western

Fwe [fwe], 13

Kaonde [kqn], 14

Khwedam [xuu], 15

Kuhane [sbs], 15

Lozi [loz], 16

Luchazi [lch], 16

Lunda [lun], 16

Luvale [lue], 17

Luyana [lyn], 17

Mashi [mho], 17

Mbowe [mxo], 18

Mbukushu [mhw], 18

Mbunda [mck], 18

Nkoya [nka], 18

Simaa [sie], 21

Tonga [toi], 21

Totela [ttl], 22

Yauma [yax], 22

Languages by Family

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

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

English [eng], [12](#)

Indo-European, Germanic, West, Low Saxon-Low Franconian, Low Franconian

Afrikaans [afr], [11](#)

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

Gujarati [guj], [14](#)

Khoe-Kwadi, Khoe, Kalahari Khoe, Northwest

Khwedam [xuu], [15](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, G, Swahili (G.40)

Swahili, Congo [swc], [21](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.11)

Chokwe [cjk], [12](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.13)

Luchazi [lch], [16](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.14)

Luvale [lue], [17](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.15)

Mbunda [mck], [18](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Ciokwe-Luchazi (K.16)

Yauma [yax], [22](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Lozi (K.21)

Lozi [loz], [16](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.31)

Luyana [lyn], [17](#)

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.32)

Mbowe [mxo], 18

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.333)

Mbukushu [mhw], 18

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.34)

Mashi [mho], 17

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Luyana (K.35)

Simaa [sie], 21

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Subiya-Totela (K.402)

Fwe [fwe], 13

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Subiya-Totela (K.41)

Totela [ttl], 22

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, K, Subiya-Totela (K.42)

Kuhane [sbs], 15

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, L, Kaonde (L.41)

Kaonde [kqn], 14

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, L, Lunda (L.52)

Lunda [lun], 16

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, L, Nkoya (L.60)

Nkoya [nka], 18

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Bemba (M.401)

Bwile [bwc], 11

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Bemba (M.402)

Aushi [auh], 11

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, M, Bemba (M.41)

Taabwa [tap], 21

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow

Bantu, Central, M, Bemba (M.42)

Bemba [bem], 11

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, M, Fipa-Mambwe (M.14)**

Mambwe-Lungu [mgr], 17

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, M, Lala-Bisa-Lamba (M.51)**

Lala-Bisa [leb], 15

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, M, Lala-Bisa-Lamba (M.54)**

Lamba [lam], 15

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, M, Lenje-Tonga (M.61)**

Lenje [leh], 16

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, M, Lenje-Tonga (M.62)**

Soli [sby], 21

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, M, Lenje-Tonga (M.63)**

Ila [ilb], 14

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, M, Lenje-Tonga (M.631)**

Sala [shq], 20

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, M, Lenje-Tonga (M.64)**

Tonga [toi], 21

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, M, Nyiha-Safwa (M.201)**

Lambya [lai], 16

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, M, Nyiha-Safwa (M.22)**

Nyamwanga [mwn], 19

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, M, Nyiha-Safwa (M.23)**

Nyiha, Tanzania [nih], 19

Nyika [nkv], 19

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, N, Chewa-Nyanja (N.31)**

Chichewa [nya], 12

Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow

Bantu, Central, N, Senga-Sena (N.41)

Nsenga [nse], [18](#)

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, N, Senga-Sena (N.42)**

Kunda [kdn], [15](#)

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, N, Tumbuka (N.21)**

Tumbuka [tum], [22](#)

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, P, Yao (P.21)**

Yao [yao], [22](#)

**Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow
Bantu, Central, S, Shona (S.10)**

Shona [sna], [20](#)

Pidgin, Swahili based

Settla [sta], [20](#)

Pidgin, Zulu based

Pidgin Bantu [fng], [19](#)

Sign language, Deaf community sign language

Zambian Sign Language [zsl], [22](#)

Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 54 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/>.

afr	Afrikaans, 11	mho	Mashi (Zambia), 17
auh	Aushi, 11	mhw	Mbukushu, 18
bem	Bemba, 11	mwn	Nyamwanga, 19
bwc	Bwile, 11	mxo	Mbowe, 18
ckj	Chokwe, 12	nde	Ndebele (Zimbabwe), 18
cmn	Chinese, Mandarin, 12	nih	Nyiha, Tanzania, 19
ell	Greek, 13	nka	Nkoya, 18
eng	English, 12	nkv	Nyika, 19
fng	Pidgin Bantu, 19	nse	Nsenga, 18
fra	French, 13	nya	Chichewa, 12
fwe	Fwe, 13	por	Portuguese, 20
guj	Gujarati, 14	sbs	Kuhane, 15
ilb	Ila, 14	sby	Soli, 21
ita	Italian, 14	shq	Sala, 20
kdn	Kunda, 15	sie	Simaa, 21
kqn	Kaonde, 14	sna	Shona, 20
lai	Lambya, 16	srp	Serbian, 20
lam	Lamba, 15	sta	Settla, 20
lch	Luchazi, 16	swc	Swahili, Congo, 21
leb	Lala-Bisa, 15	tap	Taabwa, 21
leh	Lenje, 16	toi	Tonga (Zambia), 21
loz	Lozi, 16	ttl	Totela, 22
lue	Luvale, 17	tum	Tumbuka, 22
lun	Lunda, 16	xuu	Khwedam, 15
lyn	Luyana, 17	yao	Yao, 22
mck	Mbunda, 18	yax	Yauma, 22
mgr	Mambwe-Lungu, 17	zsl	Zambian Sign Language, 22

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.

- Abaushi**, *alt.* Aushi [auh], 11
Achawa, *alt.* Yao [yao], 22
Adong, *alt. dial.* Mambwe-Lungu [mgr], 17
Adsawa, *alt.* Yao [yao], 22
Adsoa, *alt.* Yao [yao], 22
Afrikaans [afr], 11
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