

THE NUMBERS OF SPEAKERS OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES EMERGING IN VICTORIA

Report to

Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs

Department for Victorian Communities

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Helen Borland and Charles Mphande
May, 2006

ABBREVIATIONS

AMEP	Adult Migrant English Program
AMES	Adult Multicultural Education Services
ARMS	Adult Migrant English Program Reporting Management System
DIMA	Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
IHSS	Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy
LGA	Local Government Area
MRC	Migrant Resource Centre
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NMIT	Northern Melbourne Institute of Technical and Further Education
RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
VOMA	Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs
VU	Victoria University

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To assist in implementing the Government's Languages Services Strategy the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs (VOMA) recognised the need for more detailed information about the numbers of speakers of African languages. Recent trends in humanitarian immigration mean that the majority of humanitarian new arrivals are from Africa and, consequently, the use of African languages is emerging in Victorian communities.

VOMA commissioned the research team from Victoria University to undertake a research project collating available numerical and other language data from agencies providing services to emerging African communities.

The aims of the project were:

- To collect available information about the numbers of speakers of various African languages in emerging African background communities in Victoria
- To document for each language whether it is written, and if so, what the levels of literacy are among speakers of the language in Victoria
- To investigate for bilinguals/multilinguals in the emerging African background communities both the preferred language for communication in language services contexts and language/s which may be acceptable for such services if a service cannot be delivered in the preferred language
- To investigate and report on the average education level of each language group and factors that impact on education levels within that group

From August to December, 2005 a series of interviews were conducted with agencies providing settlement and support services, and some representatives of relevant ethnic community associations. In addition, data on country of birth and languages used was sought from various government agencies.

Through the process of data collection it became evident that very few agencies collect and record data systematically about the language backgrounds and language preferences of newly arrived African background clients. The language situation in many parts of Africa is extremely complex and confusing for agencies and others without sophisticated levels of linguistic expertise. In addition, the design of databases often means that these are not able to cope accurately with information about languages with small numbers of speakers, often combining such information into broader generic categories.

Section 6 summarises data about new humanitarian arrivals settling in Victoria, demonstrating both the overall trends (6.1) and then focussing more closely on most recent arrivals ('04-'05) and where they have settled within the state (6.2). Sudanese are by far the largest background group currently arriving in Victoria, with significant numbers from Ethiopia, Liberia, Somalia and Burundi.

Section 7 presents numerical data obtained from a range of sources, focussing on adult clients and language service requests. 50 languages in all are

identified as being used by humanitarian African settlers, but many of these appear to have only very small numbers of speakers.

Section 8 summarises other information that was gathered from agencies about speakers of particular languages, their language services preferences and the availability of services, their knowledge of lingua francas, and literacy and educational levels within communities.

Section 9 identifies issues and ongoing areas for research. Language services training and provision is highlighted by agencies as being an area of ongoing difficulty for emerging African languages. Some ideas and strategies are presented that may improve the level of retention of appropriately trained staff.

The most critical areas identified for further research are:

- Needs and appropriateness of service provision for the less widely spoken Sudanese languages – the focus on Arabic and Dinka has meant that the needs of speakers of many of the comparatively smaller Sudanese language groups have been somewhat neglected. Clear need was apparent for Nuer, Acholi, Anuak, Bari, and Ma'di. However, the research highlights the importance of undertaking some more in-depth research within all Sudanese groups, particularly to gain a better understanding of whether the varieties of Arabic are adequately fulfilling a role as a lingua franca. Much of the reported data is considered not to be very reliable because of the tendency to record Arabic or Sudanese only as the client's language, rather than their tribal language/s. The situation with bilingualism/multilingualism in Southern Sudan is extremely complex.
- The Liberian/West African language situation – the emerging situation with West African languages and settlement groups poses particular challenges with at least 15 languages and none with a large critical mass of speakers. Most language service needs are currently not being met. Krio and Liberian English are clearly important lingua francas along with the language designated as Mandingo. There are intergroup sensitivities that mean that there is a need for more research within the settler group to collect careful information about language varieties and preferences.

Other clearly identified language services needs are:

- For the other countries of the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia and Eritrea) it is clear that there is a substantial demand that is not currently being sufficiently met for Oromo and Tigrinya, with some unmet demand also for Maay and Harari.
- In the central African region, where the overall language situation is much less complex, there is clear and growing demand for Rundi (the national language of Burundi) and for the regional lingua franca, Swahili. Current services in both these languages are reported to be scarce.

Appendices provide supporting data tables and also information from the Ethnologue database about all the African languages identified in the project.

1 BACKGROUND

Through the Languages Services Strategy, the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs (VOMA) is working to support strategic improvements to interpreting and translating services in Victoria. In order for VOMA to be able to make decisions about policy directions it requires more detailed information regarding the numbers of speakers of African languages as the use of these languages is emerging in Victorian communities.

Many countries in Africa are characterised by a high level of linguistic and cultural diversity in their populations. The political and ethnic strife and conflict in a number of these countries has led in recent years to a high proportion (approximately 70%) of humanitarian and refugee immigrants to Victoria being from African countries. Whilst information is available about the source countries of these new arrivals, there are currently no accurate centrally collected statistics (eg. from Australian Bureau of Statistics' Census) on the language/s they speak and government databases are not currently designed to cope very effectively with the large number of languages which are new to Australia and, in many cases, spoken by comparatively small language communities.

To assist in responding to the language services needs of these emerging communities in Victoria VOMA has identified a need to collect and cross-check information from a range of sources, such as that available through government and non-government agencies providing settlement and support services and ethnic associations representing the emerging communities, to develop a more comprehensive picture of the languages that are used on a regular basis, especially the numbers of speakers of each language, speakers' literacy levels and their language preferences, if bilingual/multilingual.

2 AIMS AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The aims of the project are:

- To collect available information about the numbers of speakers of various African languages in emerging African background communities in Victoria
- To document for each language whether it is written, and if so, what the levels of literacy are among speakers of the language in Victoria
- To investigate for bilinguals/multilinguals in the emerging African background communities which language is preferred for communication in language services contexts and which language/s may be acceptable for such services if a service cannot be delivered in their preferred language.
- To investigate and report on the average education level of each language group and factors that impact on education levels within that group (eg. gender)

Research questions for which VOMA is seeking answers are:

1. What is the number of speakers of each of the main emerging African language groups?
2. Are these languages written?
3. In Victoria, what percentage of speakers of each of the language groups is literate in those languages?
4. Do any of the language groups also speak/read another language? If so, what is the language and what percentage of speakers in Victoria?
5. What is the average education level in each language group?

3 RESEARCH STRATEGY AND METHODOLOGY

Within the constraints of time and budget, the research strategy focused on assembling and triangulating data available from a number of sources to build up as accurate a picture as possible of the numbers of speakers of various African languages among recent arrivals to Victoria from Africa under the Humanitarian migration program.

A three-pronged approach was adopted:

1. Using the available data – includes the research done by Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) on the African languages present in the Victorian population, numbers of migrants from each African country in the Humanitarian program since 2001 -- to assemble a picture of what is known currently
2. Interviews with representatives of relevant agencies providing settlement and support services (egs. Integrated Humanitarian Settlement Strategy (IHSS) providers, Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES) and other Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) providers, Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs), Centrelink, community health centres and hospitals, Non-government Organisations (NGOs) working with these emerging communities).

The focus of these interviews was:

- What information do they collect or request in relation to language service needs and languages in the process of interacting with their African clients? Can they provide samples of any proformas used and actual questions asked? How many languages do they record on the form?
- What countries do they have clients from? How many from each? For each how many speakers of which languages? How many clients mention more than one language? If they mention more than one, how do they decide what to include in their records? How do they decide what language would be appropriate for that person if language services are needed?
- Do they know about the literacy capabilities of their clients in specific languages? If so, what do they know for speakers of each language? Are they aware of whether specific languages are written or not?
- What is their impression of whether there are differences within a particular language group related to gender, age, religion etc in language abilities (eg. which languages are spoken to which levels, literacy knowledge) and/or language preferences?
- How many speakers within each language group are able to speak and read another language? If so, which language/s and to what level? What are their preferences?

- What is the profile of educational background in each language group?
3. Interviews with African community leaders accessed through relevant ethnic community associations and other contacts to ascertain the information that they have available for their community/ies regarding the issues under consideration (as documented in 2. above).¹

A full list of agencies and other organisations contacted is provided in Appendix C.

¹ At the time that the interviews were being conducted a number of community organisations were approached but not all were able to participate within the timeframe of the study. A number of interviewees from agencies and support services were African background workers who were also active in community organisations.

4 STAGES OF THE RESEARCH

MAJOR FOCUS
Stage One: Project planning and initiation
Stage Two: Consultation and interview data collection
Stage Three: Analysis of the data and preparation of the report

STAGE 1

- Preparation of ethics approval for the project to be submitted through Victoria University's ethics approval procedures;
- Assembly of contact list and setting up of appointments
- Assimilation of all available data (from VOMA and DIMA) to identify gaps
- Finalisation of methodology and research strategy.

The contract for the project was signed at the end of June, 2005. An ethics application was submitted in early July and VU Human Research Ethics Approval was granted in late July, 2005. The proformas approved for use in interviews for the project are attached in Appendix B. The project initiation phase commenced at the end of July, 2005.

STAGE 2

- Visits to agencies assisting with settlement and support to Humanitarian arrivals from Africa to collect information and conduct interviews.
- Interviews with community leaders identified through ethnic community organisations.

A full list of organizations contacted is included in Appendix C.

STAGE 3

- Collation and analysis of the collected data
- Preparation of the project report
- Discussion of the draft report with VOMA
- Finalisation of the project report

5 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Obtaining consistent and viable information posed considerable difficulties. Very few agencies kept systematic records about language preferences and related issues (eg. literacy levels), and most did not have comprehensive databases. Some with databases had difficulty in providing data in a format that could be used within the project because their databases had been designed 'in-house' and were not capable of producing reports for the sort of data being sought. In some cases information could be retrieved on the basis of country of origin only, rather than at the level of individual language groups.

None of the agencies were able to provide systematic information on an individual level in relation to questions 3 – 5 (as outlined in Section 2 above). For example, at most only one language was recorded, so information about second languages known or spoken was not available. Information about literacy and educational levels, and language preferences of speakers from particular backgrounds was only available as general observations based on experiences of service delivery by the provider. This anecdotal information is summarised in Section 8 of the report. To gain more in-depth and accurate information to answer these questions it will clearly be important to undertake additional community-based field research, something that was beyond the brief and budget of this project.

Accuracy of the available data is also very much dependent on the person gathering the information and entering it. The level of linguistic understanding and commitment to accurate recording of information about languages of administrators appears to vary enormously and this affects the quality of the data available. Even in the most systematic database located, the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) Reporting Management System (ARMS), which is coordinated by DIMA and is used to register clients of the Adult Migrant English Program, there appear to be some differences in data entry strategies and accuracy from centre to centre.

Many databases/agencies still record uncommon/less frequently reported languages under 'other' or generic categories (eg. 'Sudanese'). This impacts directly on what is able to be extracted from records for this project as it is precisely these less commonly reported languages that were the focus of interest.

Ethnologue (www.ethnologue.com) – a comprehensive online database of languages across the world has been used to inform the delineation and spelling of languages that have emerged from the data obtained in the project.

Some examples of areas where there is a lack of clarity in aspects of the reported data, include:

- use of the designation of 'Arabic'. In many/most cases records do not seem to distinguish systematically and consistently between standard Arabic, Sudanese (spoken) Arabic (a Sudanese variety of colloquial

spoken Arabic), and Juba Arabic (an Arabic based Creole language) as described in *Ethnologue*. The latter two are used as trade languages for interethnic communication in different areas of Sudan, but have a low level of mutual intelligibility, and are distinct also from the standard Arabic used in formal contexts Northern Sudan and colloquial spoken Arabic in other Arabic speaking regions. This confusion is further compounded by different agencies appearing to have adopted different strategies for describing distinctions between varieties. None distinguished between more than 2 of the 3 possible forms of Arabic in Sudan, but for some 'Sudanese' or Sudanese Arabic seemed to correspond to the colloquial Sudanese spoken variety of Arabic, whereas for others it may have referred to the South Sudanese Creole, more accurately called Juba Arabic.

- Tigre and Tigrigna/Tigrinya are reported sometimes to be treated as the same language, even though they are two distinct languages in *Ethnologue*.
- Identifying languages from the data in the format supplied was not always straightforward because of the large degree of variation in the naming and spelling of some languages within communities and by the assisting agencies – egs Ashanti/Akan/Asante, Mandingo/Manya/Maninkakan/Mandinka, Nyanga. Further on the ground work with individual informants in the relevant communities will be required to resolve more confidently the precise delineation of these languages.
- Some reported languages with very few speakers (eg. Gondi, Bardi) did not register in any variant on *Ethnologue* as being African languages. Ultimately it was decided to exclude these from the analysis as they probably arose from data entry errors.

Those agencies more sensitised to diversity issues because of the nature of service they were providing, such as AMEP providers and hospitals, tended to be more likely to be careful and methodical in collecting language background/language service needs/requests data than other agencies.

A further factor that affected data collection related to the outsourcing of contracts for the provision of support and settlement services and changes over time in successful contractors. A number of agencies approached had been supplying support and settlement services, but had recently lost their contracts and were in the process of winding down or closing their businesses and were not able to assist with the detailed data that was being sought. The fluid nature of service provision with contracting out clearly poses some issues for the development, sharing and transference of knowledge in relation to specific ethnic background groups.

6 NEW HUMANITARIAN ARRIVALS FROM AFRICA AND THEIR SETTLEMENT PATTERNS IN VICTORIA

6.1 Overall Trends

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) supplied both overall figures for the numbers of Humanitarian arrivals to Victoria from all countries in Africa since 1991 on a calendar year basis (Table 6.1), and more detailed information about arrivals and their reported LGA of settlement for those arriving in the immediately preceding financial year ('04-'05) for a number of the major and emerging source countries (Table 6.2 and Figures 6.1 and 6.2).

Table 6.1 provides a longitudinal perspective on continuity and change in patterns of Humanitarian arrivals from Africa to Victoria. Particularly evident is the growth from less than a hundred arrivals (all from Somalia and Ethiopia) in 1991 through to close to two thousand (or more) per year from about 17 different countries for the past 3 calendar years.

Over the whole period by far the largest number of arrivals have been from Sudan (6139, 47% of the total) with the other very large countries of origin being Somalia (2352, 18%) and Ethiopia (2278, 17.5%). Arrivals from Somalia and Eritrea reached their peak in the mid-1990s and, particularly, in the past 3 years have declined markedly. Arrivals from Ethiopia have varied in number, but continue to be one of the larger arrival groups in the past 3 years (ranked 2 in 2003 and 2004, and ranked 4 for 2005 to date).

Since 2003 there has been a pattern of escalating and, by 2005, comparatively substantial numbers born in Egypt (384), Kenya (265) and Liberia (166), and the emergence of fair numbers from countries such as Burundi, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda. Virtually all the arrivals from Egypt, Kenya and Uganda are children born to Sudanese families while living in refugee camps in those countries and, thus, can be most accurately considered as part of the Sudanese cohort. Similarly, the numbers listed under Tanzania appear to be children born to Burundians living in refugee camps in that country.

The ongoing tensions and conflicts in West Africa have spread from Liberia into neighbouring countries such as Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea, and Sierra Leone. Those listed as being born in these countries may be children of refugees from the conflict in Liberia, or refugees who are natives of those countries. The data provided by DIMA did not allow for this possibility to be clearly disentangled. The West African language and ethnic situation is extremely complex and ethnic grouping, which are generally regionally based, may cross the borders of two or more countries.

Table 6.1: Humanitarian Settlers By Country of Birth (DIMA) by Calendar Year of Arrival, 1991-2005

Country of Birth	Calendar Year of Arrival															Total n	TOTAL %
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005#		
Algeria	0	0	0	2	5	5	14	2	11	10	0	0	0	0	2	51	0.4
Burundi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	41	45	0.3
Congo, Dem Rep	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	19	0	25	0.2
Cote D'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	24	0.2
Djibouti	0	3	5	2	0	0	0	0	13	1	2	2	4	0	0	32	0.2
Egypt,	0	3	9	3	16	9	13	21	17	22	37	53	102	185	97	587	4.5
Eritrea	0	0	0	71	108	61	55	65	61	59	68	26	53	36	27	690	5.3
Ethiopia	64	213	321	204	180	77	72	117	64	110	114	181	257	190	114	2278	17.5
Ghana	0	1	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	10	0.1
Guinea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	14	16	0.1
Kenya	1	1	2	17	9	7	5	37	26	13	11	39	55	92	118	433	3.3
Liberia	0	1	0	5	3	1	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	30	136	182	1.4
Libya	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	3	1	5	0	0	0	15	0.1
Nigeria	0	0	1	3	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	0	1	16	0.1
Sierra Leone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	7	19	0.1
Somalia	29	58	135	322	323	209	198	412	181	125	133	94	86	38	9	2352	18.0
Sudan	0	10	29	44	107	71	58	145	153	157	359	549	1134	2051	1272	6139	47.0
Tanzania	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	21	29	0.2
Uganda	0	3	2	2	0	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	5	11	16	45	0.3
Zaire	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	12	0.1
Zimbabwe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	4	11	0.1
Other*	2	4	5	2	6	2	2	2	6	0	0	0	2	8	0	41	0.3
Total	96	298	511	682	759	451	422	813	540	507	732	957	1702	2678	1904	1305	100.0

* 'Other' = all countries with < 10 (Angola, Cameroon, Chad, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Togo, Western Sahara, Zambia)

Figures to end November, 2005 only.

6.2 Settlement Patterns of Arrivals in the '04-'05 Year

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs supplied statistical data on the settlement patterns of the main current humanitarian arrival groups to Victoria (broken down by Local Government Area (LGA) and country of origin) for the period of 1/7/04 – 30/6/05 (Appendix A, Table A1 provides all the raw data supplied).

Sudan is by far the most common country of origin for humanitarian arrivals to Victoria from Africa for this period with close to 80% (n=2005) of the total of 2551 arrivals being from Sudan. Ethiopia continues to be a source of humanitarian arrivals and was the next largest group with 276 arrivals. 151 arrivals came from Liberia with smaller numbers from Somalia (81) and Burundi (38) (refer to Figure 6.1 for relative proportions).

Figure 6.1: Settler Arrivals in Victoria from African Countries under the Humanitarian Program, 1/7/04 – 30/6/05 (TOTAL = 2551)

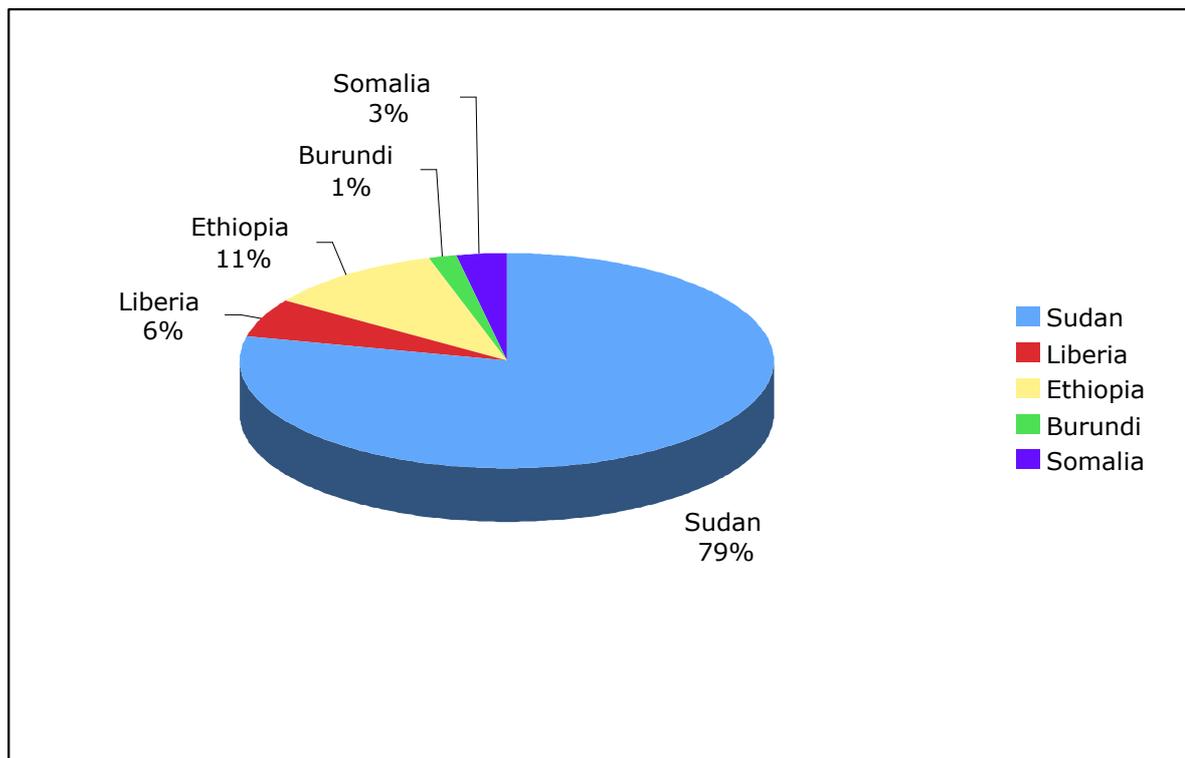


Table 6.2 provides a breakdown of numbers of new arrivals settling in each LGA (for all LGAs with more than 10 settlers). Figure 6.2 indicates the proportion of settlers overall and separately for each country of origin group who have settled in the various LGAs (for numerical detail refer to Appendix A, Table A2).

Table 6.2: Victorian Arrivals Under the Humanitarian Program from 1/7/04 – 30/6/05 by LGA of settlement (Data supplied by DIMA, all LGAs with less than 10 included under 'Other or Unspec.')

LGA	Country of Origin					TOTAL	
	Sudan	Liberia	Ethiopia	Burundi	Somalia	N	%
Banyule	5				8	13	0.5
Brimbank	550	33	41		9	633	24.8
Casey	88		7			95	3.7
Colac-Otway	28		2			30	1.2
Darebin	97	20	1	4	8	130	5.1
Glen Eira	13		5			18	0.7
G. Dandenong	644	51	36	11	3	745	29.2
G. Geelong	30	1	6			37	1.5
Hobsons Bay	29		10		2	41	1.6
Kingston	32		3			35	1.4
Knox	22	5	1			28	1.1
Maribyrnong	179	7	73	16		275	10.8
Maroondah	44					44	1.7
Melbourne	11		28		10	49	1.9
Monash	32		2		2	36	1.4
Moonee Valley	38		26		9	73	2.9
Moreland	3		3		5	11	0.4
Whitehorse	48	6	6			60	2.4
Whittlesea	30	16	5	7	4	62	2.4
Wyndham	16		5		1	22	0.9
Yarra	40	10	9		9	68	2.7
Other/Unspec.	26	2	7		11	46	1.8
TOTAL	2005	151	276	38	81	2551	100.0

The settlement patterns of the five main countries of origin groups differ somewhat, although there are some discernible shared areas of geographical concentration. Approximately two thirds of the new arrivals have settled in three LGAs: Greater Dandenong (29.2%), Brimbank (24.8%) and Maribyrnong (10.8%). No other LGA has more than 5% of the total new arrival African settlers and most have 2% or less.

The largest origin group, arrivals from Sudan, contribute heavily to the overall pattern with more than 70% choosing to settle in the three LGAs already mentioned – well over a third live in the west (Brimbank – 27.4% and Maribyrnong – 8.9%), and another third live in Greater Dandenong (32.1%). Liberians have settled in similar proportions to the overall trend in Greater Dandenong (33.8%), but have slightly lesser tendency to settle in the west (Brimbank and Maribyrnong together only 26.5%), whilst 30.4% have chosen to settle in the northern corridor

(stretching from Yarra to Darebin and Whittlesea LGAs). Ethiopian origin settlers are strongly concentrated in inner and western LGAs (approx. 65% across Maribyrnong, Brimbank, Melbourne, Moonee Valley, Hobsons Bay, Yarra) and have a much lesser proportion settling in the south and east of Melbourne (eg. Greater Dandenong only 13%). Burundians, the smallest group, have chosen to settle in only 4 LGAs, Maribyrnong in the inner west (42%), Greater Dandenong (29%) with the remaining 29% spread through the inner to outer North (Darebin – 11% and Whittlesea – 18%).

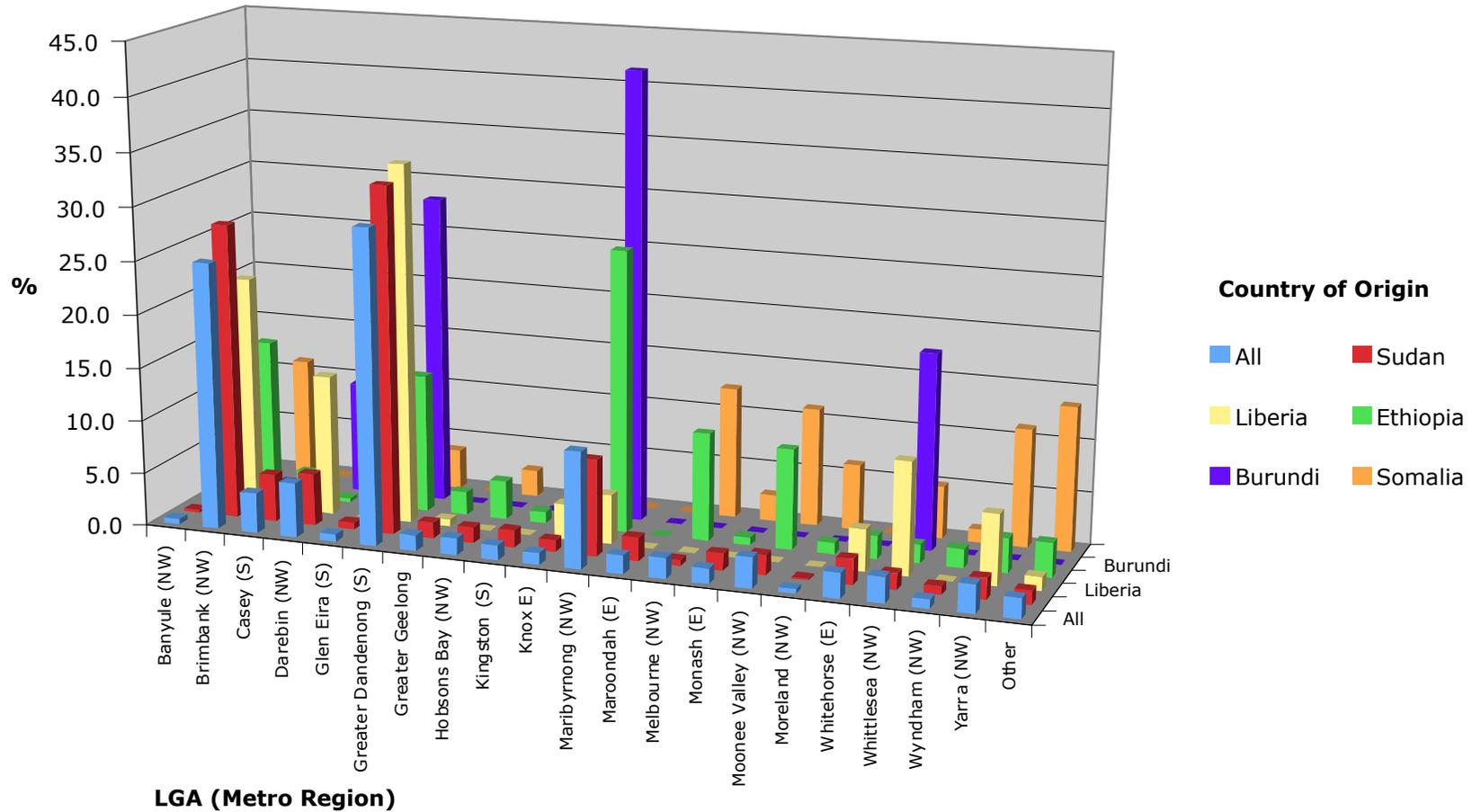
In contrast to the other groups, new arrivals from Somalia exhibit a more dispersed settlement pattern. Very few have chosen to settle in the outer South (only about 6% across Greater Dandenong and Monash), whilst roughly similar proportions have settled in LGAs across the inner, north and west with the LGAs of Banyule, Brimbank, Darebin, Melbourne, Moonee Valley and Yarra each having been the chosen settlement area for about 10% of Somali arrivals.

A comparatively small number of new arrivals have chosen to settle outside the Melbourne metropolitan area. These have all settled in the Barwon South-West region, mainly the City of Greater Geelong (37 people) and Colac-Otway Shire (30 people). Most of these settlers are Sudanese (58), with a small number of Ethiopians (8).

Whilst there are groups of African humanitarian migrants currently living in regional and rural Victoria, in areas such as the Swan Hill/Mallee region and Warrnambool, most of these were reported not to be new arrivals, but rather established migrants choosing to relocate for employment opportunities offered in regional and rural areas.

Figure 6.2

**Proportion of Country of Origin Group Settled in LGAs
(African Humanitarian Arrivals, 1/7/04 - 30/6/05)**



7 LANGUAGES SPOKEN AND ESTIMATE OF NUMBERS OF SPEAKERS

7.1 Summary of Languages Mentioned in Data Collection

Table 7.1 summarises all the languages mentioned in relation to African new arrivals' countries of origin/birth. More countries are mentioned here than those for which precise LGA data was able to be obtained (as reported in Section 6.2 above).

Egypt and Kenya do not feature as countries mentioned in project interviews, because, as previously mentioned (Section 6.1), those registering as being born in Kenya and Egypt (as well as many of those from other countries, such as Uganda, Tanzania and West African countries) are children born in refugee camps to refugees from African trouble spots, such as Sudan, Liberia and Burundi.

Table 7.1 Summary of Languages Mentioned by Country

Country	Language
Burundi (3)	French (incl. Belgian French) Rundi/Kirundi Swahili/Kiswahili
Congo (Dem. Rep.) (5)	English French Lingala Nyanga Swahili/Kiswahili
Eritrea (4)	Arabic Saho Tigre Tigrigna
Ethiopia (4)	Amharic Harari Oromo Tigrigna
Liberia (15)	Akan/Ashante Bassa English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liberian English ▪ Standard English Gio/Dan Grebo Kissi Kpelle Krahn

	Krio Kru(men) Loma Mandingo Mano Vai
Sierra Leone (3)	Fula/Pular Krio Temne
Somalia (5)	Arabic Italian (as second language only) Maay Oromo Somali
Sudan (18)	Acholi Anuak Arabic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Juba Arabic ▪ Standard Arabic ▪ Sudanese Arabic Bari Dinka Fur Kakwa Lopit Luwo Ma'di (Maadi) Moro Murle Nuer Otuho (Lotuko) Shilluk Tingal

Altogether 50 languages were mentioned at least once in either interviews or other forms of data collected.

The definition/ascription of languages is not always straightforward (refer to Section 5 for further discussion of this). Some of the languages have a number of alternate names. In some cases there is more than one language with the name given (eg. Mandingo), although country of origin may assist in identifying the precise language being referred to. In some cases the boundary line in the delineation of languages from dialect varieties is rather indistinct. For example, Dinka effectively represents a large number of different dialects that are then grouped into language clusters, but these variants of Dinka have quite a high degree of mutual intelligibility. Further examples of languages with multiple recognised separate varieties/dialects are the languages referred to as Oromo and Grebo. In Grebo speaking regions of Liberia, the different Grebo speaking sub-

groups are reported to have “strong ethnocentric attitudes” towards each other (presumably meaning that there may be less tolerance of speaker/s of a different language or language variety).

Rwanda and Cote D’Ivoire were mentioned as source countries of some recent humanitarian arrivals, but no languages that were specifically from these countries were mentioned. The only languages mentioned that seem to be spoken in Cote D’Ivoire according to Ethnologue are Akan/Ashante (primarily a widely spoken language in Ghana), Gio/Dan, Kru(men) and Krahn. The predominant indigenous language in Rwanda is the national language, called Rwanda. It is of the same family and mutually intelligible with Rundi/Kirundi.

Some languages are spoken across more than one country in a particular region of Africa. This includes widespread lingua francas, such as Arabic (but with locally variant forms, eg. Sudanese Arabic and/or creole, such as Juba Arabic), Swahili, French, and English, as well as languages associated with a particular ethnic group whose settlement patterns do not neatly coincide with national borders that were drawn to reflect the interests of colonial and/or indigenous rulers, such as Acholi (spoken in Sudan and Uganda), Krio (Liberia and Sierra Leone).

7.2 Data on Numbers of Speakers

A number of data sources were located that were able to provide fairly detailed breakdowns of the numbers of speakers of various languages in relation to their services. These included the Adult Migrant English Program Providers (AMES and NMIT/RMIT consortiums), a number of the Migrant Resource Centres offering settlement services, and major hospitals in various regions.

Data from these sources focuses primarily on adult clients and is of two types:

1. once off registration with a service (such as enrolment in the AMEP) or
2. record of language preference requests at the time of each visit (eg. hospital client requests for language service or service provision request to a Migrant Resource centre or other settlement agency).

Data of the first type is useful as an indicator of the number of individuals of a particular language background, whereas data of the second types provides an indicator of the level of current demand for language services in each language, subject, of course, to the quality and consistency of data collection and collation.

Taken together this data enables a reasonably accurate picture to be derived of the relative numbers of speakers of many of the languages from those listed in the previous section, including some indication of the distribution of languages in relation to country of origin data and where speakers of many of the languages are residing.

As no agencies were able to provide accurate data on competence in second and other languages, all the data presented below focuses on what was reported as

the clients' first language or entered as the language nominated as their preferred means of communication.

Data derived from the AMEP registrations will be used as one of the main means of gauging the overall number of adult speakers for the languages recorded accurately on their database. Most adult humanitarian arrivals require and are entitled to access AMEP, although some subgroups may be under-represented, such as women with young children who are not able to study outside their homes, and those with sufficient English language and other skills to have obtained employment early in the settlement process.

7.2.1 AMEP Language Data

The Adult Migrant English Program Reporting Management System (ARMS), a centralised database for clients of AMEP managed by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, registers clients' first language as well as some other demographic data. Table 7.2 provides data for all African languages listed individually, as well as the total (or number range when <10) of speakers and proportionate gender breakdown for the past two financial years.

Of the languages recorded only 11 languages have 10 or more speakers for African background clients enrolled in their programs in the preceding two years (July '03 to June '05) (refer Table 7.2). Of these two were close to this minimum with 10 (Mandingo) or 11 (Moro) speakers. Another language category, 'Sudanese', is difficult to interpret. It most likely refers to Sudanese spoken Arabic, a colloquial non-standard form of Arabic spoken in much of Sudan, but may have been used by some involved in entering data as a designation for speakers of a number of smaller Sudanese languages without their own separate codes.

A further 16 languages were specifically recorded, but had less than 10 speakers and for privacy reasons only number ranges were able to be provided. These are Gio, Bari, Loma, Luwo, Madi, Mano, Bardi, Kakwa, Acholi, French, Shilluk, Tingal, Swahili.

Table 7.2: Languages Recorded for Humanitarian Participants in the Adult Migrant English Programs across Victoria, 1/7/03 – 30/6/05

VICTORIA AFRICAN HUMANITARIAN AMEP CLIENTS 1/7/2003 TO 30/6/2005			
Language Description	Female	Male	Total / Range
GIO	25%	75%	0-5
BARI	38%	63%	6-10
LOMA	100%	0%	0-5
LUWO	50%	50%	0-5
MADI	50%	50%	0-5
MANO	100%	0%	0-5
MORO	36%	64%	11
NUER	43%	57%	102
DINKA	43%	57%	379
KAKWA	100%	0%	0-5
OROMO	50%	50%	101
ACHOLI	43%	57%	6-10
FRENCH	67%	33%	0-5
SHILLUK	57%	43%	6-10
SOMALI	61%	39%	131
TINGAL	50%	50%	6-10
AMHARIC	43%	57%	229
ENGLISH	69%	31%	16
SWAHILI	57%	43%	6-10
MANDINGO	30%	70%	10
SUDANESE	51%	49%	94
TIGRIGNA	58%	42%	73
ARABIC (INCLUDING LEBANESE)	46%	54%	1,060
OTHER	67%	33%	18
VICTORIA	47%	53%	2,303

Table 7.3 provides additional information about the location of speakers for the larger of the languages recorded on the database. For privacy protection purposes numerical data was only provided where the number of speakers in a given LGA exceeded 5.

Greater Dandenong has the greatest number of speakers concentrated in the one single LGA, two thirds of whom are recorded as being Arabic speakers. The cluster of adjacent western suburbs LGAs of Brimbank, Maribyrnong and Moonee Valley has marginally more speakers than the Greater Dandenong/Casey cluster in the outer Southern suburbs. To the extent that it is possible to determine, given data privacy and data transmittal and recording limitations, it appears that for a number of the smaller language groups, recent arrivals accessing the AMEP are concentrated in one or only a small number of LGAs. For example, all but 1 of the recorded Moro speakers live in Darebin, all but 2 of the Mandingo speakers are recorded as living in Greater Dandenong, and two thirds of the Tigrigna speakers live in the adjacent central and inner west LGAs of Maribyrnong, Moonee Valley and Melbourne.

Table 7.3 VICTORIA AFRICAN HUMANITARIAN AMEP CLIENTS 1/7/2003 TO 30/6/2005 – Main Languages by LGA of Settlement

LGA	AMHARIC	ARABIC	DINKA	ENGLISH	MANDINGO	MORO	NUER	OROMO	SOMALI	SUDANESE	TIGRIGNA	OTHER	Total
BANYULE (C)									12				12
BAYSIDE (C)		8											8
BRIMBANK (C)	42	115	165					6	9	11			348
CASEY (C)		71											71
COLAC-OTWAY (S)							8						8
DAREBIN (C)		55	13			10			22	6			106
GLEN EIRA (C)		9											9
GREATER DANDENONG (C)	25	454	55	6	8		40	28	6	36		7	665
GREATER GEELONG (C)		12											12
HOBSONS BAY (C)	15	28	13										56
HUME (C)									11				11
KINGSTON (C)		9					11			6			26
KNOX (C)		11											11
MANNINGHAM (C)		6											6
MARIBYRNONG (C)	84	69	60					7	8	8	27		263
MAROONDAH (C)		18	10										28
MELBOURNE (C)		20						10	16		6		52
MONASH (C)		30					7			6			43
MOONEE VALLEY (C)	29	33	12					27	28		19		148
MORELAND (C)		7											7
WARRNAMBOOL (C)		10											10
WHITEHORSE (C)		17	9				6						32
WHITTLESEA (C)		15											15
YARRA (C)		16	11					12	7				46
VICTORIA	195	1,013	348	6	8	10	72	90	119	73	52	7	1,993

LGA - (C) City (RC) Rural City (S) Shire (M) Municipality (DC) District Council

Privacy - data has been excluded where a language code by LGA is <6.

LGA data is based on a client's latest reported address, and is not necessarily the same as reported when first registered for AMEP

Tables 7.4 – 7.5 summarise settlement trends for the main languages grouping LGAs into four metropolitan regions and the one non-metropolitan region in which African humanitarian arrivals appear to have directly settled, Barwon South-West. Table 7.4 provides the numerical data and Table 7.5 provides relative proportions of each language within each geographical region (also depicted graphically in Appendix A (Figures A8.1 – A8.7)), highlighting important differences in language demographics in different area of Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Table 7.4: Numbers of Speakers of Larger Languages by Region, based on AMEP Data

LGA	AMHARIC	ARABIC	DINKA	ENGLISH	MANDINGO	MORO	NUER	OROMO	SOMALI	SUDANESE	TIGRIGNA	OTHER	Total
Inner Melbourne	0	36	11	0	0	0	0	22	23	0	6	0	98
Western Metro	170	245	250	0	0	0	0	40	56	19	46	0	826
Northern Metro	0	77	13	0	0	10	0	0	34	6	0	0	140
Eastern Metro	0	82	19	0	0	0	13	0	0	6	0	0	120
Southern Metro	25	551	55	6	8	0	51	28	6	42	0	7	779
Barwon South West	0	22	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	30
TOTAL	195	1013	348	6	8	10	72	90	119	73	52	7	1993

Table 7.5: Within Each Region Distribution of Speakers of Each Language (in %)

LGA	AMHARIC	ARABIC	DINKA	ENGLISH	MANDINGO	MORO	NUER	OROMO	SOMALI	SUDANESE	TIGRIGNA	OTHER
Inner Melbourne (98)	0	37	11	0	0	0	0	22	23	0	6	0
Western Metro (826)	21	30	30	0	0	0	0	5	7	2	6	0
Northern Metro (140)	0	55	9	0	0	7	0	0	24	4	0	0
Eastern Metro (120)	0	68	16	0	0	0	11	0	0	5	0	0
Southern Metro (779)	3	71	7	1	1	0	7	4	1	5	0	1
Barwon South West (30)	0	73	0	0	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL (1993)	10	51	17	0	0	1	4	5	6	4	3	0

Table 7.6 with Figures 7.1 – 7.8 indicate for each of the main languages the relative distribution of its speakers across the regions. Speakers of many of the languages are concentrated in very few regions. All Mandingo speakers live in the Southern region and all the Moro speakers live in the North. Most Amharic speakers (87%) live in the West, whereas Nuer speakers are not present in the

Northern and Western Metro regions, being concentrated in the Southern and Eastern Metro areas with a small proportion also living outside Melbourne in Barwon South West (through a special settlement project in Colac). Tigrigna speakers live in Western Metro and Inner Melbourne, as do most Oromo. Somali speakers similarly do not appear to be settling in the Southern and Eastern metro areas, preferring to live in the Western metro, inner Melbourne and Northern metro areas. The two largest language groups are more dispersed, but over half of the Arabic speakers live in the Southern metro region, whereas almost three quarters of Dinka speakers live in the Western Metro region.

Table 7.6: For Each Language Distribution of Speakers Across Regions (in %)

LGA	AMHARIC (195)	ARABIC (1013)	DINKA (348)	ENGLISH (6)	MANDINGO (8)	MORO (10)	NUER (72)	OROMO (90)	SOMALI (119)	SUDANESE (73)	TIGRIGNA (52)	OTHER (7)	TOTAL (1993)
Inner Melbourne	0	4	3	0	0	0	0	24	19	0	12	0	5
Western Metro	87	24	72	0	0	0	0	44	47	26	88	0	41
Northern Metro	0	8	4	0	0	100	0	0	29	8	0	0	7
Eastern Metro	0	8	5	0	0	0	18	0	0	8	0	0	6
Southern Metro	13	54	16	100	100	0	71	31	5	58	0	100	39
Barwon SW	0	2	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	2

Figure 7.1: Proportion of Total Amharic Speakers in Each Area (n=195)

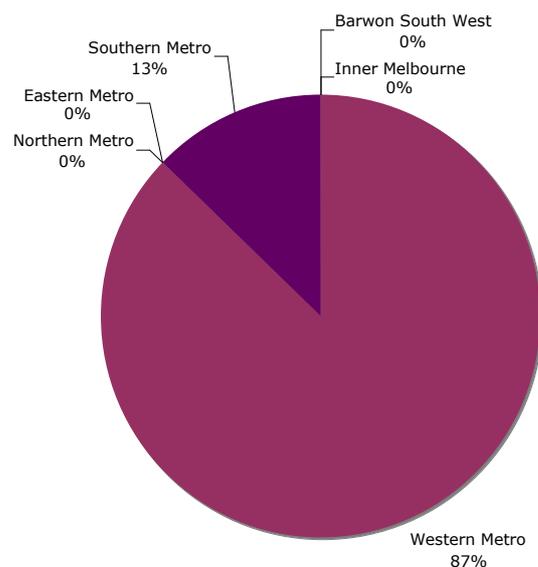


Figure 7.2: Proportion of Total Arabic Speakers in Each Area (n=1013)

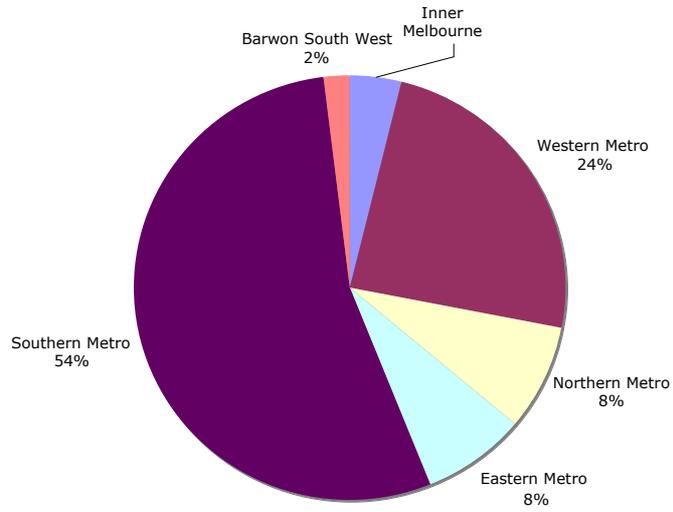


Figure 7.3: Proportion of Total Dinka Speakers in Each Area (n=34)

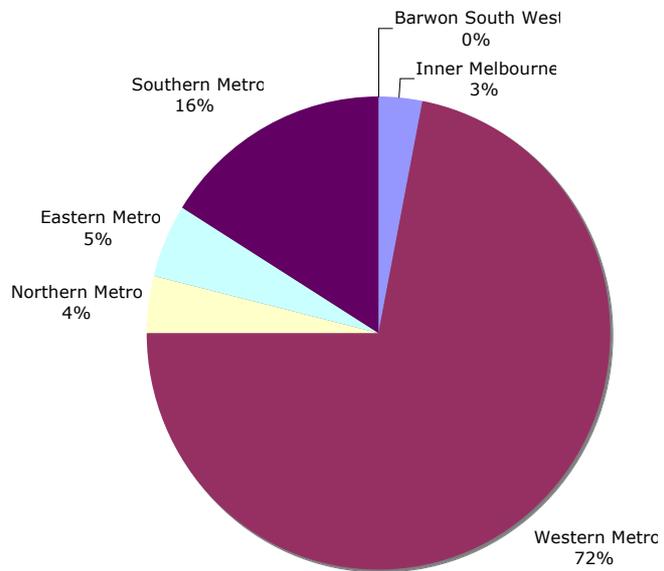


Figure 7.4: Proportion of Total Nuer Speakers in Each Area (n=72)

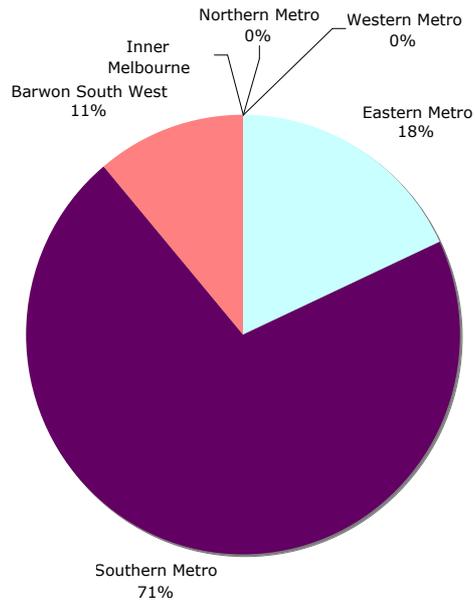


Figure 7.5: Proportion of Total Oromo Speakers in Each Area (n=90)

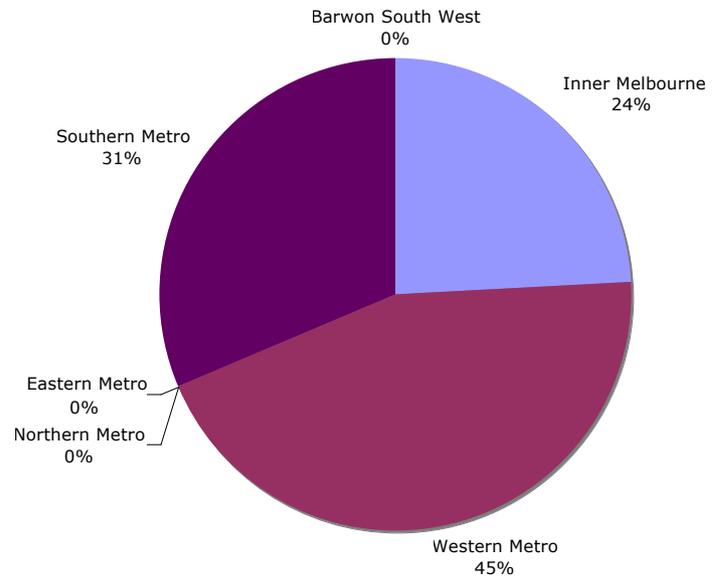


Figure 7.6: Proportion of Total Somali Speakers in Each Area (n= 11)

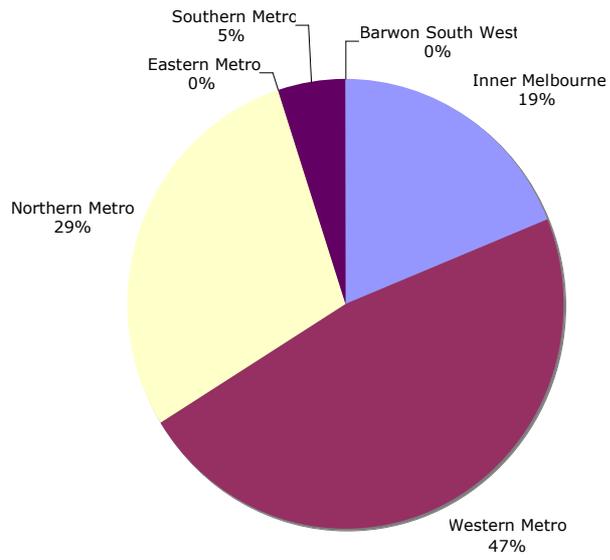


Figure 7.7: Proportion of Total 'Sudanese' Speakers in Each Area (n=73)

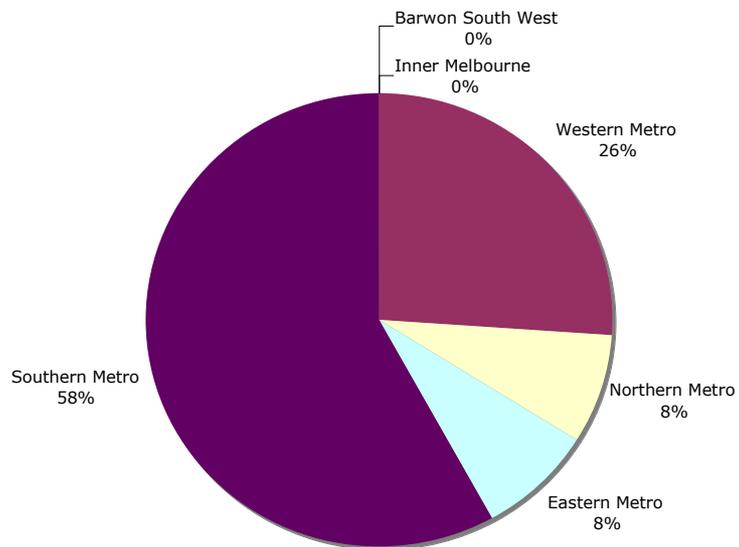
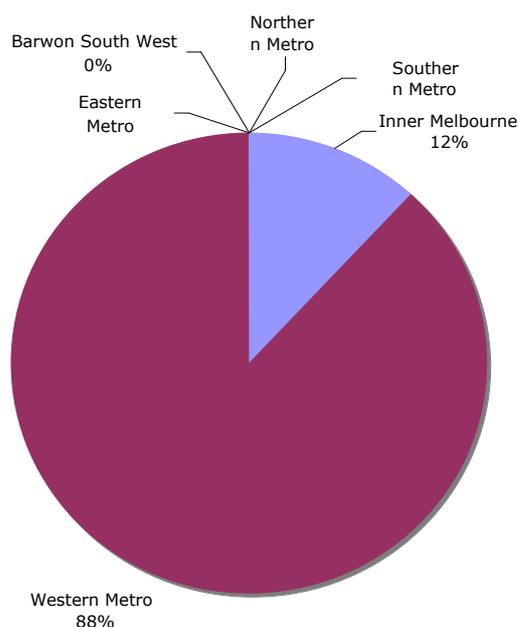


Figure 7.8: Proportion of Total Tigrigna Speakers in Each Area (n= 52)



7.2.2 Agencies' Data of Language Service Requests

A number of agencies servicing the needs of their communities kept records that they were able to provide access to that indicated the number of request for specific African languages. Across all the agencies 40 languages were mentioned, but for 9 of these actual numbers were not available as the agencies reporting them were not able to provide accurate numerical data. Table 7.7 collates data from the 6 agencies that seemed to be most systematic in recording language request data with the additional 9 languages included and ranked at the bottom. Even amongst the 6 agencies with discrete numerical data it is evident that some are more meticulous in eliciting and recording data for the less common languages. For example, the records of Agencies 2 and 4 (both MRCs) reflect a greater diversity of languages than the others. Agency 4's data is based on language service requests at the time of a client's initial registration (ie. not on a per visit basis).

It is somewhat more difficult than for the AMEP data to relate this data accurately to clients' areas of residence as some services (eg. hospitals) are located centrally and are accessed by clients from across Melbourne. Whilst it is reasonable to assume for the non-centrally located agencies that the bulk of clients come from the surrounding LGAs, anecdotally it was reported that clients may opt to travel across Melbourne to access an agency that has gained a reputation within their community for providing services that are sensitive to the needs of their particular ethnic group.

Table 7.7: Requests for Languages to Major Service Agencies (based on all available data from agencies over various time spans within the period 1/02-10/05)

Region	West		North		South		Inner		TOTAL	RANK
	1	2	3	4	5	6				
Arabic – Stand/Unspec		444	5052	61		2369		7926	1	
Somali	59	2755	530		38	1115		4497	2	
Dinka	396		29	40		1418		1883	3	
Amharic	99	154	154	3		193		603	4	
Arabic – Juba		573		20				593	5	
Oromo	21	223	28	5	8	139		424	6	
Tigrigna	44	79	43	6	28	200		400	7	
Swahili	10	18		22		81		131	8	
Nuer			13	50		53		116	9	
Bari				8		60		68	10	
Tigre	3		43			18		64	= 11	
Liberian English		19		13		32		64	= 11	
Mandingo				26		34		60	13	
Harari			29			14		43	14	
Gio			2	9		24		35	15	
Rundi/Kirundi	5	7		22				34	16	
Arabic – Sudanese	12				17	4		33	17	
Krio		21		10				31	18	
Acholi		5		17				22	19	
Shilluk				16				16	20	
Mano				15				15	21	
Kpelle		1		12				13	= 22	
Grebo				13				13	= 22	
French		3				9		12	24	
Murle				6				6	25	
Nyanga		5						5	26	
Fula				4				4	27	
Lingala		3						3	= 28	
Kissi				3				3	=28	
Temne				2				2	=30	
English		2						2	= 30	
Vai								0	=32	
Otuho (Lotuko)								0	=32	
Ma'di								0	=32	
Maay								0	=32	
Lopit								0	=32	
Kru								0	=32	
Kakwa								0	=32	
Italian (2nd Ig)								0	=32	
Bassa								0	=32	

Key to Agencies: 1 - Major hospital; 2 - MRC; 3 - Major hospital; 4 - MRC; 5 - Major hospital;
6 - Major hospital for children

The data provided and summarised in Table 7.7 does not differentiate between requests based on country or continent of background. As a result the numbers for unspecified Arabic cover a broad range of background origin Arabic speakers. The institutions reporting most of the Arabic requests are both major hospitals, one focussed on central Melbourne and the northern corridor, and the other the central specialist children's hospital for Melbourne. It is highly unlikely that more than a quarter of these Arabic speakers are African background (and even this may be a very generous estimate).

7.2.3 Data from Interpreting Agencies

A number of interpreting agencies hold contracts to provide language services. These agencies were approached and asked if they were willing to make their data available for the project. Three agencies, All Graduates, OnCall Interpreters and VITS LanguageLink, provided access to their data. The data provided by each is presented below (Tables 7.8 – 7.10) with Agencies 1 and 2 providing data on a calendar year basis (with 2005 data to the end of November only) and Agency 3 providing data on a financial year basis (with 7 months data only for '05-'06). Across the three agencies services are being provided in 23 African languages.

Request numbers here do not include those for standard/unspecified Arabic as it was not possible from the data provided to disentangle those for Arabic speakers of African background from the broad range of Arabic speakers from other countries in the Middle East and beyond. Sudanese Arabic as reported by Agency 2 is assumed to be the Sudanese variety of colloquial spoken Arabic used extensively in Sudan, although it may also include the Arabic-based Creole, Juba Arabic, which is also quite widely spoken as a lingua franca in the South.

Some care needs to be exercised in interpreting this data on language requests. Qualified interpreters are not currently available for a number of the emerging African languages. If/once a client or agency becomes aware that the preferred language is not likely to be available they may then not request that language, rather opting for a second language that the client may have some knowledge of and for which they know that interpreting is available, such as an official national language (eg. Somali), or a local lingua franca (eg. Swahili, Sudanese Spoken Arabic or Juba Arabic).

The longitudinal data provided by Agency 1 (Table 7.8) highlights the rapid growth in requests for African language interpreting over the past 5 years from 148 requests in 2001 to more than 3,000 per year in 2005.

Table 7.8: Requests for Interpreters in Specific African Languages to Agency 1, 2001 - 5

Language	Year					5 yr
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005*	TOTAL
<i>Acholi</i>	0	0	4	77	175	256
<i>Amharic</i>	99	146	299	607	463	1614
<i>Anuak</i>	0	0	0	2	10	12
<i>Bari</i>	0	0	7	26	24	57
<i>Dinka</i>	0	8	257	1154	1447	2866
<i>Harari</i>	9	23	21	3	4	60
<i>Krio</i>	0	0	3	14	46	63
<i>Liberian Eng</i>	0	0	0	0	14	14
<i>Lingala</i>	2	15	2	4	3	26
<i>Madi</i>	0	0	8	28	43	79
<i>Mandingo</i>	4	0	1	2	68	75
<i>Rundi/Kirundi</i>	1	0	1	29	211	242
<i>Swahili/Kiswahili</i>	33	23	65	173	718	1012
Year TOTALS	148	215	668	2119	3226	6376

Table 7.9: Requests for Interpreters in Specific African Languages to Agency 2, 2004 – 5

Language	Year		2 yr
	2004	2005	TOTAL
<i>Amharic</i>	211	186	397
<i>Dinka</i>	396	679	1075
<i>Gio</i>	0	15	15
<i>Harari</i>	20	0	20
<i>Liberian English</i>	0	6	6
<i>Mandingo</i>	0	2	2
<i>Mano</i>	0	2	2
<i>Nuer</i>	124	129	253
<i>Oromo</i>	204	185	389
<i>Rundi/Kirundi</i>	0	66	66
<i>Somali</i>	1174	916	2090
<i>Sudanese Arabic</i>	141	297	438
<i>Swahili/Kiswahili</i>	3	111	114
<i>Tigre</i>	51	0	51
<i>Tigrigna</i>	268	219	487
Year TOTALS	2592	2813	5405

**Table 7.10: Requests for Interpreters in African Languages to Agency 3,
1/7/04 – 31/12/05**

Language	Yr '04-'05			Year '05 - 31/106			19 mnth
	Serviced	Unserviced	TOTAL	Serviced	Unserviced	TOTAL	TOTAL
<i>Acholi</i>	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
<i>Amharic</i>	381	0	381	307	0	307	688
<i>Dinka</i>	538	63	601	718	27	745	1346
<i>Fur</i>	0	0	0	5	0	5	5
<i>Harari</i>	0	1	1	0	1	1	2
<i>Nuer</i>	258	28	286	348	4	352	638
<i>Oromo</i>	278	26	304	179	7	186	490
<i>Saho</i>	3	0	3	8	0	8	11
<i>Somali</i>	856	20	876	446	10	456	1332
<i>Sudanese</i>	628	4	632	467	3	470	1102
<i>Swahili</i>	22	9	31	61	13	74	105
<i>Tigre</i>	70	0	70	28	0	28	98
<i>Tigrigna</i>	445	0	445	262	0	262	707
TOTAL	3479	151	3630	2831	65	2896	6526

Whilst the three agencies report requests for some of the same languages, it is notable that each agency has different patterns of provision and is supplying services in some languages not offered by the other two. For example, Agency 1 is providing all of the interpreting services in Anuak, Bari, Krio, Lingala and Madi and most of the services for Acholi, Mandingo, Rundi and Swahili. It is also the largest provider of services in Dinka and Amharic, yet it does not provide services in some of the comparatively large Horn of Africa languages, such as Somali, Nuer, Oromo and Tigrigna. In contrast, Agency 2 only is providing interpreting services in two emerging West African languages, Gio and Mano. Notably it is the largest provider of services in Somali and contributes substantially to service provision in Dinka, Sudanese Arabic, Tigrigna, Oromo, Nuer and Tigre (in 2004). Agency 3 is the only provider of services in Fur, Saho and Tigre (in 2005), and is the largest provider of services in Nuer, Sudanese Arabic, Tigrigna and Oromo. However, it does not provide services in any West African languages or Rundi.

The data provided by Agency 3 on requests that it was unable to service (see Table 7.10) highlights the difficulties in sourcing interpreters for Dinka, Nuer, Oromo, Somali and Swahili, although with a lesser proportion of unmet requests in the current year in most cases. Agency 2 reported a request for Krahn, which it was not able to meet.

Table 7.11: Estimate of Annual Requests Across Agencies (based on 11 months, 1/05-11/05 (Ags 1 and 2) and 19 months, 7/04-1/06 (Ag 3))

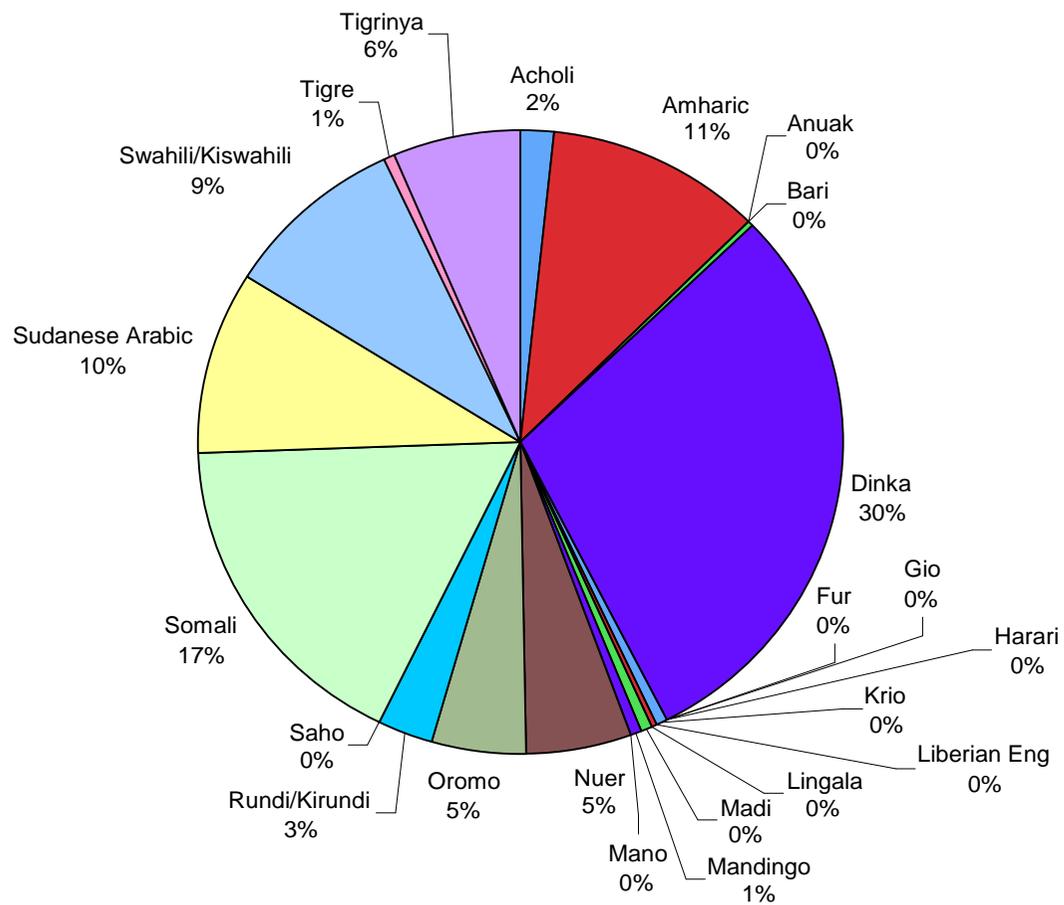
Language	TOTAL All Agencies	Estimated Requests over 12 months		
		Ag1	Ag2	Ag3
<i>Acholi</i>	192	191	0	1
<i>Amharic</i>	1143	505	203	435
<i>Anuak</i>	11	11	0	0
<i>Bari</i>	26	26	0	0
<i>Dinka</i>	3169	1579	741	850
<i>Fur</i>	3	0	0	3
<i>Gio</i>	16	0	16	0
<i>Harari</i>	6	4	0	1
<i>Krio</i>	50	50	0	0
<i>Liberian Eng</i>	22	15	7	0
<i>Lingala</i>	3	3	0	0
<i>Madi</i>	47	47	0	0
<i>Mandingo</i>	76	74	2	0
<i>Mano</i>	2	0	2	0
<i>Nuer</i>	544	0	141	403
<i>Oromo</i>	511	0	202	309
<i>Rundi/Kirundi</i>	302	230	72	0
<i>Saho</i>	7	0	0	7
<i>Somali</i>	1841	0	999	841
<i>Sudanese Arabic</i>	1020	0	324	696
<i>Swahili/Kiswahili</i>	971	783	121	66
<i>Tigre</i>	62	0	0	62
<i>Tigrigna</i>	685	0	239	447
TOTALS	10710	3519	3069	4122

Across the three agencies on an estimate of annual request levels in 2005 (Table 7.11 and Figure 7.9), five languages stand out because of the large number of requests – Dinka (3169), Somali (1841), Amharic (1143), Sudanese (Arabic) (1020) and Swahili (971). A second group of three languages also exhibit very significant levels of demand with 500 or more requests per year currently – Tigrigna (685), Nuer (544) and Oromo (511).

Some further trends are evident from the data. For example, requests for Dinka, Sudanese Arabic and Swahili have increased rapidly over the past 2-3 years, whereas requests for Amharic and Somali appear to be fairly stable. Of the languages with smaller levels of request the level of demand for Acholi, Anuak, Gio, Krio, Liberian English, Mandingo, and Rundi is increasing. Refer to Figure 7.10 for a graphic presentation of the growth trends for the smaller and currently emerging languages (ie all above other than the three large and better established languages of Amharic, Somali and Dinka), using the directly comparable annualised data provided by Agencies 1 and 2.

Figure 7.9

Relative Proportion of Requests for Interpreting in African Languages (based on annualised estimate totals)



**Language Requests to 2 Interpreting Agencies for Emerging African Languages, 2004 and 2005
(excluding Amharic, Dinka and Somali)**

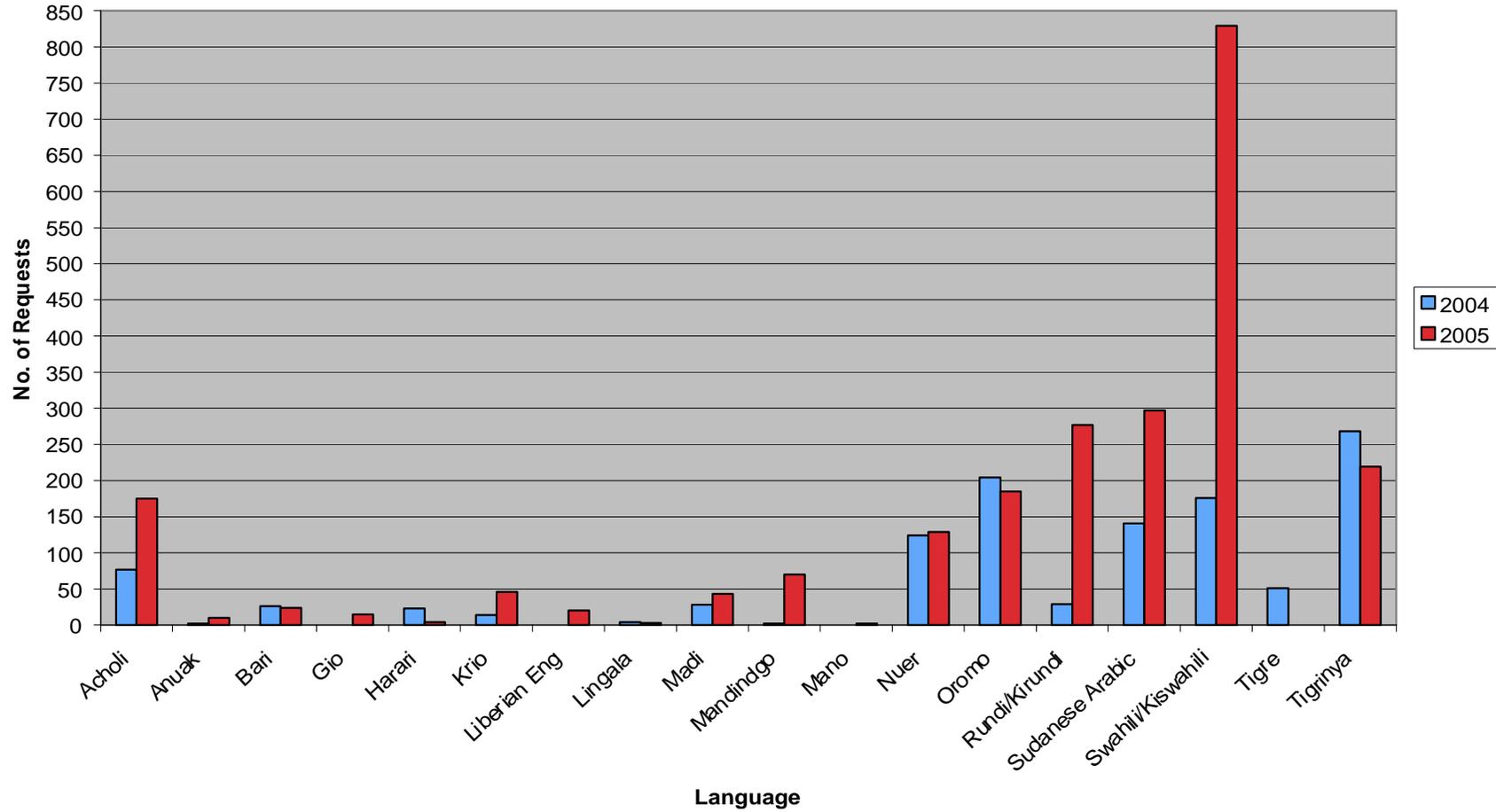


Figure 7.10

7.3 Estimates of Numbers of Speakers

The research brief included an expectation that estimates could and would be made about the numbers of speakers of the main emerging African languages uncovered through the research. For a range of reasons that have been highlighted in collecting, collating and reporting the data in 7.1 and 7.2 it has proved extremely difficult to estimate some of these numbers with any degree of confidence.

The root of this difficulty is the lack of capacity of any of the agencies' record-keeping systems to deal adequately with the multilingualism of their clients. None were able to record and report data for more than one language (or indicate related language preferences), despite the fact that a high proportion of clients, particularly from countries such as Sudan, are multilingual. This means that depending on how a question about language/s was put to a client, and how the person recording the data may have then opted to record that information on their database different responses may have been recorded by different agencies for the same person.

Often what was recorded on the database represented a locally negotiated 'compromise' judged to enable some level of language service to be delivered to a client. Such 'compromises' often involved the nomination of a more widely spoken language that may have been known to some extent by an individual rather than a less commonly occurring language which may well have been that individual's main home and community language, but for which service provision had been judged to be unlikely (eg. Dinka and Shilluk Sudanese living in Warrnambool in Western Victoria are reported in the AMEP database under Arabic). This means that the data **tends to underestimate the numbers of mother tongue speakers for other than the most commonly occurring languages**, as such speakers are more likely to be reported under a more widely spoken lingua franca.

The situation with reporting of Arabic varieties further confounds the situation. As previously highlighted (Section 5) none of the agencies distinguished between more than two forms of Arabic even though in the Sudanese context at least three distinctive Arabic-related languages are used. Furthermore, what one agency may have classified as 'Arabic unspecified' may have been categorised differently (eg. as Sudanese) by another. Many agencies also were not able to disentangle their African origin client records requesting 'Arabic' from other non-African clients requesting 'Arabic' language services. This is evident above in 7.2.2 where the very high numbers of requests for Arabic are likely to include a majority of non-African background clients. To allow for this in calculations it was assumed that only 25% of these unspecified Arabic language requests related to African background clients

The methodology used to estimate numbers of speakers involved relating calculations of the relative proportion of speakers of various languages attributed to a particular country (using data from the sources reported in 7.2.1-7.2.3) to the approximate figures on settlers arriving from that country of origin (using data

from Table 6.1). In cases where a language was reported for more than one country (eg. Tigrigna or Arabic), information from *Ethnologue* about the extent of use of the language in a given country was used to provide a rough guide to likely relative level of usage to apportion to that country. For example, according to *Ethnologue* there are about 4.4 million speakers of Tigrigna altogether, of whom 3.2 million live in Ethiopia and 1.2 million in Eritrea. This led to the attribution of 75% of Tigrigna speakers to be Ethiopian by origin and 25% to be from Eritrean. As a second example, whilst Arabic is listed under a number of countries the information in *Ethnologue* suggests that it is not very widely used in Somalia, Ethiopia or Eritrea (each of which have quite widely known official or national languages other than Arabic). For purposes of estimation, therefore, it was decided that all reported instances of Arabic would be ascribed to be by people who have Sudan as their country of origin.

Whilst this methodology has enabled what should be reasonably accurate estimates of proportions of settlers from a given country of origin with capacity to access services via a particular language at the time the research was conducted, the greater the linguistic diversity and complexity of patterns of multilingualism in a country of origin the lesser the confidence in the estimates.

7.3.1 Sudan

Estimates for Sudanese background arrivals are the most tenuous and best illustrate the difficulties in extrapolating in context of the complexities discussed above. Table 7.12 estimates the relative proportions using the data collected from the three main sources (see 7.2.1 – 7.2.3) and then uses this and a total estimate of humanitarian arrivals whose country of origin is Sudan (7,000, including children born in refugee camps in Egypt and Kenya) to project estimates for each language for which some actual numerical data was obtained. However, as Table 7.12 illustrates, this data does not present a uniform picture. Both Support Agency and AMEP data has comparatively a much higher proportion of people attributed to one or other of the Arabic options. Whilst the AMEP data reflects linguistic diversity to a greater extent (with numerical data for 12/18 languages), it has the highest proportion reported under the Arabic sub-categories. Whilst the interpreting agencies data only enumerates less than half of the languages (8/18) and does not include any cases reported under other than Sudanese for the Arabic sub-categories, it shows a much higher proportion of speakers relatively of Dinka and Nuer. The estimates that result are the best that can be derived from the available data and need to be treated cautiously.

Table 7.12: Estimates of Relative Proportion of Sudanese Background Arrivals Recorded as Speaking Each Sudanese Language with Projected Estimates of Numbers of Speakers (based on data in 7.2.1 – 7.2.3)

Language	AMEP %	Agency %	Interpreter%	Est. Nos.
<i>Acholi</i>	1%	0%	4%	200
<i>Anuak</i>	0%	0%	0%	<50
Arabic TOTAL	68%	55%	20%	2400
<i>Juba Arabic</i>	0%	13%	0%	500
<i>Arabic Unspec</i>	62%	42%	0%	
<i>Sudanese Arabic</i>	6%	1%	20%	1900
<i>Bari</i>	1%	1%	1%	150
<i>Dinka</i>	22%	40%	63%	3,500
<i>Fur</i>	0%	0%	0%	<20
<i>Kakwa</i>	0%	0%	0%	<50
<i>Lopit</i>	0%	0%	0%	<20
<i>Luwo</i>	0%	0%	0%	<50
<i>Ma'di (Maadi)</i>	0%	0%	1%	c. 50
<i>Moro</i>	1%	0%	0%	c. 50
<i>Murle</i>	0%	0%	0%	<20
<i>Nuer</i>	6%	2%	11%	700
<i>Otuho (Lotuko)</i>	0%	0%	0%	<20
<i>Shilluk</i>	1%	0%	0%	100
<i>Tingal</i>	1%	0%	0%	c. 50
	100%	100%	100%	

7.3.2 Horn of Africa Countries – Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea

Estimates using the adopted methodology produced much more consistent predictions for the other countries of the Horn of Africa – Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea. Table 7.13 provides estimates of total number of speakers for the languages recorded for these countries.

Table 7.13: Estimated Numbers of Speakers of Languages from Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea

Language	Estimated No. of Speakers
<i>Amharic</i>	1200
<i>Harari</i>	c. 50
<i>Maay</i>	<50
<i>Oromo</i>	600
<i>Saho</i>	<50
<i>Somali</i>	2300
<i>Tigre</i>	250
<i>Tigrigna</i>	950

7.3.3 West Africa

Settler arrival data (6.1) indicates that there were approximately 260 arrivals to Victoria from West African countries to the end of November 2005 with by far the largest sub-group being people whose country of origin was Liberia. Given the linguistic diversity documented for people from this region, at this stage of the West African origin settlement there are no languages with the large number of speakers evident for the arrival groups from the Horn of Africa and Sudan. Table 7.14 summarises best estimates of approximate numbers of speakers for the most commonly reported languages.

Table 7.14: Estimated Numbers of Speakers of Languages from West African Countries

Language	Estimated No. of Speakers
<i>Gio</i>	<50
<i>Krio</i>	c. 50
<i>Liberian English</i>	c. 60
<i>Mandingo</i>	100
<i>Mano</i>	<50
<i>All other Langs.</i>	<20 each

7.3.4 Other Languages

Only two other languages appear in the data set sufficiently frequently to consider trying to estimate numbers of speakers, Rundi and Swahili. There are **at least 50 speakers** of Rundi given its status as the main and national language of Burundi and the number of recent humanitarian arrivals who were born in Burundi. If new arrivals continue from this area numbers of speakers are likely to continue to rise.

The situation with Swahili is particularly interesting. Whilst it is an official language of Tanzania only, its status as a lingua franca in many more urbanised areas across East Africa, including in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia and Burundi, suggests that the recent rapid rise in demand for language services in Swahili is being fuelled by the needs of new arrivals who either come from and/or have spent time in these countries (eg. Sudanese and others arriving from Kenya) in their transition to Australia. In the context of limited or no language service capacity in their mother tongues, it appears that many recent new arrivals from this region may be requesting Swahili as a preferred and/or available option as a language of wider communication. Based on the quantum of recent interpreting requests it appears that there could be **several hundred speakers** of Swahili across the population of recent arrivals from Africa.

7.3.5 Summary of Estimates

Table 7.15 combines the results of the regional analysis of languages (from 7.3.1-7.3.4) and provides a ranking and speaker numbers for the languages estimated to have a hundred or more speakers. These estimates are based on humanitarian arrival numbers to the end of November 2005 drawing on language information provided by the various providers primarily over 2004 and 2005.

Table 7.15: Estimated Number of Speakers and Rank Order of Languages

Language	Estimated Number of Speakers	Rank
Dinka	3500	1
Somali	2300	2
Sudanese Arabic	1900	3
Amharic	1200	4
Tigrigna	950	5
Nuer	700	6
Oromo	600	7
Juba Arabic	500	8
Swahili	300	9
Tigre	250	10
Acholi	200	11
Bari	150	12
Mandingo	100	=13
Shilluk	100	=13
All Others	<100 each	

8 CHARACTERISTICS OF SPEAKERS

As well as providing information about client language requests or first language spoken by clients, agencies also provided a range of additional information about language preferences and literacy of clients (summarised in Table 8.1) and about literacy and educational patterns and preferred channels of communication (summarised in Table 8.2).

8.1 Language Service Needs and Preferences

As the material summarised in Table 8.1 indicates many of the languages nominated have been identified by one or more agencies as having no or scarce interpreting services despite the need for language services being there. Languages identified in this category include: Bassa, Gio/Dan, Grebo, Kissi, Kpelle, Krio, Kru(men), Lingala, Maay, Mandingo, Mano, Oromo, Rundi, Swahili, Tigrigna, Vai. In addition, Acholi, Bari, Nyanga, Otuhó and Shilluk were specifically identified as having language service needs that are overshadowed by the larger Sudanese language groups (eg. Dinka and Nuer). There are a further 12 languages that were mentioned in interviews at some stage, but for which no detailed information about language speakers or language service needs was provided in project interviews.

As well as the language specific information, some general observations on language preferences were provided by agencies:

- Multilingualism among African populations is common. People often speak more than one language of their country of origin as they may have used a local lingua franca or official language in some contexts in addition to one or more languages of their family and local community. However, there are some sensitivities among groups rooted in recent history regarding use of languages other than their own. Notably so among Somalis and Ethiopians
- Liberians may indicate that they are conversant with English, but standard English native speakers find it hard to understand their English. The need for interpreter services is there for effective communication.
- Burundians and Liberians are still supported by IHSS; MRCs have not taken them over. Records for them in MRCs are scanty.

Table 8.1: Information provided by Support and Settlement Agencies about Language Services and User Preferences

LANGUAGE	Size and Status of Language Services Available	Other Languages Spoken/Accepted
Acholi (Sudan, Uganda)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minority Sudanese language ▪ Language services overshadowed by larger Sudanese groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ End up speaking Sudanese Arabic ▪ Women prefer Juba Arabic
Akan/Ashante (West Africa)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Amharic (Ethiopia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major Ethiopian language. ▪ Interpreter services readily available. 	
Anuak (Sudan, Ethiopia)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Arabic (Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Various Horn of Africa groups and Sudanese use it as a lingua franca. ▪ Interpreter services readily available 	
Arabic – Sudanese (Sudan)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spoken colloquial Arabic used widely in Sudan
Arabic – Juba (Sudan)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Used as a lingua franca among many South Sudanese minority groups, especially by women
Bari (Sudan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minority Sudanese language. ▪ Language services overshadowed by major Sudanese Languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ End up speaking Sudanese Arabic ▪ Women prefer Juba Arabic
Bassa (Liberia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liberian Language – no interpreter services available 	
Dinka (Sudan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Largest Sudanese Language group in Greater Dandenong and Western Suburbs – Footscray, St. Albans, Sunshine, Braybrook 	
English (Liberia, Congo, Dem Rep, Sudan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liberians indicate first preference is standard English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alternatives are Liberian English and French
English – Liberian (Liberia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ English-based pidgin 	
French (Burundi, Congo, DR, West Africa)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicated as lingua franca by Congolese, and alternative language for Liberians
Fula/Pular (Sierra Leone, West Africa)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Gio/Dan (Liberia, West Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New arrivals – scarce interpreter services 	

Grebo (Liberia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New arrivals; no interpreter services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Register Kpelle and Liberian English as alternatives
Harari (Ethiopia)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Italian (Somalia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some Somali speakers use it, but have limited knowledge as an L2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpreters readily available
Kakwa (Sudan, Uganda)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Kissi (Liberia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New arrivals – no interpreter services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Register Liberian English as alternative
Kpelle (Liberia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New arrivals – no interpreter services ▪ No established interpreter services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some register Grebo and Liberian English as alternatives
Krahn (West Africa)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Krio (Sierra Leone, West Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New arrivals – no interpreter services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some register Temne as alternative
Kru(men) (Liberia, West Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liberian Language – no interpreter services available 	
Lingala (Congo, Dem Rep)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Congolese Language - no interpreter services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some Congolese indicate English or French as alternatives
Loma (Liberia)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Lopit (Sudan)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Luwo (Sudan)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Ma'di (Sudan, Uganda)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Maay (Somalia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Language of Somalia, also known as Mai Mai ▪ Very scarce interpreter services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indicate they are left out. ▪ Some reject alternative Somali interpreter service
Mandingo (Liberia, West Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New arrivals – scarce services ▪ Most scarce interpreter services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Register Liberian English as alternative
Mano/Mann (Liberia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New arrivals – scarce services 	
Moro (Sudan)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Murle (Sudan)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Nuer (Sudan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Second largest Sudanese Language – in Greater Dandenong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpreter services overshadowed by Dinka. Thus Nuer as well as Bari and Acholi indicate they are neglected.

Nyanga (Congo, Dem. Rep)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded as a Sudanese minority Language; No known interpreter services. Overshadowed by major languages. (NB: <i>Ethnologue</i> records this as a Congolese language) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most likely resort to use of Arabic varieties
Oromo (Ethiopia, Somalia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As an ethnic group are not consolidated in one location. It is a largely neglected language in terms of services. No interpretation services available. 	
Otuho (Lofuko/Latuka) (Sudan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latuka is a minority Sudanese Language. Again, overshadowed by major languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People end up speaking Sudanese Arabic or Juba Arabic (especially women)
Rundi/Kirundi (Burundi)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New arrivals – scarce Interpreter services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All register Swahili as alternative; Some register French as alternative
Saho (Eritrea)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Shilluk (Sudan)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Somali (Somalia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major horn of Africa language group. Available interpreter services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written information is also available in Somali in hospital.
Swahili (Burundi, Congo, Dem. Rep, Tanzania)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an alternative for some Kirundi speakers of Burundi Interpreter services are scarce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Congolese indicate this is their first language
Temne/Themne (Sierra Leone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New arrivals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register Krio as alternative
Tigre (Eritrea)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eritrea/Ethiopian language; Interpreter services readily available 	
Tigrigna/Tigrinya (Eritrea, Ethiopia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethiopian language; Interpreter services not readily available 	
Tingal (Sudan)	NO DETAILED INFORMATION PROVIDED	
Vai (Liberia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liberian language – no interpreter services available 	

8.2 Literacy and Education Levels and Preferred Channels of Communication

The material gathered from interviews and summarised in Table 8.2 provides some insights into the literacy and education levels of recently arrived African humanitarian migrants from the main source countries. The available information is impressionistic and sometimes also contradictory (see comments on settlers from Liberia by the different agencies). Many of the service providers (eg. in health) reported that they do not collect educational and literacy information about clients as this is regarded as a sensitive area for people who already know they are disadvantaged and, as a consequence, they were only able to contribute some limited general observations. To gather more systematic and detailed information would require considerable additional financial resources to directly interview community members. This will be necessary to achieve a more accurate understanding of the situation of each ethnic/language community.

Written scripts have been developed for virtually all of the languages reported in this research. However, the existence of a script does not equate to speakers being literate in the language in question, as many of the languages are primarily means for oral communication and relatively few are used in formal education. The material in Appendix D from the online *Ethnologue* database indicates the extent to which each language has written resources, such as a grammar or bible translations. For many of the languages *Ethnologue* also records what the literacy level in the language is within the population of first (and second) language speakers. This material is a useful resource for gauging the likelihood of adult speakers of the language also being literate in that language.

Based on the observations from interviewees for this study illiteracy rates tend to be higher among adults than among children/youths. However, even among the youth education has been disrupted. Substantial groups of African women are reported to know one or more tribal languages and are not literate at all. They may depend on family members or others in their language group for interpretation when language services are not available in the language/s they speak. Most services reported the importance of verbal means of communication (e.g. radio; one-on-one), given high illiteracy rates, especially among women.

Some bilinguals are comfortable speaking one language, and can write in another. For example, a Sudanese person may be most comfortable speaking Dinka, but is also able to write in Arabic, although not speaking it as well as Dinka.

Table 8.2: Information Provided by Support and Settlement Agencies on Literacy and Education Levels and Preferred Channels of Communication for new African Humanitarian Arrivals (by country of origin)

Country of Origin (All languages)	Literacy / Education Patterns	Channels of Communication
Burundi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hardly any records are available - anecdotally, these settlers are largely illiterate having had hardly any chance for school education ▪ Education/literacy information not collected as a matter of procedure. ▪ Not very literate at all, both men & women 	
Congo (Dem. Rep.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Literate 	
Cote D'Ivoire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No information other than country of origin. ▪ Further information may be available on the ARMS database 	
Eritrea	No comments provided	
Ethiopia	No comments provided	
Liberia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have some education, mostly up to year 12 equivalent ▪ There was free education before the war, but many could not afford it, so education levels are low. ▪ Generally adults are literate, both men and women, with few exceptions 	
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ After the war many people's education got disrupted, thus education is low. 	
Somalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Especially girls' education levels are very low (often taught in homes in small groups). Women/girls are very focussed on family & childrearing ▪ Boys more than girls are determined to pursue a career. ▪ Many are illiterate, both men and women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Somali prefer verbal communication ▪ Written information in Arabic is not effective. Need to review use of written Arabic for this group as Arabic itself is very diverse.
Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a complex mix of educational levels with some men being professionals. ▪ Men and younger women (under 50) have good learning skills. ▪ Clients (eg Sudanese in Western Suburbs) can communicate in their own languages ▪ Education very disrupted for many. There was some free education which some could not access. ▪ Men more literate than women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication with various groups using multimedia: DVD, CD ROM, Radio. Moving away from traditional forms of communication to reach these groups with diverse educational and literacy levels.

9 ISSUES AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Issues in Language Services Training and Provision

Many issues concerning language services training and provision in emerging African languages were raised in interviews:

- All agencies would appreciate a more comprehensive flow of information from DIMA to assist with pre-planning for new language groups. The issue of language services support is particularly critical in the initial settlement phase as in that period it is generally the case that people have relatively little English and, thus, very high support needs.
- Current employment modes and pay levels for language services work mean that those trained often only stay transiently in the profession choosing to move onto more lucrative and reliable employment as soon as they can. There are ongoing difficulties in attracting and/or training and then retaining appropriately competent language service professionals. This situation is compounded for emerging African languages because of the circumstances of disruption of education of many in the relevant communities and the lack of a critical mass of people with facility in English and literacy. To address this issue some organisations have been experimenting with in-house training using traineeships and a model that utilises bilingual workers to assist with communication across the language barrier. However, the organisations in question reported similar issues with retaining these bilingual aides once they had become more confident in seeking employment locally and were able to access the broader range of employment opportunities. To avoid this turnover and skills and training wastage, it seems important to be rethinking employment and remuneration arrangements for language service workers. It was emphasised that if employment and remuneration arrangements can be developed that can guarantee a steady and fair income to the interpreter of a language over a reasonable period (eg. a 3 year contract), then it may then be possible to develop a pool of professionals with high levels of bilingual and interpreting expertise who will then be committed to the profession in the longer term.
- There is a need to be more creative in approaches to developing language services expertise in some of the less common languages. For smaller languages it may not be feasible to run training courses in Australia, but it may be worth considering accessing expertise in these languages from other migration settlement countries (eg. UK) to assist with developing expertise/training.

- Service providers in areas where interpreting was critical to effective service delivery commented on difficulties in locating appropriate interpreters for certain languages, even using interpreting agency services. Those dealing with large numbers of migrant clients requiring language services also indicated that the level of funding currently provided by the government to cover the cost of language services is not adequate, necessitating the agencies to draw funds from other revenue sources to assist in covering the costs.

9.2 Areas Requiring Further Investigation

In reviewing the data that was gathered some areas are identified as clearly needing further in-depth investigation. These include:

- Importance of reviewing and implementing new standards for database design in relation to language proficiency - to enable collection of accurate and comprehensive information concerning language knowledge and preferences of multilingual clients there is an urgent need to review and implement more sophisticated database design standards. At minimum, agencies need to record both a client's main home language and their preferred second language (eg. a lingua franca), if services are not able to be provided in their main home language. Careful testing will be important in ensuring wide comprehensibility of such questions. Without such information it is impossible to plan for and provide the most appropriate and effective services for multilingual clients.
- More in-depth sociolinguistic work on knowledge and use of African languages in Melbourne – the interviews undertaken with agencies have highlighted how limited the current state of knowledge is about African languages in the Australian context. There would be considerable value in undertaking in-depth sociolinguistic survey work with a range of community informants to gain a better understanding of community language usage in emerging African communities, including patterns of multilingualism and language attitudes and preferences in language choice of community members in various contexts.
- Needs and appropriateness of service provision for the less frequent Sudanese languages – as documented in Section 8, there were a large number of Sudanese languages that were uncovered in data collected. Agencies commented that the needs of speakers of these languages were often overlooked. Such languages include: Acholi, Anuak, Bari, Kakwa, Lopit, Luwo, Ma'di, Moro, Murle, Nuer, Otuho, Shilluk, and Tingal. In addition, the tendency to categorise and deal with the speakers of these languages under one or more of the Arabic headings, means that the

prevalence and preference for some of these languages is most likely significantly understated. For example, we have been informed that a significant number of the settlers in Barwon-South West are Shilluk (personal communication from Department of Human Services), but they are showing up in the AMEP statistics as Arabic speakers. It is likely that some Sudanese languages are not even be showing up in statistical data, for example no Nubian languages were recorded by the project team despite the presence of Nuba amongst Sudanese in Australia (e.g. as participants in the Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning Program).

The interpreter and other request material indicates a solid and, in most cases, growing, level of demand for languages such as Nuer, Acholi, Anuak, Bari, and Ma'di. It appears that failure to provide services in these minor languages may be disadvantaging some community members (especially women), but further research is needed within the communities to confidently ascertain this. The sort of information that is required relates to language preferences and, also, the levels of capacity of individuals across the full cross-section of community members to access services in one of the Sudanese lingua francas, such as Sudanese or Juba Arabic. The assumption of many agencies seems to be that this is the case, but this needs to be clearly established with the communities themselves. Additional services in the Sudanese-based Arabic variants, Juba Arabic and Sudanese Spoken Arabic, appear to be also needed.

- The Liberian/West African language situation – by far the greatest diversity of languages per capita of arrivals has been reported for Liberia and neighbouring West African countries. It appears that it will be difficult to meet these needs because in most cases the overall numbers for a specific language are small. Languages such as Mandingo, Krio and Liberian English seem to have the highest demand, and in the case of the latter two, their roles as lingua francas may mean that they are more broadly accessible. Gio also appears to be in growing demand, with a level of (unmet) demand also being registered for Bassa, Grebo, Kissi, Kpelle, Kru(men), Mano and Vai.

All the databases accessed have used the language name, Mandingo as if this is unproblematic, but as the material in Appendix D from *Ethnologue* demonstrates, there are a number of separate, but linguistically related (and to a significant degree mutually intelligible) languages (eg. Many, Maninkakan Eastern, Mandinka) that are known in the region as Mandingo (all part of the 'Manding' family). In making decisions about language services training and provision, it will be important to undertake more in-depth, community based fieldwork to ensure that the most appropriate language variety/ies is/are selected.

A number of the other Liberian/West African languages also have multiple distinct varieties (eg. Grebo, Kpelle, Kissi), so care will be needed to ensure the appropriate speakers are recruited for training in these languages also.

There is a clear need for more in-depth community based research to gain a greater understanding of how the West African context has translated sociolinguistically in settlement to Australia, assuming that an increasing number of refugees from this region are expected.

- Other Horn of Africa Needs – From the data collected Oromo stands out as a language clearly in demand and reportedly currently underserved. Tigrigna is also in demand and reportedly services are scarce. There is a small unmet need for some of the less widely spoken languages of the region, such as Maay (Somalia) and Harari (Ethiopia).
- Emerging Areas – The overall language situation is much less complex for new arrivals from the central African region, especially Burundi. There is clear and growing demand for Rundi and for the regional lingua franca, Swahili. Current services in both these languages are reported to be scarce.

10 APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

TABLE A1: Numbers of Humanitarian Settler Arrivals to Victoria by LGA (all) and Country of Origin for period 1/7/04 – 30/6/05

LGA	Country of Origin				
	Sudan	Liberia	Ethiopia	Burundi	Somalia
Banyule	5				8
Bayside	2				
Boroondara	3	1			
Brimbank	550	33	41		9
Cardinia	1				
Casey	88		7		
Colac-Otway	28		2		
Darebin	97	20	1	4	8
Frankston	7				
Glen Eira	13		5		
Greater Dandenong	644	51	36	11	3
Greater Geelong	30	1	6		
Hobsons Bay	29		10		2
Hume	1				1
Kingston	32		3		
Knox	22	5	1		
Manningham	2				
Maribyrnong	179	7	73	16	
Maroondah	44				
Melbourne	11		28		10
Monash	32		2		2
Moonee Valley	38		26		9
Moreland	3		3		5
Mornington Peninsula			1		
Port Phillip			1		
Stonnington	1				
Warrnambool	5				
Whitehorse	48	6	6		
Whittlesea	30	16	5	7	4
Wyndham	16		5		1
Yarra	40	10	9		9
Yarra Ranges			1		
Unspecified	4	1	4		10
TOTAL	2005	151	276	38	81

TABLE A2: Proportion (%) of Arrivals from Each Country of Origin Settling in each LGA

LGA	Country of Origin					
	All N=2551	Sudan N=2005	Liberia N=151	Ethiopia N=276	Burundi N=38	Somalia N=81
Banyule (NW)	0.5	0.2	0	0	0.0	9.9
Brimbank (NW)	24.8	27.4	21.9	14.9	0.0	11.1
Casey (S)	3.7	4.4	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0
Colac-Otway	1.2	1.4		0.7		
Darebin (NW)	5.1	4.8	13.2	0.4	10.5	9.9
Glen Eira (S)	0.7	0.6	0.0	1.8	0.0	0.0
Greater Dandenong (S)	29.2	32.1	33.8	13.0	28.9	3.7
Greater Geelong	1.5	1.5	0.7	2.2	0.0	0.0
Hobsons Bay (NW)	1.6	1.4	0.0	3.6	0.0	2.5
Kingston (S)	1.4	1.6	0.0	1.1	0.0	0.0
Knox E)	1.1	1.1	3.3	0.4	0.0	0.0
Maribyrnong (NW)	10.8	8.9	4.6	26.4	42.1	0.0
Maroondah (E)	1.7	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Melbourne (NW)	1.9	0.5	0.0	10.1	0.0	12.3
Monash (E)	1.4	1.6	0.0	0.7	0.0	2.5
Moonee Valley (NW)	2.9	1.9	0.0	9.4	0.0	11.1
Moreland (NW)	0.4	0.1	0.0	1.1	0.0	6.2
Whitehorse (E)	2.4	2.4	4.0	2.2	0.0	0.0
Whittlesea (NW)	2.4	1.5	10.6	1.8	18.4	4.9
Wyndham (NW)	0.9	0.8	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.2
Yarra (NW)	2.7	2.0	6.6	3.3	0.0	11.1
Other	1.8	1.3	1.3	2.5	0.0	13.6
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Figures A8.1 – A8.7:
Distribution of Languages in Regions within Melbourne and Victoria
 (based on numerical data in Table 7.6)

Figure 8.1: Distribution of the Main Languages for Victoria as a Whole (n = 1993)

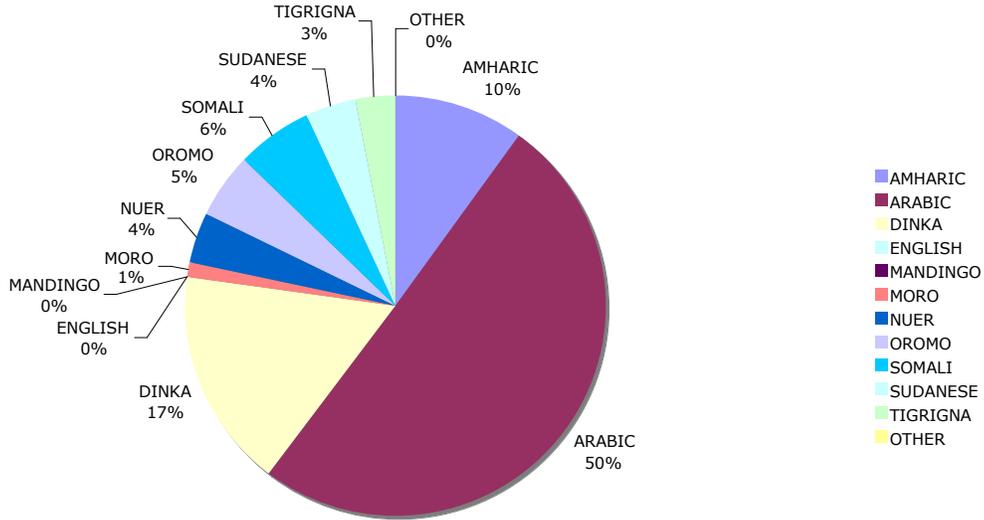


Figure 8.2: Distribution of Main Languages in the Inner Melbourne Area (n = 98)

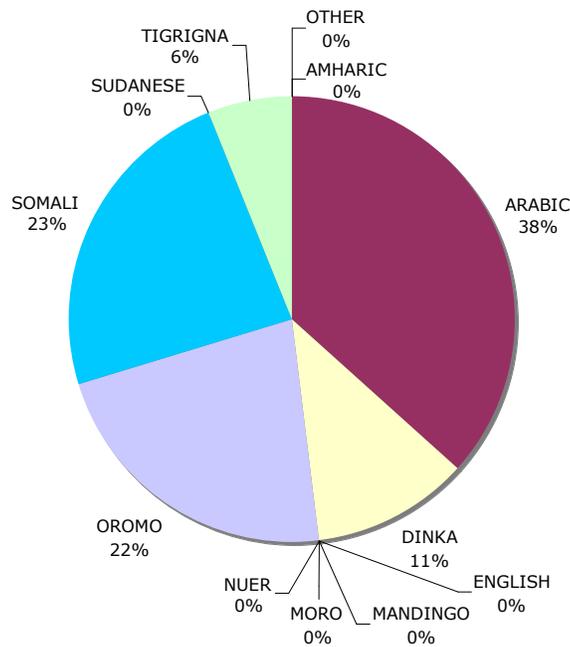


Figure 8.3: Distribution of Main Languages in Western Metro Area in % (n=826)

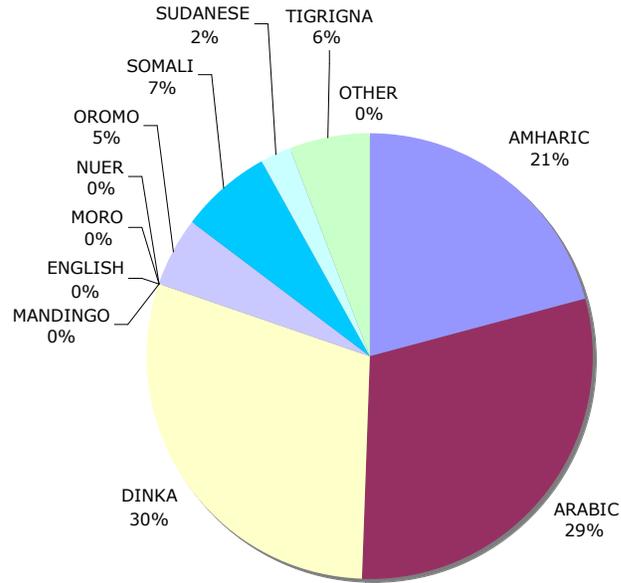


Figure 8.4: Distribtuion of Main Languages in the Northern Metro Area in % (n=140)

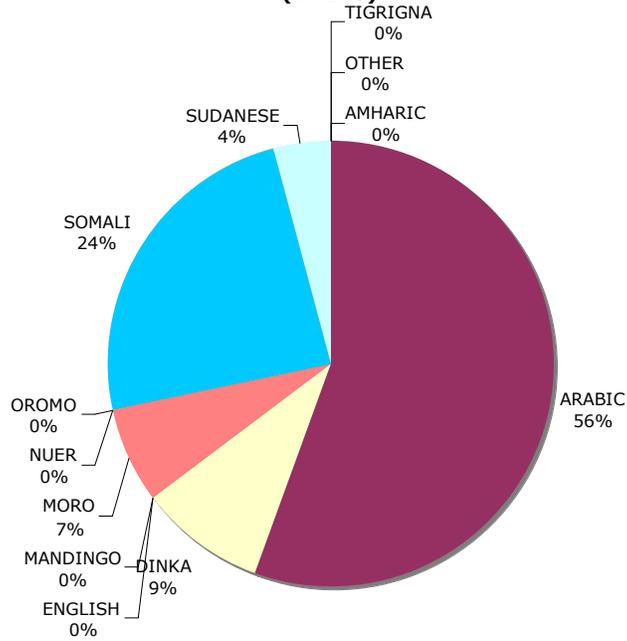


Figure 8.5: Distribution of Speakers of the Main Languages in the Eastern Metro Area (n=120)

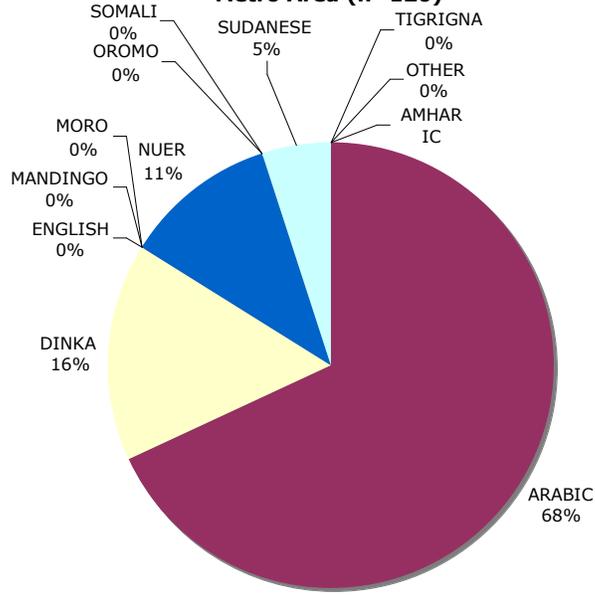
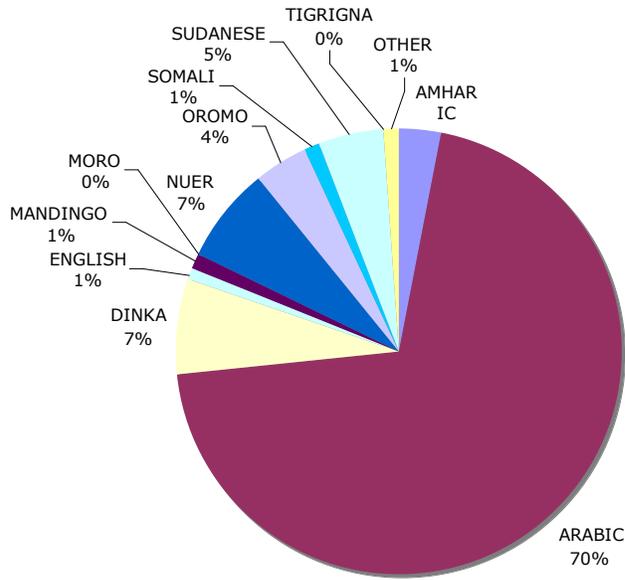
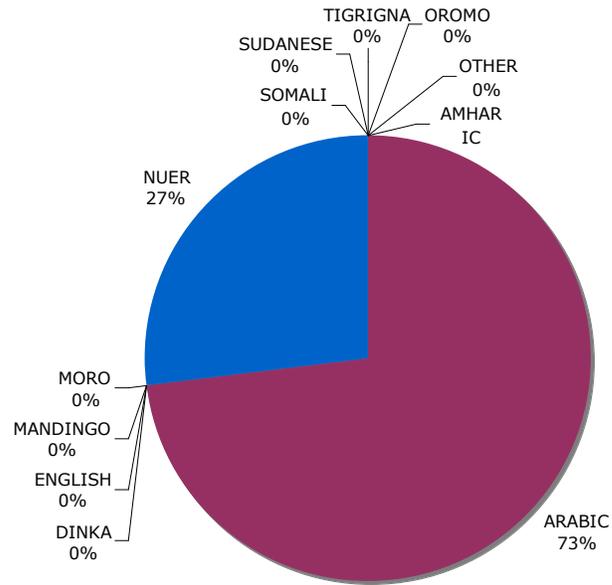


Figure 8.6: Distribution of Main Language Groups in the Southern Metro Area (n=779)



**Figure 8.7: Distribution of Main Languages in the Barwon South West Area
(n=30)**



APPENDIX B: Proformas approved for data collection with agencies and ethnic associations

Project Information Sheet for Representatives of Support and Settlement Agencies

We would like to invite you to be a part of a study into the numbers of speakers of various African languages that are now emerging in Victoria. The project is funded by the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs (VOMA) through its Language Services Strategy and is part of its efforts to gain more accurate information about the range of African languages currently spoken in Victoria by newly arrived migrants, the approximate numbers of speakers of each language, and literacy levels, language service preferences and educational levels of speakers of each language. The focus of the project is on gathering available factual information (without any identification of individuals or release of personal information) from agencies providing settlement and support services and community organisations assisting arriving African language speakers.

If you agree to participate in this research on behalf of your agency, you will be asked to participate in an interview of no longer than one hour.

The focus of the interview will be:

- Information about how you collect or request information from clients about their language service needs and languages knowledge in the process of interacting with your African background clients
- The African countries you have clients from and what information you can provide about the numbers from each country and language/s spoken by these clients
- How you make decisions about what to include in your records about knowledge and speaking of language/s and about the language service needs of clients
- Information about literacy capabilities of your clients in specific languages; language preferences for clients who are bilingual or multilingual
- Factors which you have observed as influencing differences between speakers in their patterns of language knowledge and use (such as ethnic background, educational background, gender, age and/or religion)

Please note that no identifying information about clients will be sought in the process of collecting the data on language speaker numbers, use and preferences. In the project data collected from a range of sources will be collated to build up as accurate picture as possible of numbers of speakers and language use and preferences within each language community emerging in Victoria. This information will be given to VOMA and used by them in conjunction with other agencies to assist in improving language services to African background clients.

Whilst the project report will summarise the agencies that have participated in interviews (and individuals who were interviewed within an agency (subject to each person's consent for their name to be published)), no information will be published in the public domain that can in anyway link material back to a particular interviewee unless they consent to its publication.

For further information about the project, please contact: Associate Professor Helen Borland, mob: 0417 394 082 or Helen.Borland@vu.edu.au

Questions for Representatives of Support and Settlement Agencies

- What information do you collect or request in relation to language service needs and languages in the process of interacting with your African background clients?
- Can you provide samples of any proforma/s used and actual questions asked? How many languages do you record on your form/s?
- What African countries do you have clients from? How many from each?
- For each source country how many speakers of which languages? How many clients mention more than one language? If they mention more than one, how do you decide what to include in their records? How do you decide what language would be appropriate for that person if language services are needed?
- Do you know about the literacy capabilities of your clients in specific languages? If so, what do you know for speakers of each language? Are you aware of whether specific languages are written or not?
- What is your impression of whether there are differences within a particular language group related to gender, age, religion etc in language abilities (eg. which languages are spoken to which levels, literacy knowledge) and/or language preferences?
- How many speakers within each language group are able to speak and read another language? If so, which language/s and to what level? What are their preferences?
- What is the profile of educational background in each language group?

Project Information Sheet for Representatives of Ethnic Community Organisations/Associations

We would like to invite you to be a part of a study into the numbers of speakers of various African languages that are now emerging in Victoria. The project is funded by the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs through its Language Services Strategy and is part of its efforts to gain more accurate information about the range of African languages currently spoken in Victoria by newly arrived migrants, the approximate numbers of speakers of each language, and literacy levels, language service preferences and educational levels of speakers of each language. The focus of the project is on gathering available factual information (without any identification of individuals or release of personal information) from agencies providing settlement and support services and community organisations assisting arriving African language speakers.

If you agree to participate in this research on behalf of your organisation or association, you will be asked to participate in an interview of no longer than one hour.

The focus of the interview would be information that you have available about members of your community or group in relation to the following:

- Languages spoken and numbers of speakers of each language,
- levels of bilingualism/multilingualism
- patterns of use and preferences for particular languages as lingua francas (for intergroup communication)
- preferences for particular languages for language service delivery
- literacy rates and educational backgrounds and how these impact of preferences for how members of the community receive government information.

Please note that no identifying information about individual community members will be sought in the process of collecting the data on language speaker numbers, use and preferences. In the project data collected from a range of sources will be collated to build up as accurate picture as possible of numbers of speakers and language use and preferences within each language community emerging in Victoria. This information will be given to VOMA and used by them in conjunction with other agencies to assist in improving language services to African background clients.

Whilst the project report will summarise the agencies and associations that have participated in interviews (and individuals who were interviewed within an agency (subject to each person's consent for their name to be published)), no information will be published in the public domain that can in anyway link material back to a particular interviewee unless they consent to its publication.

For further information about the project, please contact: Associate Professor Helen Borland, mob: 0417 394 082 or Helen.Borland@vu.edu.au

Questions for Representatives of Ethnic Community Organisations and Associations

- What information do you have available for the community or group that your organisation supports about the languages spoken by people in your group and/or community?
- How do you know about the language/s spoken within your group or community?
- Do you use any systematic process to collect information about community members' language knowledge? If yes, how do you collect this information (including the questions and/or proformas you use)?
- What is your estimate of the size of your community or group and the proportionate number of speakers of each of the languages?
- What proportion of members of the community are bilingual or multilingual (speakers of more than 2 African languages)?
- What more can you tell us about the patterns of bilingualism and multilingualism in your community or group?
- Is there one or more language/s that are commonly used in your community or group for communication between different ethnic or language groups (sometimes referred to as a 'lingua franca')? If so what is/are this/these language/s? If there is more than one lingua franca what can you tell us about the preferences of people in your community for the use of these?
- What can you tell us about literacy rates and educational backgrounds of people in your community or group? What proportion have completed primary school/secondary school/have postsecondary education and/or qualifications?
- What are the preferences of members of your group or community for languages used by the government to deliver services to its clients? Are there different sub-groups that have different preferences, and if so why?
- How would members of your community prefer to receive government information: written pamphlets/brochures, online, video, radio, face to face? And why do they have these preferences?

APPENDIX C: List of Agencies and Organisations Contacted

Organisation	Contact Person	Address
Adult Multicultural Education Services (AMES)	Special Preparatory Programme Coordinator	Flagstaff AMES Level 3/255 William St. Melbourne 3000 PH: (03)99264633
Centrelink	Victorian Language Services Co-ordinator	Area North Central PO Box 107 Box Hill VIC 3128
DIVERSITAT	Pamela Rodriguez Immigration and Welfare Manager	Head Office 153 Pakington St. Geelong West VIC 3218 PH: (03)52216044
Northern Migrant Resource Centre (MRCNE)	Naomi Paine Settlement Planner	251 High st, Preston 3072 PH: (03)94847944
South Eastern Region Migrant Resource Centre (SERMRC)	Peter Jarret IHSS Team Leader	South Eastern Region MRC Level 1, 314 Thomas St Dandenong VIC 3175
Migrant Information Centre East Melbourne (MICEM)	Judy McDougal Project Officer	333 Mitcham Road PO Box 317 MITCHAM 3132 PH: (03)98731666
Eastern and Central Africa Communities of Victoria (EACACOV)	Secretary, Executive Committee	40 Grattan Street Prahran, VIC 3181 PH: (03)9510-0167
DIMA	Jack Coffey IHSS Contract Manager Victoria	DIMA Settlement Planning & Information Unit Melbourne PH: (03)92353349
DIMA	Zafer Ilbahar Community Liason Officer, Multicultural Affairs Unit	DIMA, Melbourne PH: (03)92353302
DIMA	Margaretha Korn Settlement Coordinator	DIMA, Melbourne PH: (03) 9235 3291
DIMA	John Muller Data Officer	DIMA, Melbourne PH: (03)92353248
DIMA	Katrina Peiros Researcher	DIMA, Melbourne
DIMA	Phil Ewers AMEP and ARMS Contract Manager: AMEP Section, Citizenship and Language Services	Citizenship and Language Services Branch, Central Office, BELCONNEN, ACT, 2616

	Also Patrick Dupre, ARMS Manager	
Gippsland Migrant Resource Centre (GMRC)	Manager	100-102 Buckley Street MORWELL 3840 PH: (03) 5133 7072
Westgate Migrant Resource Centre, Inc.	Manager	78-82 Second Avenue, Altona North, 3025 PH: (03) 93913355
Migrant Resource Centre North West Inc	Fodia Andreou Senior Social Worker	45 Main Road West St Albans VIC3021 PH: (03)93676044
Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE (NMIT)	Anne Giddens, Further Education Officer - Youth & Community	NMIT 79-91 St Georges Road PRESTON 3072 PH: (03)92698320
Oncall Interpreters & Translators Agency	Ari Pappas Public Relations Manager	Level 3, 3 Bowen Crescent, Melbourne VIC 3004 PH: (03) 88072303
All Graduates Interpreting and Translating	Ismail Akinci General Manager	Suite 2, 3 St David Street, FITZROY 3065. PH: (03)94164911
South West Alliance of Rural Health	Edwina Townsend Project Worker Primary Care Colac Area Health	2 – 28 Connor Street Colac, VIC 3280 PH: (03)52325403
Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE	Manager, Multicultural Education Centre	Fryers Street SHEPPARTON 3630 PH: (03) 58332577
Sunraysia Ethnic Communities Council Inc	Rosa Cinar Migrant Services	255 Eleventh St Mildura, VIC 3500 PH: (03) 50221006
Community Connections (VIC) Ltd	Silvia Mikhail Coordinator of Multicultural Development Unit	135 Kepler St. Warnambool VIC 3280 PH: 1300361680
Mercy Hospital for Women	Roz Wollmering Multicultural Services Manager	163 Studley Road Hiedelberg, VIC 3084 PH: (03)84584190
Western Health	Celia Wigzell Cultural Diversity Program Manager	Western Hospital, Gordon Street Footscray, VIC 3011 PH: (03) 83457147
Hume Health	Contact person for DHS Multicultural Staff Awareness Training Project	Kilmore District Hospital, Rutledge Street, KILMORE 3764 PH: (03) 5734 2000
St Vincent's Hospital	Lyn Bongiovanni, Chief Interpreter	St Vincent's Health, PO Box 2900

		FITZROY 3065 PH: (03) 92883482
Royal Children's Hospital	Silvio Proy, Director Interpreter & NESB Services	Flemington Road, Parkville, VIC3052 PH: (03) 93455026
Whittlesea Community Connections Inc.	Emma Anonetti, Settlement Worker	Shop 111 Epping Plaza, Cnr High & Cooper Streets Epping, VIC 3076 PH: (03) 94016666
VITS LanguageLink	Senada Softic General Manager	1st Floor, 371 Spencer Street, Melbourne, VIC PH: (03) 9280 1950
Ethiopian Community Association of Victoria	Representative	Ethiopian Community Association of Victoria, Office 1, 30a Pickett St. Footscray, VIC 3011 PH: (03)9689 3888
Northern Health	Tatjana Bharo Transcultural & Language Services Coordinator	185 Cooper St. Epping Mobile: 0409 405 257
Southern Health	Chief Interpreter	Southern Health, Dandenong & Casey Campuses David St, VIC 3175 PH: (03)95548860
Eastern Health	Lena Dimapoulos DHS Transcultural Services Coordinator (Transcultural Communication Project)	Eastern Health Transcultural Services Unit Clive Ward Centre, 16 Arnold Street, Box Hill, VIC 3128 PH: (03) 9881 1888 ext778
Northeast Health Wangaratta	Hospital Interpreter Project contact person	Northeast Health Wangaratta, Green St, WANGARATTA 3677 PH: (03)57220379
Peninsula Health	Contact person for Language Services Strategy Project	Peninsula Health PO Box 52 Frankston VIC 3199 PH: (03)9788 1441
New Hope Foundation Inc., South Central MRC	Settlement Worker	289 Barkly St. Footscray 3011 PH: (03) 93188488
Department of Human Services	Michal Morris, Senior Policy Advisor, Diversity Unit	Phone: 03 9616 7371

APPENDIX D: Summary Information on Languages from Ethnologue database (www.ethnologue.com)

Further detail and additional references and supporting material can be found in the Ethnologue database.

Acholi

A language of Uganda

ISO/DIS 639-3: ach

<i>Population</i>	746,796 in Uganda (1991 census). Population includes 12,089 speakers of Chopi, (1972 Ladefoged et al.). Population total all countries: 791,796.
<i>Region</i>	North central Acholi District. Also spoken in Sudan.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Acoli, Atscholi, Shuli, Gang, Lwo, Lwoo, Akoli, Acooli, Log Acoli, Dok Acoli
<i>Dialects</i>	Labwor, Nyakwai, Dhopaluo (Chopi, Chope).
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Western, Luo, Southern, Luo-Acholi, Alur-Acholi, Lango-Acholi</u>
<i>Language development</i>	Bible: 1986.
<i>Comments</i>	Ruhlen (1987) classifies Labwor as a separate language. Christian, traditional religion.

Also spoken in:

Sudan

<i>Language name</i>	Acholi
<i>Population</i>	45,000 in Sudan (2000).
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, Opari District, Acholi Hills.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Acoli, Atscholi, Shuli, Gang, Lwo, Akoli, Acooli, Log Acoli, Dok Acoli

Akan/Ashante

A language of Ghana

ISO/DIS 639-3: aka

<i>Population</i>	8,300,000 (2004 SIL). Population includes 2,800,000 Asante Twi, 1,900,000 Fante, 555,000 Akuapem Twi (2004). The Asante are south central, Ashanti Province. The Akuapem are southeast, in areas north of Accra. The Fante are south central, between Winneba, Takoradi, and Obuasi.
<i>Region</i>	Fante (Fanti, Mfantse), Akuapem (Akwapem Twi, Twi, Akuapim, Akwapi), Asante (Ashante Twi, Asanti, Achanti) , Agona, Dankyira, Asen, Akyem Bosome, Kwawu (Kwahu), Ahafo.
<i>Dialects</i>	

<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kwa, Nyo, Potou-Tano, Tano, Central, Akan</u>
<i>Language use</i>	1,000,000 second-language speakers.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in first language: 30% to 60%. Literacy rate in second language: 5% to 10%. Taught in primary and secondary schools. Roman script. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1871–1964.
<i>Comments</i>	The speech of the Asante and Akuapem is called 'Twi'. SVO.

Amharic

A language of [Ethiopia](#)

ISO/DIS 639-3: [amh](#)

<i>Population</i>	17,372,913 in Ethiopia (1998 census). 14,743,556 monolinguals. Population total all countries: 17,417,913. Ethnic population: 16,007,933 (1998 census).
<i>Region</i>	North central Ethiopia, Amhara Region, and in Addis Ababa. Also spoken in Egypt, Israel, Sweden.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Abyssinian, Ethiopian, Amarinya, Amarigna
<i>Classification</i>	Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, Ethiopian, South, Transversal, Amharic-Argobba
<i>Language use</i>	National language. 4,000,000 second-language speakers. Used in government, public media, national commerce, education to seventh grade in many areas, wide variety of literature (fiction, poetry, plays, magazines). Speakers also use English, Arabic, Oromo, or Tigrinya. Literacy rate in first language: 28.1%. Literacy rate in second language: 28.1%. Radio programs. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1840–1988.
<i>Comments</i>	People have suffered from recent famines. SOV; prepositions, postpositions, genitives, articles, and relatives precede noun heads; question word initial; case affixes; verb suffixes show person, number, gender of subject and (optionally) object; passives including deponents, causatives, CV, CVC, V, CVCC. Christian, Jewish.

Anuak

A language of [Sudan](#)

ISO/DIS 639-3: [anu](#)

<i>Population</i>	52,000 in Sudan (1991 UBS). Population total all countries: 97,646.
<i>Region</i>	Upper Nile Province, Pibor and Lower Akobo rivers. From Akobo Post to latitude 6.45N. Also spoken in Ethiopia.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Anywak, Anywa, Yambo, Jambo, Nuro, Anyuak, Dho Anywaa
<i>Dialects</i>	Closer to Acholi and Luo of Uganda than to Shilluk.

<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Western, Luo, Northern, Anuak</u>
<i>Language development</i>	NT: 1962–1965.
<i>Comments</i>	SVO; prepositions; tonal. Riverine. Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim.

Also spoken in:

Ethiopia

<i>Language name</i>	Anuak
<i>Population</i>	45,646 in Ethiopia (1998 census). 34,311 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 45,665 (1998 census).
<i>Region</i>	Gambela Region in the southwest. Along the Baro, Alworo, and Gilo rivers and on the right bank of the Akobo River. Gambela town is the main center.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Anywak, Anyuak, Anywa, Yambo, Jambo, Yembo, Bar, Burjin, Miroy, Moojanga, Nuro
<i>Dialects</i>	Adoyo, Coro, Lul, Opëno.
<i>Language use</i>	2,114 second-language users.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: 37%.
<i>Comments</i>	Agriculturalists: maize, sorghum; animal husbandry; fishermen; hunters. Traditional religion.

Arabic, Standard

A language of Saudi Arabia

ISO/DIS 639-3: arb

<i>Population</i>	206,000,000 first-language speakers of all Arabic varieties (1999 WA).
<i>Region</i>	Middle East, North Africa, other Muslim countries. Also spoken in Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian West Bank and Gaza, Qatar, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.
<i>Alternate names</i>	High Arabic, Al Fus-Ha, Al Arabiya
<i>Dialects</i>	Modern Standard Arabic (Modern Literary Arabic), Classical Arabic (Koranic Arabic, Quranic Arabic). Preserves the ancient grammar.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic</u>
<i>Language use</i>	National language. 246,000,000 second-language speakers of all Arabic varieties (1999 WA). Not a first language. Used for education, official purposes, written materials, and formal speeches. Classical Arabic is used for religion and ceremonial purposes, having archaic vocabulary. Modern Standard Arabic is a modernized variety of Classical Arabic. In most Arab countries

only the well educated have adequate proficiency in Standard Arabic, while over 100,500,000 do not.
Arabic script in Algeria. Newspapers. Radio programs. Dictionary. Bible: 1984–1991.
VSO.

Language development

Comments

Also spoken in:

Djibouti

Language name

Arabic, Standard

Language use

Official language.

Egypt

Language name

Arabic, Standard

Region

Middle East, North Africa.

Language use

Official language. Not a first language. Used for nearly all written materials and formal speeches. Taught in schools.

Eritrea

Language name

Arabic, Standard

Region

Middle East, North Africa.

Language use

Official language. Used in some schools.

Somalia

Language name

Arabic, Standard

Language use

National language. Most Somalis have very limited or no proficiency in Arabic.

Sudan

Language name

Arabic, Standard

Region

Middle East, North Africa.

Language use

Official language. Used for nearly all written materials and formal speeches. Not a first language, but taught in schools. Very little known and even less used in the south. Serious educational and sociolinguistic problems in the north also.

Comments

Not intelligible with Sudanese Spoken Arabic or Sudanese Creole Arabic.

Arabic, Sudanese Spoken

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: apd

<i>Population</i>	15,000,000 in Sudan (1991). Population total all countries: 18,986,000.
<i>Region</i>	Northern Sudan primarily. Also spoken in Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Khartoum Arabic
<i>Dialects</i>	Khartoum, Western Sudanese, North Kordofan Arabic, Ja'ali, Shukri.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, Central, South, Arabic</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Trade language.
<i>Language development</i>	NT: 1978.
<i>Comments</i>	Western Sudan Spoken Arabic, Juba Arabic, and Khartoum Arabic have little compatibility (Alan S. Kaye 1988). Muslim, Christian.

Arabic, Sudanese Creole ('Juba Arabic')

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: pga

<i>Population</i>	20,000 (1987).
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, in the towns and many villages all over Equatoria Region, and up into Bahr al Ghazal and Upper Nile regions. Refugees have gone to other countries.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Juba Arabic, Southern Sudan Arabic, Pidgin Arabic
<i>Dialects</i>	Difficult intelligibility of Nubi, Sudanese Arabic, or Modern Standard Arabic.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Creole, Arabic based</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Trade language. 44,000 second-language speakers. Used as the major language of communication among speakers of different languages in Equatoria, south of Wau and Malakal. Used in many religious services as first or second language in Juba and a few other towns. Most people in towns speak at least two languages, and it is common for them to speak Creole Arabic, English, and 1, 2, or 3 vernaculars.
<i>Language development</i>	Bible portions: 1983–1985.
<i>Comments</i>	SVO; tonal. Muslim, Christian.

Bari

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: bfa

Population 420,000 in Sudan (2000). Population includes 26,400 in Kuku, 18,000 in Nyangbara, 3,400 in Nyepu, 25,000 in Pojulu. Population total all countries: 480,000.

Region Southern Sudan, both banks of the Nile, south of Terakeka on the west bank, south of Mongalla on the east bank, as far as the Kajo Kaji Escarpment, from 5.30N on left bank, 5.15N on right bank to just south of latitude 4.15N. Also spoken in Uganda.

Alternate names Beri
Kuku, Nyangbara (Nyangwara, Nyambara), Nyepu (Nyefu, Nyepo, Nypho, Ngyepu), Pöjulu (Pajulu, Fadjulu, Fajelu, Madi), Ligo (Liggo). Lexical similarity 86% with Ngyepu, 85% with Pöjulu, 81% with Kuku, 80% with Nyangwara, 71% with Mondari, 73% with Kakwa.

Classification Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Eastern, Bari

Language development Grammar. Bible: 1979.

Comments Ethnic groups: Dupi (serfs), Kulu'ba, Liggi, Lui (free men), Tomonok (fishing, smithing). The Marshia (Marsanit) are professional smiths within the Bari group, who live in and around Rimo (Remo), and keep to themselves. Ethnic Bari in Democratic Republic of the Congo now speak a dialect of Logo, and not Bari. Plains, shallow ravines, mountain slope. Bushy, savannah, swamps, forests. 500 to 900 meters. Blacksmiths: iron ore; pastoralists: cattle, goats, sheep; agriculturalists: millet, eleusine, simsim, peanuts, cassava, sweet potatoes. Traditional religion.

Also spoken in:

Uganda

Language name Bari

Population 60,000 in Uganda.

Region Northwest corner.

Alternate names Beri

Dialects Kuku, Nyepu (Ngyepu, Nyefu, Nyepo, Nypho), Pöjulu (Pajulu, Fadjulu, Fajulu, Fajelu), Nyangbara (Nyangwara, Nyambara), Mondari (Mandari, Mundari).

Language use Trade language.

Bassa

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: bsq

<i>Population</i>	347,600 in Liberia (1991 Vanderaa). Population total all countries: 352,600.
<i>Region</i>	Grand Bassa, Rivercess, and Montserrado counties, central Liberia. Gbii overlaps into Nimba County. Also spoken in Sierra Leone.
<i>Dialects</i>	Gbor, Gba Sor, Mabahn, Hwen Gba Kon, Central Bassa, Rivercess Bassa.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Bassa</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Speakers also use Liberian English.
<i>Language development</i>	NT: 1970. Different from Bassa of Nigeria or Bassa (Basaa) of Cameroon.
<i>Comments</i>	Indigenous Vah script, developed around 1900 by Dr. Lewis, alphabetical, with tone marked, is still used by older men. SVO. Hills. Tropical forest, swamp. Agriculturalists: upland rice. Christian, traditional religion.

Also spoken in:

Sierra Leone

<i>Language name</i>	Bassa
<i>Population</i>	5,000 in Sierra Leone (1991 D. Slager).
<i>Region</i>	Freetown.
<i>Comments</i>	Traditional religion.

Dinka Varieties

Dinka, Northeastern

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: dip

<i>Population</i>	320,000 (1986 UBS). Population includes 7,200 Abialang, 9,000 Dongjol, 2,500 Luac, 16,000 Ngok-Sobat, 20,000 Jok, 13,500 Ageer, 2,000 Rut, 400 Thoi.
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, northeast of the Sudd, along both sides of the White Nile, and along the Sobat River.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Padang, White Nile Dinka
<i>Dialects</i>	Abiliang (Dinka Ibrahim, Akoon, Bawom, Bowom), Dongjol, Luac (Luaic), Ngok-Sobat (Ngork, Jok), Ageer (Ager, Ageir, Abuya,

	Beer, Niel, Nyel, Paloc, Paloic), Rut, Thoi. Lexical similarity 92% with Northwestern Dinka, 88% with Southwestern Dinka, 88% with Southeastern Dinka, 86% with South Central Dinka.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Western, Dinka-Nuer, Dinka</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Speakers also use Sudanese Arabic.
<i>Language development</i>	NT: 1952.
<i>Comments</i>	'Jaang' is a cover term for all Dinka languages. Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim.

Dinka, Northwestern

A language of Sudan

	ISO/DIS 639-3: <u>diw</u>
<i>Population</i>	80,000 (1986).
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, north of the Bahr el Ghazal River, and southern Kordofan around Abyei.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Ruweng Alor, Ngok-Kordofan, Pan Aru, Pawany. A separate language from other Dinka (J. Duerksen SIL). Lexical similarity 88% with Southwestern Dinka and Southeastern Dinka, 84% with South Central Dinka.
<i>Dialects</i>	
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Western, Dinka-Nuer, Dinka</u>

Dinka, South Central

A language of Sudan

	ISO/DIS 639-3: <u>dib</u>
<i>Population</i>	250,000. Population includes 2,000 Aker, 2,000 Thany, 22,000 Ciec, 25,000 Gok (Tucker and Bryan). (Total Dinka 2,000,000 or more).
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, west of the Nile, south of the Sudd. Aker is southeast of the Agar; Aliap is south of the Bor in a few fishing villages mainly on the east bank of the Nile. Ciec is in Lakes District on the west bank of the Nile. Gok is between the Agar and the Rek in Jur River and Lakes districts.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Agar, Central Dinka Aliap (Aliab, Thany, Aker), Ciec (Ciem, Cic, Chiech, Kwac, Ajak, Ador), Gok (Gauk, Cok), Agar. Gok is also influenced by Southwestern Dinka and has a number of Arabic loans. Agar is becoming accepted as the educational standard for South Central Dinka. Lexical similarity 90% with Southeastern Dinka.
<i>Dialects</i>	

<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Western, Dinka-Nuer, Dinka</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Speakers also use Sudanese Arabic.
<i>Language development</i>	Bible portions: 1866–1916.
<i>Comments</i>	Pastoralists; agriculturalists: grain, corn, peanuts, beans. Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim.

Dinka, Southeastern

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: dks

<i>Population</i>	250,000. Population includes 21,000 Atoc, 9,000 Ghol, 4,000 Nyarueng, 35,000 Twi, 21,000 Bor Gok (Tucker and Bryan). 500,000 including South Central (Agar) and Southeastern (Bor) (1982 UBS).
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, east of the Nile, around Bor, and northwards.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Bor, Eastern Dinka
<i>Dialects</i>	Bor (Bor Gok), Athoc (Athoic, Atoc, Borathoi, Bor Athoic), Ghol, Nyarweng (Nyarueng, Narreweng), Tuic (Twi).
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Western, Dinka-Nuer, Dinka</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Sudanese Arabic is the second language. Speakers of some dialects also speak Nuer Gewaar and Nuer Lou.
<i>Language development</i>	NT: 1940.
<i>Comments</i>	Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim.

Dinka, Southwestern

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: dik

<i>Population</i>	450,000 (1982 UBS). Population includes 55,000 Abiem, 15,000 Luac, 40,000 Malual, 17,000 Paliet, 35,000 Palioupiny, 50,000 Tuic.
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, north and northwest of Wau.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Rek, Western Dinka
<i>Dialects</i>	Rek (Raik), Abiem (Ajong Dit, Ajong Thi, Akany Kok, Akern Jok, Apuoth, Apwoth, Anei), Aguok (Agwok), Apuk, Awan, Lau, Luac, Malual (Malwal, Atoktou, Duliit, Korok, Makem, Peth), Paliet (Baliet, Ajak, Buoncwai, Bon Shwai, Bwoncwai, Kongder, Kondair, Thany Bur, Tainbour), Palioupiny (Palioping, Akjuet, Akwang, Ayat, Cimel, Gomjuer), Tuic (Twic, Twich, Twij, Adhiang, Amioli, Nyang, Thon). Luac dialect is different from Luac dialect in Northeastern Dinka. Lexical similarity 89% with

<i>Classification</i>	South Central Dinka, 90% with Southeastern Dinka. <u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Western, Dinka-Nuer, Dinka</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Speakers also use Sudanese Arabic.
<i>Comments</i>	Animal husbandry: cattle. Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim.

English

A language of United Kingdom

ISO/DIS 639-3: eng

Population

55,000,000 in United Kingdom (1984). 508,000,000 including second-language speakers (1999 WA). Population total all countries: 309,352,280.

Region

Also spoken in American Samoa, Andorra, Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Botswana, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cayman Islands, China, Cook Islands, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Finland, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Gibraltar, Greece, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guam, Guyana, Honduras, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, South Korea, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia (Peninsular), Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Montserrat, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nigeria, Niue, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Pitcairn, Puerto Rico, Rwanda, Saint Helena, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tanzania, Tokelau, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, USA, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Classification

Indo-European, Germanic, West, English

Language use

National language.

Language development

Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1382–2002.

Comments

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; nontonal. Island, plains, hills. Deciduous forest. Industrial workers, fishermen; craftsman. Christian.

Also spoken in:

Eritrea

<i>Language name</i>	English
<i>Language use</i>	National language.
<i>Comments</i>	Language of higher education and many technical fields.

Ethiopia

<i>Language name</i>	English
<i>Population</i>	1,986 in Ethiopia (1998 census).
<i>Language use</i>	Official language. 169,726 second-language users. Language of higher education, many technical fields, and international communication.

Liberia

<i>Language name</i>	English
<i>Population</i>	69,000 in Liberia (1993).
<i>Dialects</i>	Liberian Standard English.
<i>Language use</i>	Official language.

Sierra Leone

<i>Language name</i>	English
<i>Language use</i>	Official language. Used in administration, law, education, commerce.

Somalia

<i>Language name</i>	English
<i>Language use</i>	Official language. Used more in the north.

Tanzania

<i>Language name</i>	English
<i>Language use</i>	Official language. Second-language speakers in Tanzania: 1,500,000 (1977 Voegelin and Voegelin). Used by some Asian residents as first language.
<i>Language development</i>	Taught in primary schools. Used as medium of instruction in secondary schools and universities.

Uganda

<i>Language name</i>	English
<i>Language use</i>	Official language. Second-language speakers: 1,000,000 in Uganda (1977 Voegelin and Voegelin). Used in primary schools, law courts.

French

A language of France

ISO/DIS 639-3: fra

Population

51,000,000 in France. Population total all countries: 64,858,311.

Also spoken in Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, French Guiana, French Polynesia, Gabon, Guadeloupe, Guinea, Haiti, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Martinique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Monaco, Morocco, New Caledonia, Niger, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Réunion, Rwanda, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.

Region

Alternate names

Français

Classification

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

Language use

National language. 50,000,000 second-language speakers.

Language development

Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1530–2000.

Comments

SVO. Deciduous forest. 80 meters. Intensive agriculturalists; industry workers, marketers. Christian.

Also spoken in:

Burundi

Language name

French

Population

2,200 in Burundi (2004).

Language use

Official language.

Côte d'Ivoire

Language name

French

Population

17,470 in Côte d'Ivoire (1988 census).

Language use

Official language.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Language name

French

Language use

Official language.

Language development

Taught in secondary schools.

Fula/Pular

A language of Guinea

ISO/DIS 639-3: [fuf](#)

<i>Population</i>	2,550,000 in Guinea (1991 Vanderaa). Population total all countries: 2,915,784.
<i>Region</i>	Northwest, Fouta Djallon area. Also spoken in Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Fuuta Jalon, Futa Jallon, Fouta Dyalon, Fulbe, Fullo Fuuta, Futa Fula, Foula Fouta, Fulfulde Jalon, Jalon Kebu Fula, Fula Peta. Different enough from Pulaar in Senegal to need separate literature. In Sierra Leone, recent immigrants from Guinea speak the original Futa Jalon or the Kebu dialect (Dalby 1962). It is intelligible with Fula Peta of Guinea and with dialects of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Senegal. A slightly modified form of Futa Jalon is known as Krio Fula with many loans from Sierra Leone languages.
<i>Dialects</i>	
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fulani-Wolof, Fula, West Central</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Official regional language. Many monolinguals. Eastern Maninkakan and Susu used as second language by others.
<i>Language development</i>	Grammar. Bible portions: 1929–1986.
<i>Comments</i>	Heavy borrowing from Arabic. Guinea has had an extensive literature in Pular, but little still exists. Muslim, Christian.

Also spoken in:

Sierra Leone

<i>Language name</i>	Pular
<i>Population</i>	178,400 in Sierra Leone (1991).
<i>Region</i>	Throughout the country but especially in the north.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Fuuta Jalon, Futa Jallon, Fouta Dyalon, Fulbe, Fullo Fuuta, Futa Fula
<i>Dialects</i>	Krio Fula, Kebu Fula.
<i>Comments</i>	People live in settled and migrant communities. Muslim.

Fur

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: [fvr](#)

<i>Population</i>	500,000 in Sudan (1983 Bender). Population total all countries: 501,800.
<i>Region</i>	Northern Sudan, Dar Fur. Also spoken in Chad.

<i>Alternate names</i>	For, Fora, Fordunga, Furawi, Furakang, Forta, Forok, Konjara, Kungara, Yerge, Onage, Korra, Kadirgi, Kurka, Dala, Lali
<i>Dialects</i>	Largely uniform with some dialect differences.
<i>Classification</i>	Nilo-Saharan, Fur
<i>Language use</i>	Those in urban situations are shifting to Arabic.
<i>Language development</i>	Grammar.
<i>Comments</i>	SOV. Mountain slope, foothills, lowland. Agriculturalists: millet, sorghum, peanuts, vegetables, spices, fruit; animal husbandry: cattle. Muslim.

Also spoken in:

[Chad](#)

<i>Language name</i>	Fur
<i>Population</i>	1,800 in Chad.
<i>Alternate names</i>	For, Four, Konjara, Kondjara
<i>Language development</i>	Orthography developed and literacy materials in use.
<i>Comments</i>	Several small groups. Muslim.

Gio/Dan (called Gio in Liberia)

A language of Côte d'Ivoire

ISO/DIS 639-3: [daf](#)

<i>Population</i>	800,000 in Cote d'Ivoire (1993 SIL). Population includes 400,000 in Eastern Dan, 400,000 in western Dan. Population total all countries: 951,600.
<i>Region</i>	Prefectures of Man (except Kouibly and Facoubly), Danané, Biankouma (except Toura), plus 19 villages in the Prefecture of Touba. Also spoken in Guinea, Liberia.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Yacouba, Yakuba, Da, Gio, Gio-Dan Gweetaawu (Eastern Dan), Blowo (Western Dan). At least 38 subdialects. In Liberia speakers in Garplay understood Côte d'Ivoire Yacouba dialect tapes as follows: Danane, Koulinle, Kale: very well; Blossse: quite well; Bloundo: reasonably well; dialects east of Blouno: considerable difficulty (M. Bolli SIL 1971).
<i>Dialects</i>	
<i>Classification</i>	Niger-Congo, Mande, Eastern, Southeastern, Guro-Tura, Tura-Dan-Mano, Tura-Dan
<i>Language use</i>	Speakers also use Jula or French.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in first language: 1% or more. Literacy rate in second language: 25% to 50%. NT: 1981–1993. Called 'Gio' in Liberia. Some form of whistle speech reported.
<i>Comments</i>	Agriculturalists: rice, manioc, coffee, cocoa. Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim, other.

Also spoken in:

Liberia

<i>Language name</i>	Dan
<i>Population</i>	150,800 to 200,000 in Liberia (1993 SIL).
<i>Region</i>	Nimba County, north central Liberia.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Yacouba, Yakuba, Gio, Gyo, Da, Gio-Dan
<i>Dialects</i>	Upper Gio, Lower Gio, River Cess Gio.
<i>Comments</i>	Traditional religion.

Grebo Varieties

Grebo, Barclayville

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: gry

<i>Population</i>	23,700 (1991 Vanderaa). 387,000 all Grebo languages in Liberia (2001 Johnstone and Mandryk).
<i>Region</i>	Grand Gedeh County. Southeast coast and inland, between Klao and Jabo Grebo.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Wedebo Grebo
<i>Dialects</i>	Wedebo, Kplebo. A dialect cluster. Dialects are quite distinct. Many phonological differences with Jabo, which would make literacy difficult if they were combined.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Liberian</u>
<i>Language use</i>	They identify with Klao, but understand Grebo better. There are strong ethnocentric attitudes between subgroups.
<i>Comments</i>	Traditional religion.

Grebo, Central

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: grv

<i>Population</i>	29,131 (2000 WCD).
<i>Region</i>	Eastern border, including Barrobo.
<i>Dialects</i>	Globo, Nyenebo, Dorobo, Borobo, Trembo. Distinct from Gboloo. Dialects may be quite distinct.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Liberian</u>
<i>Comments</i>	Traditional religion.

Grebo, Gboloo

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: gec

<i>Population</i>	56,300 (1991 Vanderaa).
<i>Region</i>	Eastern Province, Maryland County, eastern border, north of Jabo Grebo.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Gboloo, Gblou Grebo
<i>Dialects</i>	Gederobo, Nyanoun, Tuobo, Biabo, Dediebo.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Liberian</u>
<i>Comments</i>	Tropical forest. Traditional religion.

Grebo, Northern

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: gbo

<i>Population</i>	84,500 (1999 LBT).
<i>Region</i>	Southeast, Grand Gedeh, Maryland, and Kru Coast counties near the Côte d'Ivoire border, south of Krahn, north of Klao, west of Glaro.
<i>Dialects</i>	Chedepo, E Je (Eh Je), Palipo, Gbepo (Gbeapo), Jedepo, Tienpo, Klepo, Fopo-Bua, Northeastern Grebo. Dialect cluster. Dialects are quite distinct. Subdialects of Northeastern dialect are Nitiabo, Sabo, Tuobo, Ketiepo, Webo.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Liberian</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Ethnocentric attitudes are strong between different subgroups.
<i>Language development</i>	NT: 1989.
<i>Comments</i>	Traditional religion.

Grebo, Southern

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: grj

<i>Population</i>	28,700 in Liberia (1999 LBT).
<i>Region</i>	Eastern Province, Grand Gedeh and Maryland counties, southeastern coast and inland. Also spoken in Côte d'Ivoire.
<i>Dialects</i>	Glebo (Seaside Grebo), Jabo, Nyabo, Wrelpo. A dialect cluster. Dialects are quite distinct.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Liberian</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Ethnocentric attitudes are strong between subgroups.
<i>Comments</i>	Traditional religion.

Also spoken in:

Côte d'Ivoire

<i>Language name</i>	Grebo, Southern
<i>Dialects</i>	Seaside Grebo.
<i>Comments</i>	Mainly refugees in Côte d'Ivoire. Traditional religion.

Harari

A language of Ethiopia

ISO/DIS 639-3: har

<i>Population</i>	21,283 (1998 census). 2,351 monolinguals. 20,000 in Addis Ababa, outside Harar city (Hetzron 1997:486). Ethnic population: 21,757 (1998 census).
<i>Region</i>	Homeland Eastern, traditionally within the walled city of Harar. Large communities in Addis Ababa, Nazareth, and Dire Dawa.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Hararri, Adare, Adere, Aderinya, Adarinnya, Gey Sinan
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, Ethiopian, South, Transversal, Harari-East Gurage</u>
<i>Language use</i>	7,766 second-language speakers. Positive language attitude.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in first language: below 1%. Literacy rate in second language: 81.3%. Dictionary.
<i>Comments</i>	SOV. Muslim.

Kakwa

A language of Uganda

ISO/DIS 639-3: keo

<i>Population</i>	86,472 in Uganda (1991 census). Population total all countries: 146,472.
<i>Region</i>	Northwest corner, West Nile District. Also spoken in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Bari Kakwa, Kakua, Kwakwak
<i>Dialects</i>	Dialects of Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Uganda differ little (Nida). Very different from other Eastern Nilotic languages of Uganda.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Eastern, Bari</u>
<i>Language use</i>	People are friendly with the Toposa; unfriendly to the Turkana.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy campaign in progress. Radio programs. Bible: 1983.
<i>Comments</i>	Christian, traditional religion.

Also spoken in:

Democratic Republic of the Congo

<i>Language name</i>	Kakwa
<i>Population</i>	20,000 in Democratic Republic of the Congo.
<i>Region</i>	Oriente Province, Aru Territory, north of Aru, and Faradje Territory.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Bari Kakwa
<i>Comments</i>	Christian.

Sudan

<i>Language name</i>	Kakwa
<i>Population</i>	40,000 in Sudan (1978 SIL).
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, Yei District, extending into Democratic Republic of the Congo in the west at Aba and in the south around Mahagi.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Bari Kakwa, Kakua, Kwakwak, Kakwak
<i>Comments</i>	Agriculturalists: maize, eleusine, peanuts, simsim, sweet potatoes, cassava, honey; pastoralists: goats, few sheep, cattle. Christian, traditional religion.

Kisi Varieties

Kisi, Southern

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: kss

<i>Population</i>	115,000 in Liberia (1995). Population total all countries: 200,000.
<i>Region</i>	Lofa County, extreme northwest corner of Liberia. Also spoken in Sierra Leone.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Kissi, Gizi, Gisi, Kissien
<i>Dialects</i>	Luangkori, Tengia, Warn. Different from Northern Kissi of Guinea.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Mel, Bullom-Kissi, Kissi</u>
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: 20%. NT: 1991.
<i>Comments</i>	Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim.

Also spoken in:

Sierra Leone

<i>Language name</i>	Kisi, Southern
<i>Population</i>	85,000 in Sierra Leone (1995).
<i>Alternate names</i>	Kisi, Gissi, Kissien
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: 3%.
<i>Comments</i>	Different from Northern Kissi. Traditional religion, Muslim, Christian.

Kissi, Northern

A language of Guinea

ISO/DIS 639-3: kqs

<i>Population</i>	286,500 in Guinea (1991 Vanderaa). Population total all countries: 326,500.
<i>Region</i>	South central, Kissidougou Region. Also spoken in Sierra Leone.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Gizi, Kisi, Kissien, Kisie
<i>Dialects</i>	Liaro, Kama, Teng, Tung. Close to Sherbro. Southern Kissi of Liberia and Sierra Leone is different.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Mel, Bullom-Kissi, Kissi</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Official regional language.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: 10% in French. Literacy materials taught in school. Grammar. NT: 1966–1986.
<i>Comments</i>	Many loanwords from Malinke. Traditional religion, Muslim, Christian.

Also spoken in:

Sierra Leone

<i>Language name</i>	Kissi, Northern
<i>Population</i>	40,000 in Sierra Leone (1991 LBT).
<i>Alternate names</i>	Gizi, Kisi, Kissien, Kisie
<i>Dialects</i>	Liaro, Kama, Teng, Tung.
<i>Language use</i>	Speakers also use Krio or Mende.
<i>Comments</i>	Traditional religion.

Kpelle, Liberia

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: xpe

<i>Population</i>	487,400 (1991 Vanderaa).
<i>Region</i>	Central.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Kpele, Gbese, Pessa, Pessy, Kpwessi
<i>Dialects</i>	Dialect differences are slight. Different enough from Kpelle of Guinea to need separate literature.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Southwestern, Kpelle</u>
<i>Language development</i>	NT: 1967.
<i>Comments</i>	Largest group in Liberia. Traditional religion, Christian.

Krahn Varieties

Krahn, Eastern

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: kqo

<i>Population</i>	47,000 (1991 L. Vanderaa CRC). Population includes 20,000 Tchien (1992 UBS).
<i>Region</i>	Northeast near Côte d'Ivoire border.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Eastern Kran, Kran Gorbo, Kanneh, Konobo, Tchien (Chiehn). Minimal intelligibility between some dialects and Twabo. Distinct from Western Krahn, Sapo, and Central Guéré. Lexical similarity 93% between Gorbo and Kanneh, 87% between Gorbo and Konobo.
<i>Dialects</i>	
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Wee,</u>

Konobo

Language development Bible portions: 1953–1994.
Comments Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim.

Krahn, Western

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: krw

Population 47,800 in Liberia (1991). Population total all countries: 60,000.

Region Near the border of Côte d'Ivoire, Grand Gedeh County. Also spoken in Côte d'Ivoire.

Alternate names Krahn, Northern Krahn, Western Kran, Kran

Dialects Gbo, Gbaeson (Gbaision, Gbarzon), Plo, Biai, Gbarbo, Gborbo (Gbobo), Kpeaply. Dialects in Côte d'Ivoire have French influences.

Classification Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Wee, Guere-Krahn

Language development Côte d'Ivoire orthography differs from Liberia. NT: 1992–1995.

Comments Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim.

Also spoken in:

Côte d'Ivoire

Language name Krahn, Western

Population 12,200 in Côte d'Ivoire (1993 SIL).

Region Western Côte d'Ivoire, around Toulépleu.

Alternate names Krahn, Northern Krahn

Dialects Pewa (Peewa), Biai.

Language development Literacy rate in first language: below 1%. Literacy rate in second language: 25% to 50%.

Comments There are influences from local French, but in Liberia from Liberian English. There are orthographic differences from that of Liberia. Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim.

Krio

A language of Sierra Leone

ISO/DIS 639-3: kri

Population 472,600 in Sierra Leone (1993). Population total all countries: 481,600.

Region Communities in Freetown, on the Peninsula, on the Banana Islands, York Island, in Bonthe, by de-tribalized Sierra Leoneans and as the lingua franca throughout the country. Also spoken in

<i>Alternate names</i>	Gambia, Guinea, Senegal. Creole, Patois
<i>Dialects</i>	Aku. Krio and Jamaican Creole, and Krio and Sea Islands Creole may have some interintelligibility.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Creole, English based, Atlantic, Krio</u> Language of wider communication. Vigorous. Spoken more in provincial towns than in villages, and for interethnic communication. Possibly half the speakers use Krio in their workplace. It is the formal language for those who do not speak English. Second-language users prefer their indigenous languages for informal situations. Possibly 4,000,000 are second-language users (1987 F. Jones). All domains, education. Dominant language of the younger generation.
<i>Language use</i>	Literacy rate in second language: Fewer than 15% in English.
<i>Language development</i>	Taught as an elective from primary to college level. NT: 1986–1992.
<i>Comments</i>	First-language Krio speakers are mainly descendants of repatriated slaves from Jamaica. There is linguistic influence from Yoruba (I. Hancock 1987). Traditional religion, Christian.

Kru(men) Varieties

Krumen, Tepo

A language of Côte d'Ivoire

ISO/DIS 639-3: ted

<i>Population</i>	28,300 in Côte d'Ivoire (1993 SIL). All Krumen: 48,300 (1993 SIL). Population total all countries: 31,213.
<i>Region</i>	Southwest corner of Côte d'Ivoire, subprefectures of Tabou and Grabo. Glawlo dialect is in Liberia. Also spoken in Liberia.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Southern Krumen, Southwestern Kroumen, Krumen, Kroumen, Kru
<i>Dialects</i>	Tepo, Bapo, Wlopo (Ropo), Dapo, Honpo, Yrepo (Kapo), Glawlo.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Ivorian</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Speakers also use French or Jula.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in first language: 1% to 5%. Literacy rate in second language: 25% to 50%. Grammar. NT: 1995.
<i>Comments</i>	Christian, traditional religion, Muslim, other.

Also spoken in:

Liberia

<i>Language name</i>	Krumen, Tepo
<i>Population</i>	2,913 in Liberia (2000 WCD).
<i>Region</i>	Glawlo dialect is in southeastern Liberia. Other dialects are in southwestern Côte d'Ivoire.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Southern Krumen, Krumen, Kroumen, Kru
<i>Dialects</i>	Tepo, Bapo, Plapo, Wlopo (Ropo), Dapo, Honpo, Yrepo (Kapo), Glawlo.
<i>Comments</i>	Traditional religion.

Krumen, Pye

A language of Côte d'Ivoire

ISO/DIS 639-3: <u>pye</u>	
<i>Population</i>	20,000 (1993 SIL). All Krumen: 48,300 (1993 SIL).
<i>Region</i>	Southwestern Côte d'Ivoire between San Pedro and Tai, subprefectures of Tai, Bereby, and part of San Pedro.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Kroumen, Southeastern Krumen, Northeastern Krumen
<i>Dialects</i>	Trepo, Wluwe-Hawlo (Haoulo), Gbowe-Hran, Wlepo, Dugbo, Yrewe (Giriwe), Yapo, Pie (Pye, Pie-Pli-Mahon-Kuse-Gblapo-Henekwe).
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Kru, Western, Grebo, Ivorian</u>
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in first language: below 1%. Literacy rate in second language: 25% to 50%.
<i>Comments</i>	Christian, traditional religion, Muslim, other.

Liberian English

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: <u>lir</u>	
<i>Population</i>	No estimate available.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Liberian Pidgin English
<i>Dialects</i>	Kru Pidgin English. Regional dialects.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Pidgin, English based, Atlantic</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Trade language. 1,500,000 second-language speakers (1984 census). Used as a second language for communication between different language groups.
<i>Language development</i>	Radio programs.
<i>Comments</i>	As different from Standard English as is Sierra Leone Krio. Repidginized from American Black English of the 1800s (J. Holm).

Lingala

A language of Democratic Republic of the Congo

ISO/DIS 639-3: lin

<i>Population</i>	2,037,929 in Democratic Republic of the Congo (2000 WCD). Second-language speakers together with Bangala in Democratic Republic of the Congo: 7,000,000 (1999 WA). Population total all countries: 2,139,202.
<i>Region</i>	Widely used in Bandundu, Equateur, and Orientale provinces, except the southeast of Orientale. Also spoken in Central African Republic, Congo.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Ngala
<i>Dialects</i>	Close to Lusengo and Bangala. Lexical similarity 33% with Bobangi.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Northwest, C, Bangi-Ntomba (C.40), Lusengo</u>
<i>Language use</i>	National language. Variation in communities.
<i>Language development</i>	Dictionary. Bible: 1970–2000.
<i>Comments</i>	SVO.

Loma

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: lom

<i>Population</i>	141,800 (1991 Vanderaa).
<i>Region</i>	Northwest Liberia Loffa County, border area.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Looma, Loghoma, Lorma, "Buzi", "Busy", "Bouze"
<i>Dialects</i>	Gizima, Wubomei, Ziema, Bunde, Buluyiema. Distinct enough from Toma of Guinea to need separate literature.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Southwestern, Mende-Loma, Loma</u>
<i>Language development</i>	Literature and literacy program in progress. NT: 1971.
<i>Comments</i>	"Buzi" is an offensive name. Different from Loma of Côte d'Ivoire. Traditional religion, Christian.

Lopit

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: lpx

<i>Population</i>	50,000 (1995 Scott Randal).
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<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, eastern Equatoria Province, Lopit Hills, northeast of Torit.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Loppit, Lopid, Lofit, Lafite, Lafit, Lafiit
<i>Dialects</i>	Lexical similarity 63% with Otuhó.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Eastern, Lotuxo-Teso, Lotuxo-Maa, Lotuxo</u>
<i>Comments</i>	Blacksmiths; swidden agriculturalists; animal husbandry: cattle.

Luwo

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: lwo

<i>Population</i>	80,000 (1983 census).
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, Bahr el Ghazal, north of Wau toward Aweil, southeast of Wau as far as Tonj.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Lwo, Jur Luo, Jur Lwo, Jo Lwo, Dhe Lwo, Dhe Luwo, Giur
<i>Dialects</i>	Different from Lwo of Uganda, or Luo of Kenya and Tanzania, but related.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Western, Luo, Northern, Jur</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Vigorous. Thuri speakers sometimes use Luwo as second language. All domains, local administration, some use in schools, churches. Positive language attitude. Speakers also use Dinka, English, or Arabic.
<i>Language development</i>	NT: 2003.
<i>Comments</i>	Forest. Agriculturalists. Traditional religion, Christian.

Maay

A language of Somalia

ISO/DIS 639-3: ymm

<i>Population</i>	594,520 (2000 WCD). 700,000 to 1,500,000 including the Digil dialects or languages.
<i>Region</i>	Southern Somalia, Gedo Region, Middle and Lower Shabeelle, Middle and Lower Jubba, Baay, and Bakool regions.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Af-Maay Tiri, Af-Maay, Af-May, Af-Maymay, Rahanween, Rahanweyn
<i>Dialects</i>	Af-Helledi. It may be more than one language; the dialects form a continuum. Standard Somali is difficult or unintelligible to Maay speakers, except for those who have learned it through mass communications, urbanization, and internal movement. Different sentence structure and phonology from Somali. The Rahanwiin (Rahanweyn) clan confederacy speak various Maay dialects or

<i>Classification</i>	languages. Af-Helledi is a Maay secret language used by hunters. <u>Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Somali</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Used by the Tunni, Jiiddu, Garre, and Dabarre as second language.
<i>Comments</i>	Little travel. Muslim.

Ma'di

A language of Uganda

ISO/DIS 639-3: mhi

<i>Population</i>	130,558 in Uganda (1991 census). Population total all countries: 148,558.
<i>Region</i>	Northwestern Sudan border area near Nimule, West Nile District, Madi Province, Madi Subdistrict, and Madi County. Moyo is in the west, Adjumani in the east. Also spoken in Sudan.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Ma'adi, Ma'diti
<i>Dialects</i>	Moyo, Adjumani (Oyuwi).
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Central Sudanic, East, Moru-Madi, Southern</u>
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy campaign in progress. Newspapers. Radio programs. NT: 1977.

Also spoken in:

Sudan

<i>Language name</i>	Ma'di
<i>Population</i>	18,000 in Sudan (1982 SIL).
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, Equatoria Province, Madi Subdistrict, Opari District, West Nile District.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Ma'adi, Ma'diti
<i>Dialects</i>	Pandikeri, Lokai, Burulo.

Mandingo (most likely languages/ varieties)

Manya

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: mzi

<i>Population</i>	45,400 in Liberia (1991 Vanderaa). Population total all countries: 70,400.
<i>Region</i>	Also spoken in Guinea.

<i>Alternate names</i>	Manya Kan, Mandingo
<i>Dialects</i>	Lexical similarity 70% with Konyanka, 66% with Eastern Maninkakan.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-East, Southeastern Manding</u>
<i>Comments</i>	Muslim, Christian.

Maninkakan, Eastern

A language of Guinea

ISO/DIS 639-3: emk

<i>Population</i>	1,890,000 in Guinea (1986). Population includes 73,500 Wasulu. Population total all countries: 2,013,800.
<i>Region</i>	Central, Kankan Region, all over upper Guinea, and the forest region near Liberia. Also spoken in Liberia, Sierra Leone.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Maninka, Mande, Southern Maninka, Kankan Maninka, Eastern Malinke Bö, Amana (Kourousa), Koulounkalan, Maninka-Mori (Mori), Wasulu (Wassulu, Wassulunka, Wassulunke). Maninka of Liberia is the same as Maninka of Guinea (Eastern Maninkakan), Bambara of Mali and parts of Senegal is not vastly different. Eastern
<i>Dialects</i>	Maninkakan of Côte d'Ivoire is close to Bambara; Western Maninkakan of south central and southeast Senegal is considerably different. Wasulu is a dialect of Eastern Maninkakan in Guinea, but of Bambara in Mali. Eastern Maninkakan has 92% lexical similarity with Wasulu, 79% with Sankaran, 72% with Konyanka.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-East, Southeastern Manding</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Official regional language.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy materials taught in school. Nko script. Dictionary. NT: 1932–1966.
<i>Comments</i>	Nko script is popular, created in 1948 by Sulemana Kante, with about 50 publications, and schools teaching it. Muslim.

Also spoken in:

Sierra Leone

<i>Language name</i>	Maninkakan, Eastern
<i>Population</i>	90,000 in Sierra Leone (1989 J. Kaiser).
<i>Region</i>	Kabala area and small groups throughout the country.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Mandingo , Madingo, Mande, Maninka-Mori, Southern Maninka, Kankan Maninka, Eastern Malinke

Language use Trade language.
Comments Traders. Muslim.

Mandinka

A language of Senegal

ISO/DIS 639-3: mnk

Population 606,645 in Senegal (2002). Population total all countries: 1,214,345.
Region Southeastern and south central. Also spoken in Gambia, Guinea-Bissau.
Alternate names Manding, Mandingo, Mandingue, Mandingue, Mande, Socé Mandinka, Eastern Maninkakan, and Malinke are separate languages. Lexical similarity 79% with Kalanke, 75% with Jahanka, 70% with Kassonke, 59% with Malinke, 53% with Mori, 48% with Bambara.
Dialects Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-West
Classification Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Manding-Mokole, Manding, Manding-West
Language use Official language.
Language development Literacy rate in first language: below 1%. NT: 1989.
Comments Muslim.

Also spoken in:

Gambia

Language name Mandinka
Population 453,500 in Gambia (2002).
Region Most of the western half of Gambia.
Alternate names Mandingue, Mandingo, Manding, Mandé, Socé
Language use The main language of middle Gambia.
Language development Literacy rate in second language: 50% in Mandinka in Arabic script.
Comments Muslim.

Guinea-Bissau

Language name Mandinka
Population 154,200 in Guinea-Bissau (2002).
Region North central, central, and northeastern.
Alternate names Mandinga, Mandingue, Mandingo, Mandingue, Manding
Comments Muslim.

Mann/Mano

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: mey

Population 185,000 in Liberia (1995). Population total all countries: 256,022.

Region Nimba County, north central Liberia. Also spoken in Guinea.

Alternate names Maa, Mah, Mano, Mawe

Classification Niger-Congo, Mande, Eastern, Southeastern, Guro-Tura, Tura-Dan-Mano, Mano

Language development NT: 1978.

Comments Traditional religion, Christian.

Moro

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: mor

Population 30,000 (1982 SIL).

Region Northern Sudan, eastern Nuba Mountains, Kordofan Province.

Alternate names Dhimorong

Dialects Umm Dorein (Longorban), Umm Gabralla (Toberelda), Nderre, Laiyen, Nubwa, Ulba, Werria. Lexical similarity 75% with Tira (closest).

Classification Niger-Congo, Kordofanian, Heiban, West-Central, Western

Language development NT: 1965–1994.

Murle

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: mur

Population 60,000 in Sudan (1982 SIL). Population total all countries: 60,200.

Region Southern Sudan, Upper Nile Province, Pibor District, south of the Akobo River, Boma Plateau, and to east and north. Also spoken in Ethiopia.

Alternate names Murelei, Merule, Mourle, Murule, Beir, Ajibba, Agiba, Adkibba
Related to Didinga. Subgroups: Lotilla, Boma, Olam (Ngalam).

Dialects Maacir may be a dialect or ethnic group. Lexical similarity 74% with Narim, 71% with Didinga.

Classification Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Eastern, Surmic, South, Southwest, Didinga-Murle, Murle

Language development Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1996.

Comments Ethnic groups: Lotilla, Boma, Olam (Ngalan). VSO,

postpositions; genitives and relatives follow noun heads; suffixes indicate case; question words final; verbal affixes (prefixes and suffixes) distinguish subject person and number. Riverine. Savannah. Seminomadic pastoralists. Traditional religion, Christian.

Nuer

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: nus

<i>Population</i>	740,000 in Sudan (1982 SIL). Population includes 2,935 Western Jikany, 12,500 Lou, 1,100 Nyuong, 2,500 Thiang, 5,900 Bul, 2,400 Jagai, 6,700 Laak, 4,900 Leik, 1,600 Door, 17,600 Eastern Jikany (1977 Voegelin and Voegelin). Population total all countries: 804,907.
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, east Upper Nile Province, in the region of Nasir on the upper Sobat River, in and around a triangle formed between Bahr el Zeraf and Bahr el Jebel, and extending up the Sobat River across the Ethiopian border. Also spoken in Ethiopia.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Naath, Naadh
<i>Dialects</i>	Dor (Door), Eastern Jikany (Jikain, Jekaing), Abigar, Western Jikany, Cien, Thognaath (Thok Nath), Lou (Lau), Nyuong, Thiang (Bul, Gawaar, Jagai, Laak, Leik). Dialects correspond mainly to geographic divisions.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Western, Dinka-Nuer, Nuer</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Speakers also use Arabic.
<i>Language development</i>	Bible: 1999.
<i>Comments</i>	They call themselves 'Naath'. Severe disruption in residence patterns caused by fighting in Sudan and Ethiopia. Many are refugees or homeless (1991). Plains. Pastoralists: cattle; fishermen. Traditional religion, Christian.

Also spoken in:

Ethiopia

<i>Language name</i>	Nuer
<i>Population</i>	64,907 in Ethiopia (1998 census). 61,640 monolinguals. Ethnic population: 64,534 (1998 census).
<i>Region</i>	Along the Baro River, in Gambela Region.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Naath
<i>Dialects</i>	Eastern Nuer (Ji, Kany, Jikany, Door, Abigar).
<i>Language use</i>	1,122 second-language speakers. Speakers also use Arabic.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: 7.9%.

Comments 'Naath' is their name for themselves. Severe disruption in residence patterns caused by fighting in Ethiopia and Sudan. Many are refugees or homeless (1991). Traditional religion.

Nyanga

A language of Democratic Republic of the Congo

ISO/DIS 639-3: nyj

Population 150,000 (1994 census).

Region Nord-Kivu Province, Walikale Territory, Wanyanga Collectivité.

Alternate names Kinyanga, Inyanga

Inyanga, Ifuna, Ikumbure, Itiri. The dialects do not differ much.

Itiri appears to be the most divergent. The dialect around Bana-

Bangi is reported to be the best understood. Lexical similarity

Dialects 70% with Kwami, 57% with Hunde, 54% with Kanu, 50% with

Lega-Shabunda and Tembo, 45% with Nande, Lega-Mwenga,

and Bembe, 42% with Shi, 40% with Buyu and Zimba, 30% with

Komo.

Classification Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo,

Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, D, Nyanga (D.40)

Language use Many also use Congo Swahili.

Language development Literacy rate in second language: 20% to 30%.

Different from Nyanga-li. Agriculturalists: rice, beans, greens,

Comments manioc, tomato, onion, banana, avocado, papaya, pineapple,

mango. Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim.

Oromo Varieties

Oromo, Borana-Arsi-Guji

A language of Ethiopia

ISO/DIS 639-3: gax

<i>Population</i>	3,634,000 in Ethiopia. Population total all countries: 3,827,616.
<i>Region</i>	South Oromo Region. Also spoken in Kenya, Somalia.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Afan Oromo, Southern Oromo, "Galla", "Gallinya", "Galligna" Borana (Boran, Borena), Arsi (Arussi, Arusi), Guji (Gujji, Jemjem), Kereyu, Salale (Selale), Gabra (Gabbra, Gebra). Harar is closely related, but distinct enough to need separate literature.
<i>Dialects</i>	In Kenya, Gabra and Sakuye may have significant dialect and language attitude differences from the Boran dialect.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Oromo</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Oromo is viewed as one people speaking one language.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in first language: below 1%. Literacy rate in second language: 16%. Bible: 1995.
<i>Comments</i>	Called 'Borana' in Kenya. The name "Galla" is derogatory. SOV. Muslim, traditional religion.

Oromo, Eastern

A language of Ethiopia

ISO/DIS 639-3: hae

<i>Population</i>	4,526,000 (1998 census).
<i>Region</i>	Eastern and western Hararghe zone in northern Bale zone.
<i>Alternate names</i>	"Qotu" Oromo, Harar, Harer, "Qottu", "Quottu", "Qwottu", "Kwottu", Ittu
<i>Dialects</i>	Close to Borana Oromo, but divergent.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Oromo</u>
<i>Language use</i>	The Oromo view themselves as one people speaking one language. Speakers also use Amharic.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: 15%.
<i>Comments</i>	SOV. Muslim.

Oromo, West Central

A language of Ethiopia

ISO/DIS 639-3: gaz

<i>Population</i>	8,920,000 in Ethiopia (1998 census). Ethnic population: All ethnic Oromo are 30,000,000 in Ethiopia.
<i>Region</i>	Oromo Region, West and Central Ethiopia, and along the Rift Valley escarpment east of Dessie and Woldiya. Also spoken in Egypt.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Afan Oromo, Oromiffa, Oromoo, "Galla" Western Oromo, Central Oromo. Subdialects are Mecha
<i>Dialects</i>	(Maccha, Wellaga, Wallaga, Wollega), Raya, Wello (Wollo), Tulema (Tulama, Shoa, Shewa). Harar and Boran are different enough to need separate literature.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Oromo</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Trade language. Used by regional and national government, public media, national commerce, education to eighth grade, variety of literature. The Oromo are viewed as one people speaking one language.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in first language: 1% to 5%. Literacy rate in second language: 22.4%. Roman script. Newspapers. Radio programs. TV. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1899–1998.
<i>Comments</i>	SOV. Agriculturalists: variety of crops, spices, coffee; animal husbandry; miners; tourism; textiles; meat packing; refineries. Traditional religion (Waaqqefata), Christian, Muslim.

Otuho/Lotuka

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: lot

<i>Population</i>	135,000 (1977 Voegelin and Voegelin). Population includes Dongotono (1998), 2,500 Koriot, 1,000 Lomya.
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, Torit District, eastern Equatoria Province, east and southeast of the Luluba and the Lokoya.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Lotuko, Lotuho, Lotuxo, Lotuka, Lattuka, Latuko, Latuka, Latooka, Otuxo, Olotorit
<i>Dialects</i>	Koriok, Logiri (Logir), Lomya (Lomia), Lorwama, Lowudo (Loudo, Lauda), Logotok. Lexical similarity 64% with Lokoya, 63% with Lopit, 60% with Dongotono.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Eastern, Lotuxo-Teso, Lotuxo-Maa, Lotuxo</u>
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: 10%. NT: 1969.
<i>Comments</i>	Agriculturalists: millet, eleusine, maize, simsim, peanuts, sweet

potatoes, tobacco; pastoralists: cattle, sheep; hunters; fishermen.
Traditional religion, Christian, Muslim.

Rundi/Kirundi

A language of Burundi

ISO/DIS 639-3: [run](#)

<i>Population</i>	4,600,000 in Burundi (1986). Population total all countries: 4,850,903.
<i>Region</i>	Also spoken in Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Kirundi, Urundi
<i>Dialects</i>	Dialects of the Hutu and Tutsi are similar. Twa is distinct but all are inherently intelligible, and also intelligible with Kinyarwanda (Rwanda).
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, J, Rwanda-Rundi (J.60)</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Official language. Hima is an ethnic group speaking Rundi or Rwanda. Some speakers use Swahili as a lingua franca.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in first language: 55%. Bible: 1967.
<i>Comments</i>	Ethnic groups: Hutu 80% to 85%, Tutsi 14% to 15%, Twa (Gesera, pygmy) 1% (30,000; 1972 Barrett). Christian, traditional religion, Muslim; Twa: traditional religion, Christian.

Saho

A language of Eritrea

ISO/DIS 639-3: [ssy](#)

<i>Population</i>	180,000 in Eritrea (2001 Johnstone and Mandryk). Population total all countries: 202,759.
<i>Region</i>	Southern Eritrea. Also spoken in Ethiopia.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Sao, Shaho, Shoho, Shiho
<i>Dialects</i>	Very close to Afar. The Irob dialect is only in Ethiopia.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Saho-Afar</u>
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in first language: below 1%. Literacy rate in second language: below 5%. Dictionary. Bible portions: 1964.
<i>Comments</i>	Ethnic group names are Asa'orta, Hadu (Hazu), Miniferi. Nomadic. They do not accept outsiders. They have suffered from recent famines. SOV. Muslim, Christian.

Also spoken in:

Ethiopia

Language name Saho

<i>Population</i>	22,759 in Ethiopia (1998 census).
<i>Region</i>	Tigray.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Sao, Shaho, Shoho, Shiho
<i>Dialects</i>	Irob.
<i>Language use</i>	3,378 second-language speakers. They do not accept outsiders.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: High.
<i>Comments</i>	Ethnic group names are Asa'orta, Hadu (Hazu), Miniferi. They have suffered from recent famines. The Irob are not nomadic. Christian.

Shilluk

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: shk

<i>Population</i>	175,000 (1982 SIL).
<i>Region</i>	Southern Sudan, Upper Nile Province, between Nile and Kordofan Province boundary, from Latitude 11 in the north to about 80 miles west of Tonga; also on the east bank of the Nile around the junction of the Nile and Sobat rivers, and for about 20 miles up the Sobat River.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Colo, Dhocolo, Chulla, Shulla
<i>Dialects</i>	Lexical similarity 60% with Anuak, Pari, Luwo.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Nilo-Saharan, Eastern Sudanic, Nilotic, Western, Luo, Northern, Shilluk</u>
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: 20%. Roman script. Grammar. NT: 1977.
<i>Comments</i>	Traditional religion, Christian.

Somali

A language of Somalia

ISO/DIS 639-3: som

<i>Population</i>	7,784,434 in Somalia (2000 WCD). Population total all countries: 12,653,480.
<i>Region</i>	Throughout the country. Also spoken in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Finland, Italy, Kenya, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Yemen.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Af-Soomaali, Af-Maxaad Tiri, Common Somali, Standard Somali Northern Somali, Benaadir, Af-Ashraaf (Ashraaf). Northern Somali is the basis for Standard Somali. It is readily intelligible to speakers of Benaadir Somali, but difficult or unintelligible to most Maay and Digil speakers. Those in Merka and Muqdisho speak Af-Ashraaf, a
<i>Dialects</i>	

distinct variety which may have limited inherent intelligibility to speakers of Standard Somali.

Classification

Afro-Asiatic, Cushitic, East, Somali

Language use

Official language. The language of most of the people of the country. Speakers also use Arabic or Italian.

Language development

Literacy rate in second language: 25% in cities, 10% rural. Taught in primary schools. Roman script. Radio programs. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 1979.

Comments

SOV. Pastoralists; agriculturalists: sugar, bananas, sorghum, corn, gum, incense; miners: iron, tin, gypsum, bauxite, uranium. Muslim, Christian.

Also spoken in:

Djibouti

Language name

Somali

Population

291,207 in Djibouti (2000 WCD).

Comments

Nomadic. 3 clans: Issa, Gadaboursi, Issaq. Pastoralists. Muslim.

Ethiopia

Language name

Somali

Population

3,334,113 in Ethiopia (2000 WCD). 2,878,371 monolinguals.

Region

Southeast Ethiopia, Somali Region.

Alternate names

Standard Somali, Common Somali

Language use

95,572 second-language speakers. 10% use Amharic or Arabic as second language.

Language development

Literacy rate in second language: 7.3%.

Comments

Daarood, Ogaadeen, Dir, Gadabuursi, Hawiye, and Isxaaq are major clan families in Ethiopia. Agriculturalists. Muslim, Christian.

Kenya

Language name

Somali

Population

420,354 in Kenya (2000 WCD). Population includes 45,098 Somali, 27,244 Hawiyah, 100,400 Degodia, 139,597 Ogaden (1989 census).

Region

Northeastern Province around Wajir.

Alternate names

Standard Somali

Dialects

Degodia, Ogaden.

Language development

Literacy rate in first language: below 1%. Literacy rate in second language: Somali: 15% to 25%, Ogaadeen: 1%.

Comments

Daarood, Dir, Hawiye, Ogaadeen are clan families in Kenya. The people are nomadic. Dialect differences cut across clan differences. Pastoralists: camel, sheep, goats. Muslim.

Swahili/Kiswahili

A language of Tanzania

ISO/DIS 639-3: swh

<i>Population</i>	540,837 in Tanzania (2000 WCD). 313,200 monolinguals. Population total all countries: 772,642.
<i>Region</i>	Zanzibar, coastal areas. Also spoken in Burundi, Kenya, Mayotte, Mozambique, Oman, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, USA.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Kiswahili, Kisuaheli
<i>Dialects</i>	Mrima, Unguja (Kiunguja, Zanzibar), Pemba, Mgao. Bajun has 85% lexical similarity with Amu, 78% with Mvita, 72% with Mrima; Mvita has 86% with Amu, 79% with Mrima; Mrima has 79% with Amu.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Volta-Congo, Benue-Congo, Bantoid, Southern, Narrow Bantu, Central, G, Swahili (G.40)</u> Official language. 30,000,000 rural people are second-language users; they use the local language for most activities, but Swahili with outsiders. It is also common for people of numerous ethnic groups besides Swahili who grow up in certain towns to speak Swahili as first language.
<i>Language use</i>	
<i>Language development</i>	Radio programs. TV. Dictionary. Bible: 1891–1996.
<i>Comments</i>	SVO. Muslim, Christian.

Also spoken in:

Burundi

<i>Language name</i>	Swahili
<i>Population</i>	6,356 in Burundi (2000 WCD). Widely spoken in the capital. Spoken as first language in Buyenzi, Quartier asiatique, Muslim neighborhoods, and Congolese neighborhoods (probably Congo Swahili). Spoken by Muslims in other cities like Gitega.
<i>Region</i>	
<i>Language use</i>	Used in religious services.
<i>Comments</i>	Muslim.

Kenya

<i>Language name</i>	Swahili
<i>Population</i>	131,000 in Kenya. Population includes 66,000 Bajuni (1994 I. Larsen BTL), 6,000 Siyu, 3,000 Pate, 15,000 Amu, 25,000 to 30,000 Mvita, 13,900 Shirazi (1989 census), 2,000 Vumba (1980 Heine and Möhlig).
<i>Region</i>	Coast Province.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Kiswaheli, Kiswahili, Suahili, Kisuahili, Arab-Swahili
<i>Dialects</i>	Amu, Mvita (Kimvita, Mombasa), Bajuni (Bajun, T'ik'uu, Tikulu,

	Tukulu, Gunya, Mbalazi, Chimbilazi), Pate, Pemba (Phemba, Hadimu, Tambatu), Mrima, Fundi, Siu (Siyu), Shamba (Kishamba), Matondoni.
<i>Language use</i>	Official language. Classical and modern literature.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: 51%. Swahili is compulsory in primary education.
<i>Comments</i>	In the Mombasa area they call themselves 'Arab' or 'Shirazi', in Lamu area they call themselves 'Bajun'. The dialects listed are in Kenya. Bajuni is the most divergent. Bajuni and Pemba may be separate languages. Coastal, valley. Traders; small businessmen; Bajun: fishermen; agriculturalists. Muslim.

Somalia

<i>Language name</i>	Swahili
<i>Population</i>	40,000 in Somalia (1992).
<i>Region</i>	The Mwini live in Baraawe (Brava), Lower Shabeelle, and were scattered in cities and towns of southern Somalia. Most have fled to Kenya because of the civil war. The Bajun live in Kismaayo District and the neighboring coast.
<i>Dialects</i>	Mwini (Mwiini, Chimwiini, Af-Chimwiini, Barwaani, Bravanese), Bajuni (Kibajuni, Bajun, Af-Bajuun, Mbalazi, Chimbilazi).
<i>Comments</i>	Reported to have come centuries ago from Zanzibar. Mwini: artisans (leather goods); Bajun: fishermen.

Temne/Themne

A language of Sierra Leone

	ISO/DIS 639-3: <u>tem</u>
<i>Population</i>	1,200,000 (1989 J. Kaiser).
<i>Region</i>	Northern Province, west of Sewa River to Little Scarcie.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Temne, Timne, Timene, Timmannee, Temen Banta, Konike, Yoni, Bombali, Western Temne (Pil), Sanda, Ribia, Kholifa, Koya, Masingbi, Malal. The people claim to understand all dialects. Lexical similarity 74% between Masingbi and Malal, 70% between Konike and western varieties.
<i>Dialects</i>	
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Mel, Temne, Temne-Banta</u>
<i>Language use</i>	Trade language. The primary language of central Sierra Leone. 240,000 second-language speakers (1981 D. Cranmer). 25% use Krio, 5% use English as second language. A number of monolinguals.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: 6%. Taught as an elective from primary to college level. NT: 1868–1955.
<i>Comments</i>	Agriculturalists: rice. Traditional religion, Muslim, Christian.

Tigré

A language of Eritrea

ISO/DIS 639-3: tig

Population 800,000 in Eritrea (1997 census).

Region Also spoken in Sudan.

Alternate names Khasa, Xasa

Dialects Mansa' (Mensa).

Classification Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, Ethiopian, North

Language use Used as second language by the Tukrir.

Language development Bible: 1988.

Comments Spoken by some Beni-Amer called 'Lobot'. Other ethnic groups are Ad Aha, Geden Sikta, Iddifer, Teroa Beit Mushe. Believed by some to be the direct linguistic descendant of Ge'ez. Incorrectly called 'Ge'ez'. SOV. Muslim.

Tigrigna/Tigrinya

A language of Ethiopia

ISO/DIS 639-3: tir

Population 3,224,875 in Ethiopia (1998 census). 2,819,755 monolinguals. Population total all countries: 4,449,875. Ethnic population: 3,284,568 (1998 census).

Region Tigray Province. Also spoken in Eritrea, Germany, Israel.

Alternate names Tigrinya, Tigray

Classification Afro-Asiatic, Semitic, South, Ethiopian, North

Language use National language. 146,933 second-language speakers.

Language development Literacy rate in first language: 1% to 10%. Literacy rate in second language: 26.5%. Ethiopic script. Radio programs. Grammar. Bible: 1956.

Comments Speakers are called 'Tigrai'. Christian.

Also spoken in:

Eritrea

Language name Tigrigna

Population 1,200,000 in Eritrea (2001 Johnstone and Mandryk).

Region South and central Eritrea.

Alternate names Tigrinya, Tigray

Language use Official language.

Language development Literacy rate in first language: 1% to 10%. Literacy rate in second language: 5% to 25%.

Comments Christian, Muslim.

Tingal

A language of Sudan

ISO/DIS 639-3: tie

<i>Population</i>	8,000 (1982 SIL).
<i>Region</i>	Northern Sudan, Tegali Hills.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Kajakja, Kajaja
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Kordofanian, Rashad</u>

Vai

A language of Liberia

ISO/DIS 639-3: vai

<i>Population</i>	89,500 in Liberia (1991 L. Vanderaa CRC). Population total all countries: 105,000.
<i>Region</i>	Western. Also spoken in Sierra Leone.
<i>Alternate names</i>	Vei, Vy, Gallinas, Gallines
<i>Dialects</i>	Different from Kono.
<i>Classification</i>	<u>Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Vai-Kono</u>
<i>Language use</i>	20% use English, 10% Mende, 5% Gola as second language.
<i>Language development</i>	Literacy rate in second language: 10%. Grammar. NT: 2002.
<i>Comments</i>	Indigenous script, a syllabary invented by Duala Bukare in the 1820s or 1830s. SOV. Muslim, traditional religion, Christian.

Also spoken in:

Sierra Leone

<i>Language name</i>	Vai
<i>Population</i>	15,500 in Sierra Leone (1991).
<i>Alternate names</i>	Vei, Vy, Gallinas, Gallines
<i>Language use</i>	Most are Mende speakers in Sierra Leone.
<i>Comments</i>	Muslim.