

Sine, Dyegueme (Gyegem), Niominka. The Niominka and Serere-Sine dialects mutually inherently intelligible. *Lg Use*: Official language. National language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 1%. Bible: 2008. *Writing*: Arabic script. Latin script. *Other*: 'Sereer' is their name for themselves. Traditional religion, Muslim, Christian. *Map*: 725:28.

Soninke [snk] (Marka, Maraka, Sarahole, Sarakole, Sarangkolle, Sarawule, Serahule, Serahuli, Silabe, Toubakai, Walpre). 250,000 in Senegal (2007 LeClerc). North and south of Bakel along Senegal River. Bakel, Ouaoundé, Moudéri, and Yaféra are principal towns. *Dialects*: Azer (Adjer, Aser), Gadyaga. *Lg Use*: Official language. National language. Also use French, Bambara [bam], or Fula [fub]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 1%. *Other*: The Soninke trace their origins back to the Eastern dialect area of Mali (Kinbakka), whereas the northeastern group in Senegal is part of the Western group of Mali (Xenqenna). Thus, significant differences exist between the dialects of the 2 geographical groups of Soninke in Senegal. Muslim. See main entry under Mali. *Map*: 725:29.

Wamey [cou] (Conhague, Coniagui, Koniagui, Konyagi, Wamei). 18,400 in Senegal (2007), decreasing. Population total all countries: 23,670. Southeast and central along Guinea border, pockets, usually beside Pulaar [fuc]. Also in Guinea. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Eastern Senegal-Guinea, Tenda. *Lg Use*: Neutral attitude. Also use Pulaar [fuc]. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 1%. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Konyagi is the ethnic name. Agriculturalists; making wine, beer; weaving bamboo mats. Traditional religion, Christian. *Map*: 725:30.

Wolof [wol] (Ouolof, Volof, Walaf, Waro-Waro, Yalof). 3,930,000 in Senegal (2006). Population total all countries: 3,976,500. West and central, Senegal River left bank to Cape Vert. Also in France, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Northern, Senegambian, Fula-Wolof, Wolof. *Dialects*: Baol, Cayor, Dyolof (Djolof, Jolof), Lebou (Lebu), Jander. Different from Wolof of Gambia [wof]. *Lg Use*: Official language. National language. Language of wider communication. Main African language of Senegal. Predominantly urban. Also use French or Arabic. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: 10%. Literacy rate in L2: 30%. Radio programs. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1988. *Writing*: Arabic script, Ajami style. Latin script. *Other*: 'Wolof' is their name for themselves. Muslim. *Map*: 725:32.

Xasonga [kao] (Kasonke, Kasso, Kasson, Kassonke, Khasonke, Xaasonga, Xaasongaxango, Xasonke). 9,010 in Senegal (2006). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L1: Below 1%. *Other*: Muslim. See main entry under Mali (Xaasongaxango).

Seychelles

Republic of Seychelles. 86,000. National or official languages: English, French, Seselwa Creole French. Includes Aldabra, Farquhar, Des Roches; 92 islands. Literacy rate: 62%–80%. Information mainly from D. Bickerton 1988; J. Holm 1989. Blind population: 150 (1982 WCE). The number of individual languages listed for Seychelles is 3. Of those, all are living languages.

English [eng]. 1,600 in Seychelles (1971 census). *Lg Use*: Official language. *Other*: Principal language of the schools. See main entry under United Kingdom.

French [fra]. 980 in Seychelles (1971 census). *Lg Use*: Official language. *Other*: Spoken by French settler families, 'grands blancs'. See main entry under France.

Seselwa Creole French [crs] (Creole, Ilois, Kreol, Seychelles Creole French, Seychellois Creole). 72,700

(1998). Ethnic population: 72,700. *Class*: Creole, French based. *Dialects*: Seychelles dialect reportedly used on Chagos Islands. Structural differences with Morisyen [mfe] are relatively minor. Low intelligibility with Réunion Creole [rcf]. *Lg Use*: Official language since 1977. All domains. Positive attitude. *Lg Dev*: Taught in primary schools. Radio programs. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 2000. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: Fishermen. Christian.

Sierra Leone

Republic of Sierra Leone. 5,586,000. National or official language: English. Literacy rate: 15%. Immigrant languages: Greek (700), Yoruba (3,800). Also includes languages of Lebanon, India, Pakistan, Liberia. Information mainly from D. Dalby 1962; TISSL 1995. Blind population: 28,000 (1982 WCE). Deaf institutions: 5. The number of individual languages listed for Sierra Leone is 25. Of those, 24 are living languages and 1 is a second language without mother-tongue speakers. See map on page 726.

Bassa [bsq]. 5,730 in Sierra Leone (2006). Freetown. *Other*: Traditional religion. See main entry under Liberia.

Bom [bmf] (Bome, Bomo, Bum). 5,580 (2006), decreasing. Along Bome River. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Mel, Bullom-Kissi, Bullom, Northern. *Dialects*: Lexical similarity: 66%–69% with Sherbro [bun] dialects, 34% with Krim [krm]. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Mende [men]. *Other*: Traditional religion.

Bullom So [buy] (Bolom, Bulem, Bullin, Bullun, Mandenyi, Mandangi, Mmani, Northern Bullom). 8,350 in Sierra Leone (2006). Coast from Guinea border to Sierra Leone River. Also in Guinea. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Atlantic-Congo, Atlantic, Southern, Mel, Bullom-Kissi, Bullom, Northern. *Dialects*: Mmani, Kafu. Bom is closely related. Little intelligibility with Sherbro, none with Krim. *Lg Use*: Shifting to Themne [tem]. *Lg Dev*: Bible portions: 1816. *Writing*: Latin script. *Other*: The people are intermarried with the Temne and the Susu. Traditional religion. *Map*: 726:1.

English [eng]. *Lg Use*: Official language. Used in administration, law, education, commerce. See main entry under United Kingdom.

Gola [gol] (Gula). 8,000 in Sierra Leone (1989 TISLL). Along the border and inland. *Dialects*: De (Deng), Managobla (Gobla), Kongbaa, Kpo, Senje (Sene), Tee (Tege), Toldil (Toodii). *Lg Use*: Shifting to Mende [men]. *Other*: Different from Gola [mzm] of Nigeria (dialect of Mumuye) or Gola [pbp] (Badyara) of Guinea-Bissau and Guinea. Muslim, Christian. See main entry under Liberia. *Map*: 726:4.

Kisi, Southern [kss] (Gissi, Kisi, Kissien). 85,000 in Sierra Leone (1995). *Lg Dev*: Literacy rate in L2: 3%. *Other*: Different from Northern Kisi [kqs]. Traditional religion, Muslim, Christian. See main entry under Liberia. *Map*: 726:13.

Kissi, Northern [kqs] (Gizi, Kisi, Kisie, Kissien). 40,000 in Sierra Leone (1991 LBT). *Dialects*: Liaro, Kama, Teng, Tung. *Lg Use*: Also use Krio [kri] or Mende [men]. *Other*: Traditional religion. See main entry under Guinea. *Map*: 726:11.

Klao [klu] (Klaoh, Klau, Kroo, Kru). 9,620 in Sierra Leone (2006). Freetown. Originally from Liberia. *Other*: Traditional religion. See main entry under Liberia.

Kono [kno] (Konnoh). 205,000 (2006). Northeast. *Class*: Niger-Congo, Mande, Western, Central-Southwestern, Central, Manding-Jogo, Manding-Vai, Vai-Kono. *Dialects*: Northern Kono (Sando), Central Kono (Fiama, Gbane, Gbane Kando, Gbense, Gorama Kono, Kamara, Lei, Mafindo, Nimi Koro, Nimi Yama, Penguia, Soa, Tankoro,