ISO 639-3 Registration Authority
Request for New Language Code Element in ISO 639-3

This form is to be used in conjunction with a “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code” form

Date: 28 May 2020

Name of Primary Requester: Fabien Hamissi

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Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:
Name: Association Nationale des Sourds du Burundi (ANSB), Email: bnadeaf at gmail dot com
Name: Harry Harm, Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), Email: training_gslt at sil dot org
Name: World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), Email: info at wfdeaf dot org
Name: Federation of Disabled People’s Organizations in Burundi (FAPHB), Email: raphb1 at yahoo dot fr

Associated Change request number : 2020-022 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : lsb (completed by Registration Authority)

PLEASE NOTE: This completed form will become part of the public record of this change request and the history of the ISO 639-3 code set. Use Shift-Enter to insert a new line in a form field (where allowed).

1. NAMES and IDENTIFICATION
   a. Preferred name of language for code element denotation:

   Langue des Signes Burundaise

   b. Autonym (self-name) for this language:

   c. Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:

   LSB, Burundian Sign Language

   d. Reason for preferred name:

   These are the names used most commonly in published materials. Another French variant; “Langue des Signes Burundaise”.

   e. Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):

   Deaf community in Burundi; In this year 2020, the ANSB estimates that more than 5,000 Deaf people use Sign language and less than 100 hearing people use Sign language.

   f. Preferred three letter identifier, if available: lsb

   Your suggestion will be taken into account, but the Registration Authority will determine the identifier to be proposed. The identifiers is not intended to be an abbreviation for a name of the language, but to serve as a device to identify a given language uniquely. With thousands of languages, many sets of which have similar names, it is not possible to provide identifiers that resemble a language name in every case.
2. TEMPORAL DESCRIPTION and LOCATION

a. Is this a X Living language
   - Nearly extinct/secondary use only (includes languages in revival)
   - Recently extinct language
   - Historical language
   - Ancient language
   - Artificially constructed language
   - Macrolanguage

(Select one. See explanations of these types at http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/types.asp)

For individual languages, also complete:

b. Countries where used: Burundi

c. Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:

1. Ecole Ephphatha pour les Sourds (Ephphatha Deaf School), town: Gasenyi, province: Bujumbura. The school teaches French and sign language. For more information, go to (http://www.ephphathaburundi.org) and (https://docplayer.net/32718565-Report-deaf-children-in-burundi-their-education-and-communications-needs-october-2011.html). Ecole Ephphatha pour les Sourds has another school branch in Gisuru town, province Ruyigi, opened in 2019 and where now it has more than 50 Deaf students. Email: mmurishi@yahoo.com


4. IQRA Deaf Training Center, town: Mutanga Nord, province: Bujumbura. The centre teaches French and sign language. For more info, contact: bisiboamani@gmail.com

d. For an ancient or historical language, give approximate time frame; for a recently extinct language, give the approximate date of the last known user’s death.
3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

a. This language is: X Signed ☐ Spoken ☐ Attested only in writings

b. Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
   "Deaf-community sign language"

c. Closest language linguistically. For a Macrolanguage, list the individual languages (adopted and/or proposed) to be included in its group. For signed language, note influence from other signed or spoken languages:
   "ASL, Kenya SL, Uganda SL (any others?)"

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

a. What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
   - A collection of 110 Bible stories has been translated into the language and is available at https://deaf.bible/1BISLS/choose-video

b. Is this language officially recognized by any level of government? Is it used in any levels of formal education as a language of instruction (for other subjects)? Is it taught in schools?:
   This language is not officially recognized by the Government level, it is used as a language of instruction only in specialized schools for the Deaf and taught only in such schools and centers for the Deaf.

Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

"Langue des signes Burundaise is not an official language in Burundi; the sign language in Burundi began to be used in the years 1981, with the opening of the Ephphatha School for the Deaf initiated by Mr. Andrew Foster. Later thus this language has been diversified by other sign languages from different closest countries in the region from the years 1998."

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

You do not need to repeat sources previously identified in the form, “Request for Change to ISO 639-3 Language Code”

a. First-hand knowledge. Describe:
   I am a native signer of Burundian SL and president of the Burundi National Association of the Deaf. I am familiar with sign languages in neighboring countries, which are different from LSB.

b. Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:
   Since the beginning of learning Burundian Sign Language in our country, I grow up using it up to now. Whereas I have reaching 95% of its use and focusing as well as the environmental communication of our Deaf community is the primary target and linguistic minority which interact on Burundian SL."
c. Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):

**Published Bible stories at** [https://deaf.bible/1BISLS/choose-video](https://deaf.bible/1BISLS/choose-video)


**Ephphatha school for the Deaf/Association des églises Emmanuel (1992) Livre des signes nationaux (83 signs).**


**Please return this form to:**

ISO 639-3 Registrar
SIL International, Office of Language Information Systems
7500 West Camp Wisdom Road
Dallas, Texas 75236 USA
Email: [iso639-3@sil.org](mailto:iso639-3@sil.org)
An email attachment of this completed form is preferred.

**Further information:**

If your request for a new language code element is supported by the Registration Authority as a formal proposal, you may be contacted separately by researchers working with the Ethnologue or with LinguistList asking you to provide additional information.

**Sources of documentation for ISO 639-3 identifiers:**


LinguistList. Constructed Languages. [http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html](http://linguistlist.org/forms/langs/GetListOfConstructedLgs.html)