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: 2021-8-9

Name of Primary Requester: Editor Ethnologue

E-mail address: editor_ethnologue at sil dot org

Names, affiliations and email addresses of additional supporters of this request:

Associated Change request number : 2021-027
Tentative assignment of new identifier : imt

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:
      Imotong
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Imotong
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
   d) Reason for preferred name:
   e) Name and approximate population of ethnic group or community who use this language (complete individual language currently in use):
      Estimated 16,000
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: imt

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 ☒ 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:
   South Sudan

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   Eastern Equatoria state: Imotong and Hatire payams of Iktosos county (GPS of Lochio, village in middle of area: longitude: 32.8503518 latitude: 4.1634957)

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
   N/A

3. MODALITY AND LINGUISTIC AFFILIATION

   a) This language is: ☐ Signed ☒ Spoken ☐ Attested only in writings

   b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
      Nilotic, Eastern, Lotuxo-Teso, Lotuxo-Maa, Lotuxo

   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:
      Logir, Lango [lno]

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE

   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      No written material as far as we know.

   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?:
      Imotong was listed as part of a tentative list of indigenous language communities in the Interim constitution of South Sudan (2005). Later constitutions do not include this list but I would take this as recognition of this group and its language as one of the national languages of South Sudan (with according constitutional rights to be respected, developed and promoted). In addition, current education policy specifies that national languages of an area should be used in pre-school and lower primary education (P1-P3) as the medium of instruction. Currently though it is only used orally in education.
c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:
   In the home area, Imotong is used in all domains. In formal settings like schools, churches, government offices English and Juba Arabic are also used.
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:

b) Knowledge through personal communication. Describe:

c) Knowledge from published sources. Include known dictionaries, grammars, etc. (please give complete bibliographical references):
Muniru, John. 2019. Sociolinguistic assessment of Lango, Imotong, Logir, Okolie (Lorwama and Ketebo) and Dongotono speech varieties of Torit State, South Sudan: A summary of findings. SIL South Sudan

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
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: