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: 22 February 2022

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

Associated Change request number : 2022-035 (completed by Registration Authority)
Tentative assignment of new identifier : jnm (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:
      Jonam
   b) Autonym (self-name) for this language:
      Jonam
   c) Common alternate names and spellings of language, and any established abbreviations:
      Jonaam, Leb Jonam
   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):
      Jonam, population per the 2014 national census = 106,447
   f) Preferred three letter identifier, if available: jnm

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](http://www.sil.org/iso639-2D3/types.asp))

For individual languages, also complete:

b) Countries where used:
   Uganda

c) Region within each country: towns, districts, states or provinces where used. Include GPS coordinates of the approximate center of the language, if possible:
   There are speakers living in the neighboring districts of Nwoya, Nebbi, Okollo and the wider Bunyoro subregion.

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: □ Signed   ☑ Spoken   □ Attested only in writings
   b) Language family, if classified; origin, if artificially constructed:
      Nilo-Saharan > > Eastern Sudanic >> Nilotic > Western > Luo > Southern > Luo-Acholi
   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:
      Jonam is closest to Alur [alz], followed by Acholi [ach]

4. LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AND USE
   a) What written literature, inscriptions or recordings exist in this language? Are there newspapers, radio or television broadcasts, etc.?:
      The Jonam Language Board developed a draft orthography. No other written materials are known to exist. There is a local radio broadcast in Jonam, on Pakwach FM.
   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?:
      The Ugandan Government recognizes Jonam as a distinct tribe whom their distinct language is one of the topmost distinguishing features. Jonam is recognized in the Ugandan Constitution (1995). In 2019, the government granted the Jonam a separate district, Pakwach, with authority to form the Jonam Language Board, officially mandated to preserve, develop, and promote the Jonam culture and language. It is government policy that the first three levels of early grade schooling are in the mother tongue. It was for this purpose that the Jonam Language Board developed a trial orthography with the intention of developing literature for use in literacy and early-grade instruction.
c) Comment on factors of ethnolinguistic identity and informal domains of use:

Jonam community are proud of their micro-ethnic identity. They perceive themselves as different from the Alur, and culturally organize differently from the Alur. Jonan language is vigorously spoken at home, in church, informally in schools in workplaces, and markets. It meets the criteria for EGIDS level 6a Vigorous.
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):
   As given in the "Request for Change to ISO-639-3" form

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: