

**KEY LANGUAGE POINTS:  
REFUGEES / MIGRANTS EMERGENCY RESPONSE - MEDITERRANEAN**

Language	Countries / Regions Where Spoken	Relevant Dialects	Written Alphabet	Left-to-right/ Right-to-left	Comprehension / Contextual Notes
<b>Greek</b>	Official language of Greece.	Modern Dialect	Greek Alphabet	Left-to-right	Many Greeks also speak English.
<b>Arabic</b>	Modern Standard Arabic is an official language of 28 states, incl. Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Morocco. There are over 290 million native Arabic speakers in the world & it is considered native to countries of the <a href="#">Arab League</a> , with a considerable number of speakers in neighboring countries incl. Eritrea, Mali, Niger, Kenya, Chad, Senegal, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Iran, etc.	Modern Standard Arabic; Moroccan Arabic (“Maghrebi”)	Arabic Alphabet	Right-to-left	
<b>Farsi</b>	Western Persian (known as Persian, Iranian Persian, or Farsi) is spoken in <b>Iran</b> , and by minorities in <b>Iraq</b> and the <b>Persian Gulf states</b> . Farsi is the predominant and official language of Iran.	Pārsi (Iran), Dari (Afghanistan), and Tajik (Central Asia)	Modified Arabic Alphabet (Persian Alphabet)	Right-to-left	While Farsi & Dari are in theory the same language (Persian), Dari is the ‘old way’ of speaking Persian, & Farsi is more modern. If messages are only shared in one dialect or the other, people might miss key words. However, for interpretation purposes – if you have a Dari / Farsi speaker, they should be able to interpret for both.

<b>Dari</b>	Eastern Persian (known as Dari Persian, Afghan Persian, or Dari) is spoken in <b>Afghanistan</b> , where it is one of the two official languages (along with Pashto).	Dari is a dialect of Farsi.	Modified Arabic Alphabet (Persian Alphabet)	Right-to-left	Dari is spoken by about 50% of the Afghan population.
<b>Kurmanji</b>	Northern Kurdish, also called Kurmanji, is a group of Kurdish dialects predominantly spoken in southeast <b>Turkey</b> , northwest <b>Iran</b> , northern <b>Iraq</b> , and northern <b>Syria</b> .	Kurmanji includes at least 13 Kurdish dialects.	Kurmanji is written using an extended Latin alphabet (33 letters)	Left-to-right	Kurdish has 4 main branches – but Kurmanji & Sorani are today the most widely spoken. In Iraq, Kurmanji speakers say they speak “Badini” (their name for it).
<b>Sorani</b>	Central Kurdish, also called Sorani, is a Kurdish dialect spoken in <b>Iraq</b> , mainly in Iraqi Kurdistan, as well as the Kurdistan Province of western <b>Iran</b> . Sorani Kurdish is one of the two official languages of Iraq (along with Arabic).	Sorani is a Kurdish dialect.	Sorani is mainly written using a modified Arabic script.	Right-to-left	<u>Note:</u> The majority of Kurds in Syria are educated in Arabic. Whereas the Kurds in Iraq are educated in Sorani (written using Arabic alphabet).
<b>Urdu</b>	Urdu is the national language of <b>Pakistan</b> , and one of the official languages recognized in <b>India</b> .	Urdu is a form of Hindustani.	Urdu Alphabet	Right-to-left	In general, speakers of Urdu and Hindi can easily understand one another.
<b>Punjabi</b>	Punjabi is the native language for those from the historic Punjab Region of <b>Pakistan</b> and <b>India</b> . Punjabi is the most widely spoken language in Pakistan.	There are a number of different Punjabi dialects.	There are two ways to write Punjabi: using the Gurmukhi Alphabet (in India) or the Shahmukhi Script (in Pakistan)	Left-to-right	