

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set
International Organization for Standardization
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Title: Preliminary proposal for encoding the Mende script in the SMP of the UCS

Source: Michael Everson

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1. Introduction. The Mende script, also called “Ki-ka-ku” for the first three characters in the system, was devised by Mohamed Turay, an Islamic scholar in the Sierra Leonean town of Maka, and further developed by his son-in-law and student, Kisimi Kamara, a tailor from the town of Vaama. Kamara's contribution was an additional 150 syllabic characters to Turay's original 42, and efforts to promote the script outside of the Barri chiefdom, in southern and eastern Sierra Leone, beginning in the 1920s. Although romanized Mende predominates, Kikakui was employed by missionaries in some early gospel translations dating from the 1920s, and Konrad Tuchscherer estimates that writers in the script today continue to number in the hundreds. As of 1991 (Vanderaa), the total population of Mende speakers was estimated at just under 1.5 million in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The script was used for record-keeping and correspondence, and some chiefdom clerks adopted it for official use. In 1940s, however, the British established the Protectorate Literacy Bureau in Bo, and a Latin orthography for Mende was taught. This led to the gradually disuse of the Mende script.

2. Structure. Mende is written from right to left. Dalby's chart shows a number of glyph variants. It is likely that these should be treated as Vai and Bamum glyph variants have been: that if they are required, either a dedicated font for them should be used, or OpenType tables to invoke alternate forms. The forms used in the chart are the primary ones given in Dalby.

3. Collating order. Collation order is as in the code chart. At present it is not certain what the best collation order ought to be. In this preliminary proposal two orders are given. The first follows a traditional order given in Dalby 1962. In this, the first 39 characters are ordered “sensibly” according to sound and shape, but the remaining 155 characters are more or less randomly ordered. This can be seen in Figure 1, and in the first set of code charts “Mende - unordered”. It seems unlikely that such an ordering would be “useful” in terms of practical usage, such as dictionary look-up.

The second ordering completes runs of syllables based on their initial consonant. It is clear from an examination of this table that within number of the consonant series, some syllables in addition to those which end in -i, -a, or -u are related to the glyphs used for those. This suggests that structurally the ordering given in the second set of charts should be preferred, as it is inherent to the script and useful to the users.

4. Character names. The usual UCS conventions are used, with EE representing *e*, E representing *ε*, OO representing *o*, O representing *ɔ*, and NG representing *ŋ*. There are several characters with duplicate names; these are distinguished by suffixing “-2” to them.

5. Linebreaking. Letters and digits behave as in Vai and Bamum.

6. Punctuation and digits. To date, no script-specific punctuation has been seen. Some digits are known to exist, but information about these is not yet available.

7. Unicode Character Properties.

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1E800;MENDE SYLLABLE KI;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
..
1E9C1;MENDE SYLLABLE X;Lo;0;R;;;;N;;;;;
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9. Bibliography

- Dalby, David. 1967. *A survey of the indigenous scripts of Liberia and Sierra Leone: Vai, Mende, Loma, Kpelle and Bassa*. African Language Studies 8. 1-51.
- Tuchscherer, Konrad,. 2007. "Recording, Communicating and Making Visible: A History of Writing and Systems of Graphic Symbolism in Africa", in *Inscribing Meaning: Writing and Graphic Systems in African Art*, ed. By Christine Mullen Kreamer et al., Smithsonian: National Museum of African Art, pp. 37-53.

	1E80	1E81	1E82	1E83	1E84	1E85	1E86	1E87	1E88	1E89	1E8A	1E8B	1E8C
0	1E800	1E810	1E820	1E830	1E840	1E850	1E860	1E870	1E880	1E890	1E8A0	1E8B0	1E8C0
1	1E801	1E811	1E821	1E831	1E841	1E851	1E861	1E871	1E881	1E891	1E8A1	1E8B1	1E8C1
2	1E802	1E812	1E822	1E832	1E842	1E852	1E862	1E872	1E882	1E892	1E8A2	1E8B2	
3	1E803	1E813	1E823	1E833	1E843	1E853	1E863	1E873	1E883	1E893	1E8A3	1E8B3	
4	1E804	1E814	1E824	1E834	1E844	1E854	1E864	1E874	1E884	1E894	1E8A4	1E8B4	
5	1E805	1E815	1E825	1E835	1E845	1E855	1E865	1E875	1E885	1E895	1E8A5	1E8B5	
6	1E806	1E816	1E826	1E836	1E846	1E856	1E866	1E876	1E886	1E896	1E8A6	1E8B6	
7	1E807	1E817	1E827	1E837	1E847	1E857	1E867	1E877	1E887	1E897	1E8A7	1E8B7	
8	1E808	1E818	1E828	1E838	1E848	1E858	1E868	1E878	1E888	1E898	1E8A8	1E8B8	
9	1E809	1E819	1E829	1E839	1E849	1E859	1E869	1E879	1E889	1E899	1E8A9	1E8B9	
A	1E80A	1E81A	1E82A	1E83A	1E84A	1E85A	1E86A	1E87A	1E88A	1E89A	1E8AA	1E8BA	
B	1E80B	1E81B	1E82B	1E83B	1E84B	1E85B	1E86B	1E87B	1E88B	1E89B	1E8AB	1E8BB	
C	1E80C	1E81C	1E82C	1E83C	1E84C	1E85C	1E86C	1E87C	1E88C	1E89C	1E8AC	1E8BC	
D	1E80D	1E81D	1E82D	1E83D	1E84D	1E85D	1E86D	1E87D	1E88D	1E89D	1E8AD	1E8BD	
E	1E80E	1E81E	1E82E	1E83E	1E84E	1E85E	1E86E	1E87E	1E88E	1E89E	1E8AE	1E8BE	
F	1E80F	1E81F	1E82F	1E83F	1E84F	1E85F	1E86F	1E87F	1E88F	1E89F	1E8AF	1E8BF	

Syllables

1E800	ᶏ	MENDE SYLLABLE KI	1E842	ᶏ	MENDE SYLLABLE NDOO
1E801	ᶏ̄	MENDE SYLLABLE KA	1E843	ᶏ̄	MENDE SYLLABLE PI
1E802	ᶏ̇	MENDE SYLLABLE KU	1E844	ᶏ̇	MENDE SYLLABLE TO
1E803	ᶏ̈	MENDE SYLLABLE WI	1E845	ᶏ̈	MENDE SYLLABLE GBO
1E804	ᶏ̉	MENDE SYLLABLE WA	1E846	ᶏ̉	MENDE SYLLABLE GBOO
1E805	ᶏ̊	MENDE SYLLABLE WU	1E847	ᶏ̊	MENDE SYLLABLE MBE
1E806	ᶏ̋	MENDE SYLLABLE MIN	1E848	ᶏ̋	MENDE SYLLABLE LE
1E807	ᶏ̌	MENDE SYLLABLE MAN	1E849	ᶏ̌	MENDE SYLLABLE KPU
1E808	ᶏ̍	MENDE SYLLABLE MUN	1E84A	ᶏ̍	MENDE SYLLABLE FE
1E809	ᶏ̎	MENDE SYLLABLE BI	1E84B	ᶏ̎	MENDE SYLLABLE KOO
1E80A	ᶏ̏	MENDE SYLLABLE BA	1E84C	ᶏ̏	MENDE SYLLABLE VO
1E80B	ᶏ̐	MENDE SYLLABLE BU	1E84D	ᶏ̐	MENDE SYLLABLE FEE
1E80C	ᶏ̑	MENDE SYLLABLE I	1E84E	ᶏ̑	MENDE SYLLABLE SO
1E80D	ᶏ̒	MENDE SYLLABLE A	1E84F	ᶏ̒	MENDE SYLLABLE YE
1E80E	ᶏ̓	MENDE SYLLABLE U	1E850	ᶏ̓	MENDE SYLLABLE PEE
1E80F	ᶏ̔	MENDE SYLLABLE DI	1E851	ᶏ̔	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGU
1E810	ᶏ̕	MENDE SYLLABLE DA	1E852	ᶏ̕	MENDE SYLLABLE HEEI
1E811	ᶏ̖	MENDE SYLLABLE DU	1E853	ᶏ̖	MENDE SYLLABLE LEE
1E812	ᶏ̗	MENDE SYLLABLE SI	1E854	ᶏ̗	MENDE SYLLABLE VE
1E813	ᶏ̘	MENDE SYLLABLE SA	1E855	ᶏ̘	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGE
1E814	ᶏ̙	MENDE SYLLABLE SU	1E856	ᶏ̙	MENDE SYLLABLE HUN
1E815	ᶏ̚	MENDE SYLLABLE LI	1E857	ᶏ̚	MENDE SYLLABLE FO
1E816	ᶏ̛	MENDE SYLLABLE LA	1E858	ᶏ̛	MENDE SYLLABLE DEE
1E817	ᶏ̜	MENDE SYLLABLE LU	1E859	ᶏ̜	MENDE SYLLABLE GI
1E818	ᶏ̝	MENDE SYLLABLE TI	1E85A	ᶏ̝	MENDE SYLLABLE TEE
1E819	ᶏ̞	MENDE SYLLABLE TA	1E85B	ᶏ̞	MENDE SYLLABLE KPA
1E81A	ᶏ̟	MENDE SYLLABLE TU	1E85C	ᶏ̟	MENDE SYLLABLE GBEE
1E81B	ᶏ̠	MENDE SYLLABLE JI	1E85D	ᶏ̠	MENDE SYLLABLE MON
1E81C	ᶏ̡	MENDE SYLLABLE JA	1E85E	ᶏ̡	MENDE SYLLABLE KE
1E81D	ᶏ̢	MENDE SYLLABLE JU	1E85F	ᶏ̢	MENDE SYLLABLE HE
1E81E	ᶏ̣	MENDE SYLLABLE YI	1E860	ᶏ̣	MENDE SYLLABLE BE
1E81F	ᶏ̤	MENDE SYLLABLE YA	1E861	ᶏ̤	MENDE SYLLABLE NYEN
1E820	ᶏ̥	MENDE SYLLABLE YU	1E862	ᶏ̥	MENDE SYLLABLE PA
1E821	ᶏ̦	MENDE SYLLABLE FI	1E863	ᶏ̦	MENDE SYLLABLE E
1E822	ᶏ̧	MENDE SYLLABLE FA	1E864	ᶏ̧	MENDE SYLLABLE FAN
1E823	ᶏ̨	MENDE SYLLABLE FU	1E865	ᶏ̨	MENDE SYLLABLE POO
1E824	ᶏ̩	MENDE SYLLABLE NIN	1E866	ᶏ̩	MENDE SYLLABLE BOO
1E825	ᶏ̪	MENDE SYLLABLE NAN	1E867	ᶏ̪	MENDE SYLLABLE TOO
1E826	ᶏ̫	MENDE SYLLABLE NUN	1E868	ᶏ̫	MENDE SYLLABLE MBOO
1E827	ᶏ̬	MENDE SYLLABLE HEE	1E869	ᶏ̬	MENDE SYLLABLE GOO
1E828	ᶏ̭	MENDE SYLLABLE HA	1E86A	ᶏ̭	MENDE SYLLABLE GBE
1E829	ᶏ̮	MENDE SYLLABLE HOO	1E86B	ᶏ̮	MENDE SYLLABLE KPE
1E82A	ᶏ̯	MENDE SYLLABLE NGAN	1E86C	ᶏ̯	MENDE SYLLABLE YEE
1E82B	ᶏ̰	MENDE SYLLABLE KPEE	1E86D	ᶏ̰	MENDE SYLLABLE LE-2
1E82C	ᶏ̱	MENDE SYLLABLE WO	1E86E	ᶏ̱	MENDE SYLLABLE GA
1E82D	ᶏ̲	MENDE SYLLABLE HUAN	1E86F	ᶏ̲	MENDE SYLLABLE KPOO
1E82E	ᶏ̳	MENDE SYLLABLE MBEE	1E870	ᶏ̳	MENDE SYLLABLE JE
1E82F	ᶏ̴	MENDE SYLLABLE KO	1E871	ᶏ̴	MENDE SYLLABLE WOO
1E830	ᶏ̵	MENDE SYLLABLE WA-2	1E872	ᶏ̵	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGEE
1E831	ᶏ̶	MENDE SYLLABLE PU	1E873	ᶏ̶	MENDE SYLLABLE SE
1E832	ᶏ̷	MENDE SYLLABLE PE	1E874	ᶏ̷	MENDE SYLLABLE NEN
1E833	ᶏ̸	MENDE SYLLABLE HEN	1E875	ᶏ̸	MENDE SYLLABLE WE
1E834	ᶏ̹	MENDE SYLLABLE HIN	1E876	ᶏ̹	MENDE SYLLABLE NDE
1E835	ᶏ̺	MENDE SYLLABLE LOO	1E877	ᶏ̺	MENDE SYLLABLE GO
1E836	ᶏ̻	MENDE SYLLABLE TE	1E878	ᶏ̻	MENDE SYLLABLE YO
1E837	ᶏ̼	MENDE SYLLABLE GBA	1E879	ᶏ̼	MENDE SYLLABLE MBU
1E838	ᶏ̽	MENDE SYLLABLE HON	1E87A	ᶏ̽	MENDE SYLLABLE NDI
1E839	ᶏ̾	MENDE SYLLABLE NYAN	1E87B	ᶏ̾	MENDE SYLLABLE GBI
1E83A	ᶏ̿	MENDE SYLLABLE MEN	1E87C	ᶏ̿	MENDE SYLLABLE NDU
1E83B	ᶏ̺̄	MENDE SYLLABLE NYON	1E87D	ᶏ̺̄	MENDE SYLLABLE WEE
1E83C	ᶏ̺̇	MENDE SYLLABLE WI-2	1E87E	ᶏ̺̇	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGUA
1E83D	ᶏ̺̈	MENDE SYLLABLE MBA	1E87F	ᶏ̺̈	MENDE SYLLABLE HOOU
1E83E	ᶏ̺̉	MENDE SYLLABLE JO	1E880	ᶏ̺̉	MENDE SYLLABLE NDA
1E83F	ᶏ̺̊	MENDE SYLLABLE DO	1E881	ᶏ̺̊	MENDE SYLLABLE HAN
1E840	ᶏ̺̋	MENDE SYLLABLE KEE	1E882	ᶏ̺̋	MENDE SYLLABLE EN
1E841	ᶏ̺̌	MENDE SYLLABLE PO	1E883	ᶏ̺̌	MENDE SYLLABLE KPI
			1E884	ᶏ̺̍	MENDE SYLLABLE FOO
			1E885	ᶏ̺̎	MENDE SYLLABLE NJOO

1E886	!	MENDE SYLLABLE IN
1E887	𑍇	MENDE SYLLABLE SOO
1E888	!	MENDE SYLLABLE EI
1E889	𑍈	MENDE SYLLABLE BO
1E88A	𑍉	MENDE SYLLABLE WE-2
1E88B	𑍊	MENDE SYLLABLE HO
1E88C	𑍋	MENDE SYLLABLE YOO
1E88D	𑍌	MENDE SYLLABLE MBO
1E88E	𑍍	MENDE SYLLABLE WEI
1E88F	𑍎	MENDE SYLLABLE VOO
1E890	𑍏	MENDE SYLLABLE MBI
1E891	𑍐	MENDE SYLLABLE GE
1E892	𑍑	MENDE SYLLABLE O
1E893	𑍒	MENDE SYLLABLE GBU
1E894	𑍓	MENDE SYLLABLE NJEE
1E895	𑍔	MENDE SYLLABLE BEE
1E896	𑍕	MENDE SYLLABLE VU
1E897	𑍖	MENDE SYLLABLE NJA
1E898	𑍗	MENDE SYLLABLE LO
1E899	𑍘	MENDE SYLLABLE MUAN
1E89A	𑍙	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGI
1E89B	𑍚	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGOO
1E89C	𑍛	MENDE SYLLABLE JEE
1E89D	𑍜	MENDE SYLLABLE KPO
1E89E	𑍝	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGA
1E89F	𑍞	MENDE SYLLABLE NJO
1E8A0	𑍟	MENDE SYLLABLE MBE-2
1E8A1	𑍠	MENDE SYLLABLE SEE
1E8A2	𑍡	MENDE SYLLABLE EE
1E8A3	𑍢	MENDE SYLLABLE NYIN
1E8A4	𑍣	MENDE SYLLABLE OO
1E8A5	𑍤	MENDE SYLLABLE GEI
1E8A6	𑍥	MENDE SYLLABLE GUA
1E8A7	𑍦	MENDE SYLLABLE GU
1E8A8	𑍧	MENDE SYLLABLE NON
1E8A9	𑍨	MENDE SYLLABLE NYUN
1E8AA	𑍩	MENDE SYLLABLE RA
1E8AB	𑍪	MENDE SYLLABLE MBO-2
1E8AC	𑍫	MENDE SYLLABLE VEE
1E8AD	𑍬	MENDE SYLLABLE MBOO-2
1E8AE	𑍭	MENDE SYLLABLE JOO
1E8AF	𑍮	MENDE SYLLABLE HI
1E8B0	𑍯	MENDE SYLLABLE KUA
1E8B1	𑍰	MENDE SYLLABLE DOO
1E8B2	𑍱	MENDE SYLLABLE NDO
1E8B3	𑍲	MENDE SYLLABLE VI
1E8B4	𑍳	MENDE SYLLABLE NGUAN
1E8B5	𑍴	MENDE SYLLABLE EEN
1E8B6	𑍵	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGO
1E8B7	𑍶	MENDE SYLLABLE NGEN
1E8B8	𑍷	MENDE SYLLABLE VA
1E8B9	𑍸	MENDE SYLLABLE HU
1E8BA	𑍹	MENDE SYLLABLE MBU-2
1E8BB	𑍺	MENDE SYLLABLE MBEE-2
1E8BC	𑍻	MENDE SYLLABLE MUEN
1E8BD	𑍼	MENDE SYLLABLE GEE
1E8BE	𑍽	MENDE SYLLABLE NDEE
1E8BF	𑍾	MENDE SYLLABLE NJU
1E8C0	𑍿	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGEE-2
1E8C1	𑎀	MENDE SYLLABLE WEE-2

	1E80	1E81	1E82	1E83	1E84	1E85	1E86	1E87	1E88	1E89	1E8A	1E8B	1E8C
0	1E800	1E810	1E820	1E830	1E840	1E850	1E860	1E870	1E880	1E890	1E8A0	1E8B0	1E8C0
1	1E801	1E811	1E821	1E831	1E841	1E851	1E861	1E871	1E881	1E891	1E8A1	1E8B1	1E8C1
2	1E802	1E812	1E822	1E832	1E842	1E852	1E862	1E872	1E882	1E892	1E8A2	1E8B2	
3	1E803	1E813	1E823	1E833	1E843	1E853	1E863	1E873	1E883	1E893	1E8A3	1E8B3	
4	1E804	1E814	1E824	1E834	1E844	1E854	1E864	1E874	1E884	1E894	1E8A4	1E8B4	
5	1E805	1E815	1E825	1E835	1E845	1E855	1E865	1E875	1E885	1E895	1E8A5	1E8B5	
6	1E806	1E816	1E826	1E836	1E846	1E856	1E866	1E876	1E886	1E896	1E8A6	1E8B6	
7	1E807	1E817	1E827	1E837	1E847	1E857	1E867	1E877	1E887	1E897	1E8A7	1E8B7	
8	1E808	1E818	1E828	1E838	1E848	1E858	1E868	1E878	1E888	1E898	1E8A8	1E8B8	
9	1E809	1E819	1E829	1E839	1E849	1E859	1E869	1E879	1E889	1E899	1E8A9	1E8B9	
A	1E80A	1E81A	1E82A	1E83A	1E84A	1E85A	1E86A	1E87A	1E88A	1E89A	1E8AA	1E8BA	
B	1E80B	1E81B	1E82B	1E83B	1E84B	1E85B	1E86B	1E87B	1E88B	1E89B	1E8AB	1E8BB	
C	1E80C	1E81C	1E82C	1E83C	1E84C	1E85C	1E86C	1E87C	1E88C	1E89C	1E8AC	1E8BC	
D	1E80D	1E81D	1E82D	1E83D	1E84D	1E85D	1E86D	1E87D	1E88D	1E89D	1E8AD	1E8BD	
E	1E80E	1E81E	1E82E	1E83E	1E84E	1E85E	1E86E	1E87E	1E88E	1E89E	1E8AE	1E8BE	
F	1E80F	1E81F	1E82F	1E83F	1E84F	1E85F	1E86F	1E87F	1E88F	1E89F	1E8AF	1E8BF	

Syllables in k-

1E800	ᄁ	MENDE SYLLABLE KI
1E801	ᄂ	MENDE SYLLABLE KA
1E802	ᄃ	MENDE SYLLABLE KU
1E803	ᄄ	MENDE SYLLABLE KEE
1E804	ᄅ	MENDE SYLLABLE KE
1E805	ᄆ	MENDE SYLLABLE KOO
1E806	ᄇ	MENDE SYLLABLE KO
1E807	ᄈ	MENDE SYLLABLE KUA

Syllables in w-

1E808	ᄉ	MENDE SYLLABLE WI
1E809	ᄊ	MENDE SYLLABLE WI-2
1E80A	ᄋ	MENDE SYLLABLE WA
1E80B	ᄌ	MENDE SYLLABLE WA-2
1E80C	ᄍ	MENDE SYLLABLE WU
1E80D	ᄎ	MENDE SYLLABLE WEE
1E80E	ᄏ	MENDE SYLLABLE WEE-2
1E80F	ᄐ	MENDE SYLLABLE WE
1E810	ᄑ	MENDE SYLLABLE WE-2
1E811	ᄒ	MENDE SYLLABLE WOO
1E812	ᄓ	MENDE SYLLABLE WO
1E813	ᄔ	MENDE SYLLABLE WEI

Syllables in m-

1E814	ᄕ	MENDE SYLLABLE MIN
1E815	ᄌ	MENDE SYLLABLE MAN
1E816	ᄍ	MENDE SYLLABLE MUN
1E817	ᄎ	MENDE SYLLABLE MEN
1E818	ᄏ	MENDE SYLLABLE MON
1E819	ᄐ	MENDE SYLLABLE MUAN
1E81A	ᄑ	MENDE SYLLABLE MUEN

Syllables in b-

1E81B	ᄒ	MENDE SYLLABLE BI
1E81C	ᄓ	MENDE SYLLABLE BA
1E81D	ᄔ	MENDE SYLLABLE BU
1E81E	ᄕ	MENDE SYLLABLE BEE
1E81F	ᄌ	MENDE SYLLABLE BE
1E820	ᄍ	MENDE SYLLABLE BOO
1E821	ᄎ	MENDE SYLLABLE BO

Vowels

1E822	ᄏ	MENDE SYLLABLE I
1E823	ᄐ	MENDE SYLLABLE A
1E824	ᄑ	MENDE SYLLABLE U
1E825	ᄒ	MENDE SYLLABLE EE
1E826	ᄓ	MENDE SYLLABLE E
1E827	ᄔ	MENDE SYLLABLE OO
1E828	ᄕ	MENDE SYLLABLE O
1E829	ᄌ	MENDE SYLLABLE EI
1E82A	ᄍ	MENDE SYLLABLE IN
1E82B	ᄎ	MENDE SYLLABLE EEN
1E82C	ᄏ	MENDE SYLLABLE EN

Syllables in d-

1E82D	ᄐ	MENDE SYLLABLE DI
1E82E	ᄑ	MENDE SYLLABLE DA
1E82F	ᄒ	MENDE SYLLABLE DU
1E830	ᄓ	MENDE SYLLABLE DEE
1E831	ᄔ	MENDE SYLLABLE DOO
1E832	ᄕ	MENDE SYLLABLE DO

Syllables in s-

1E833	ᄕ	MENDE SYLLABLE SI
1E834	ᄌ	MENDE SYLLABLE SA

1E835	ᄍ	MENDE SYLLABLE SU
1E836	ᄎ	MENDE SYLLABLE SEE
1E837	ᄏ	MENDE SYLLABLE SE
1E838	ᄐ	MENDE SYLLABLE SOO
1E839	ᄑ	MENDE SYLLABLE SO

Syllables in l-

1E83A	ᄒ	MENDE SYLLABLE LI
1E83B	ᄓ	MENDE SYLLABLE LA
1E83C	ᄔ	MENDE SYLLABLE LU
1E83D	ᄕ	MENDE SYLLABLE LEE
1E83E	ᄌ	MENDE SYLLABLE LE
1E83F	ᄍ	MENDE SYLLABLE LE-2
1E840	ᄎ	MENDE SYLLABLE LOO
1E841	ᄏ	MENDE SYLLABLE LO

Syllable in r-

1E842	ᄐ	MENDE SYLLABLE RA
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Syllables in t-

1E843	ᄑ	MENDE SYLLABLE TI
1E844	ᄒ	MENDE SYLLABLE TA
1E845	ᄓ	MENDE SYLLABLE TU
1E846	ᄔ	MENDE SYLLABLE TEE
1E847	ᄕ	MENDE SYLLABLE TE
1E848	ᄌ	MENDE SYLLABLE TOO
1E849	ᄍ	MENDE SYLLABLE TO

Syllables in j-

1E84A	ᄎ	MENDE SYLLABLE JI
1E84B	ᄏ	MENDE SYLLABLE JA
1E84C	ᄐ	MENDE SYLLABLE JU
1E84D	ᄑ	MENDE SYLLABLE JEE
1E84E	ᄒ	MENDE SYLLABLE JE
1E84F	ᄓ	MENDE SYLLABLE JOO
1E850	ᄔ	MENDE SYLLABLE JO

Syllables in y-

1E851	ᄕ	MENDE SYLLABLE YI
1E852	ᄌ	MENDE SYLLABLE YA
1E853	ᄍ	MENDE SYLLABLE YU
1E854	ᄎ	MENDE SYLLABLE YEE
1E855	ᄏ	MENDE SYLLABLE YE
1E856	ᄐ	MENDE SYLLABLE YOO
1E857	ᄑ	MENDE SYLLABLE YO

Syllables in f-

1E858	ᄒ	MENDE SYLLABLE FI
1E859	ᄓ	MENDE SYLLABLE FA
1E85A	ᄔ	MENDE SYLLABLE FU
1E85B	ᄕ	MENDE SYLLABLE FEE
1E85C	ᄌ	MENDE SYLLABLE FE
1E85D	ᄍ	MENDE SYLLABLE FOO
1E85E	ᄎ	MENDE SYLLABLE FO
1E85F	ᄏ	MENDE SYLLABLE FAN

Syllables in n-

1E860	ᄐ	MENDE SYLLABLE NIN
1E861	ᄑ	MENDE SYLLABLE NAN
1E862	ᄒ	MENDE SYLLABLE NUN
1E863	ᄓ	MENDE SYLLABLE NEN
1E864	ᄔ	MENDE SYLLABLE NON

Syllables in h-

1E865	ᄕ	MENDE SYLLABLE HI
1E866	ᄌ	MENDE SYLLABLE HA
1E867	ᄍ	MENDE SYLLABLE HU

1E868	ᄒ	MENDE SYLLABLE HEE
1E869	ᄓ	MENDE SYLLABLE HE
1E86A	ᄔ	MENDE SYLLABLE HOO
1E86B	ᄕ	MENDE SYLLABLE HO
1E86C	ᄖ	MENDE SYLLABLE HEEI
1E86D	ᄗ	MENDE SYLLABLE HOOU
1E86E	ᄘ	MENDE SYLLABLE HIN
1E86F	ᄙ	MENDE SYLLABLE HAN
1E870	ᄚ	MENDE SYLLABLE HUN
1E871	ᄛ	MENDE SYLLABLE HEN
1E872	ᄜ	MENDE SYLLABLE HON
1E873	ᄝ	MENDE SYLLABLE HUAN

Syllables in ngg-

1E874	ᄞ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGI
1E875	ᄟ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGA
1E876	ᄠ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGU
1E877	ᄡ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGEE
1E878	ᄢ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGEE-2
1E879	ᄣ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGE
1E87A	ᄤ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGOO
1E87B	ᄥ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGO
1E87C	ᄦ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGGUA

Syllables in g-

1E87D	ᄧ	MENDE SYLLABLE GI
1E87E	ᄨ	MENDE SYLLABLE GA
1E87F	ᄩ	MENDE SYLLABLE GU
1E880	ᄪ	MENDE SYLLABLE GEE
1E881	ᄫ	MENDE SYLLABLE GE
1E882	ᄬ	MENDE SYLLABLE GOO
1E883	ᄭ	MENDE SYLLABLE GO
1E884	ᄮ	MENDE SYLLABLE GUA
1E885	ᄯ	MENDE SYLLABLE GEI

Syllables in ng-

1E886	ᄰ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGAN
1E887	ᄱ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGEN
1E888	ᄲ	MENDE SYLLABLE NGUAN

Syllables in p-

1E889	ᄳ	MENDE SYLLABLE PI
1E88A	ᄴ	MENDE SYLLABLE PA
1E88B	ᄵ	MENDE SYLLABLE PU
1E88C	ᄶ	MENDE SYLLABLE PEE
1E88D	ᄷ	MENDE SYLLABLE PE
1E88E	ᄸ	MENDE SYLLABLE POO
1E88F	ᄹ	MENDE SYLLABLE PO

Syllables in mb-

1E890	ᄺ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBI
1E891	ᄻ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBA
1E892	ᄼ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBU
1E893	ᄽ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBU-2
1E894	ᄾ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBEE
1E895	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBEE-2
1E896	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBE
1E897	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBE-2
1E898	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBOO
1E899	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBOO-2
1E89A	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBO
1E89B	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE MBO-2

Syllables in kp-

1E89C	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE KPI
1E89D	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE KPA
1E89E	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE KPU

1E89F	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE KPEE
1E8A0	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE KPE
1E8A1	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE KPOO
1E8A2	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE KPO

Syllables in gb-

1E8A3	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE GBI
1E8A4	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE GBA
1E8A5	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE GBU
1E8A6	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE GBEE
1E8A7	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE GBE
1E8A8	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE GBOO
1E8A9	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE GBO

Syllables in nd-

1E8AA	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NDI
1E8AB	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NDA
1E8AC	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NDU
1E8AD	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NDEE
1E8AE	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NDE
1E8AF	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NDOO
1E8B0	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NDO

Syllables in nj-

1E8B1	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NJA
1E8B2	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NJU
1E8B3	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NJEE
1E8B4	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NJOO
1E8B5	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NJO

Syllables in v-

1E8B6	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE VI
1E8B7	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE VA
1E8B8	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE VU
1E8B9	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE VEE
1E8BA	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE VE
1E8BB	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE VOO
1E8BC	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE VOO

Syllables in ny-

1E8BD	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NYIN
1E8BE	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NYAN
1E8BF	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NYUN
1E8C0	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NYEN
1E8C1	ᄿ	MENDE SYLLABLE NYON

10. Figures.

The table displays a comprehensive set of Mende syllables, organized in rows and columns. Each syllable is represented by a unique symbol or drawing, often accompanied by its phonetic transcription in Latin letters. The symbols include various geometric shapes, lines, and stylized characters.

Key syllables visible in the table include:

- U AI Bu Bu Bi Mo Ma Mi Wu Wa Wi Ku Ka Ki
- Tu Tu Ti Du Da Di Lu La Li Su Sa Si
- Ho Ha He Nu Na Ni Fu Fa Fi Yu Ya Yi
- Ha Pe Pa Wa Ka Mbe Hua Wp Kpe
- Jo Mba Nya Mo Nyu gba Te Lo Hi
- Mbe Gbo Gbo To Po go Tu Ke do
- Ngu Pe Ye So Fe Vo Ko Fe Kpu Le
- Kpa Te De Fo Hu Nge Ve Le Hei
- Bo + Fam e Pa Nye Be He Ke Mo Gbe
- Kpa Ga Leg Ye Kpe Gbe Ga Mbo To
- Mbu Yo So Mb We Ng Se Nga Wo Je
- Nda Hou Gua We Du Gbi Bi
- Bo ei So I Jo Fo Kpi II Ha
- Gbu o Be Mbi Yo Wei Mbo Uo Ho
- Nje Ngo Ngi Mua Lo Io Vu Be Je
- Gua Guai o A ee Se Mbe Jo Nga Kpa
- Nda do Kua Hi Jo Mbo Va Mbo Ra Ne
- Ju Nde Se Mue Mbe Mbu Vi

Figure 1. Table of Mende syllables.

Table II The Mende Syllabary										
	i	a	u	e	ɛ	ɔ	o	ua	ɛi	OTHER VOWELS
p	⁶⁸ 𐎗(𐎗)	⁹⁹ 𐎕(𐎕)	⁵⁰ 𐎙(𐎙)	⁸¹ 𐎛(𐎛)	⁵¹ 𐎜(𐎜)	⁶⁶ 𐎞(𐎞)	¹⁰² 𐎟(𐎟)			
w	⁴ 𐎠(𐎠)	⁵ 𐎡(𐎡)	⁶ 𐎢(𐎢)	¹²⁶ 𐎣(𐎣)	¹¹⁸ 𐎤(𐎤)	⁴⁵ 𐎥(𐎥)	¹¹⁴ 𐎦(𐎦)		¹⁴³ 𐎧(𐎧)	
	⁶¹ 𐎨(𐎨)	⁴⁹ 𐎩(𐎩)		¹⁹⁴ 𐎪(𐎪)	¹³⁹ 𐎫(𐎫)					
mb	¹⁴⁵ 𐎬(𐎬)	⁶² 𐎭(𐎭)	¹²² 𐎮(𐎮)	¹⁸⁸ 𐎯(𐎯)	⁷² 𐎰(𐎰)	¹⁴² 𐎱(𐎱)	¹⁰⁵ 𐎲(𐎲)			
			¹⁸⁷ 𐎳(𐎳)	⁴⁷ 𐎴(𐎴)	¹⁶¹ 𐎵(𐎵)	¹⁷² 𐎶(𐎶)	¹⁷⁴ 𐎷(𐎷)			
b	¹⁰ 𐎸(𐎸)	¹¹ 𐎹(𐎹)	¹² 𐎺(𐎺)	¹⁵⁰ 𐎻(𐎻)	⁹⁷ 𐎼(𐎼)	¹³⁸ 𐎽(𐎽)	¹⁰³ 𐎾(𐎾)			
kp	¹³² 𐎿(𐎿)	⁹² 𐏀(𐏀)	⁷⁴ 𐏁(𐏁)	⁴⁴ 𐏂(𐏂)	¹⁰⁸ 𐏃(𐏃)	¹⁵⁸ 𐏄(𐏄)	¹¹² 𐏅(𐏅)			
gb	¹²⁴ 𐏆(𐏆)	⁵⁶ 𐏇(𐏇)	¹⁴⁸ 𐏈(𐏈)	⁹³ 𐏉(𐏉)	¹⁰⁷ 𐏊(𐏊)	⁷⁰ 𐏋(𐏋)	⁷¹ 𐏌(𐏌)			
f	³⁴ 𐏍(𐏍)	³⁵ 𐏎(𐏎)	³⁶ 𐏏(𐏏)	⁷⁸ 𐏐(𐏐)	⁷⁵ 𐏑(𐏑)	⁸⁸ 𐏒(𐏒)	¹³³ 𐏓(𐏓)			¹⁰¹ 𐏔(𐏔) fā
v	¹⁸⁰ 𐏕(𐏕)	¹⁸⁵ 𐏖(𐏖)	¹⁵¹ 𐏗(𐏗)	¹⁷³ 𐏘(𐏘)	⁸⁵ 𐏙(𐏙)	⁷⁷ 𐏚(𐏚)	¹⁴⁴ 𐏛(𐏛)			
t	²⁵ 𐏜(𐏜)	²⁶ 𐏝(𐏝)	²⁷ 𐏞(𐏞)	⁹¹ 𐏟(𐏟)	⁵⁵ 𐏠(𐏠)	⁶⁹ 𐏡(𐏡)	¹⁰⁴ 𐏢(𐏢)			
l	²² 𐏣(𐏣)	²³ 𐏤(𐏤)	²⁴ 𐏥(𐏥)	⁸⁴ 𐏦(𐏦)	⁷³ 𐏧(𐏧)	¹⁵³ 𐏨(𐏨)	⁵⁴ 𐏩(𐏩)			¹¹⁰ 𐏪(𐏪) lce
nd	¹²³ 𐏫(𐏫)	¹²⁹ 𐏬(𐏬)	¹²⁵ 𐏭(𐏭)	¹⁹¹ 𐏮(𐏮)	¹¹⁹ 𐏯(𐏯)	¹⁷⁹ 𐏰(𐏰)	⁶⁷ 𐏱(𐏱)			
d	¹⁶ 𐏲(𐏲)	¹⁷ 𐏳(𐏳)	¹⁸ 𐏴(𐏴)	⁸⁹ 𐏵(𐏵)		⁶⁴ 𐏶(𐏶)	¹⁷⁸ 𐏷(𐏷)			

s	¹⁹ 𐏸(𐏸)	²⁰ 𐏹(𐏹)	²¹ 𐏺(𐏺)	¹⁶² 𐏻(𐏻)	¹¹⁶ 𐏼(𐏼)	⁷⁹ 𐏽(𐏽)	¹³⁶ 𐏾(𐏾)			
j	²⁸ 𐏿(𐏿)	²⁹ 𐐀(𐐀)	³⁰ 𐐁(𐐁)	¹⁵⁷ 𐐂(𐐂)	¹¹³ 𐐃(𐐃)	⁶³ 𐐄(𐐄)	¹⁷⁵ 𐐅(𐐅)			
nj		¹⁵² 𐐆(𐐆)	¹⁹² 𐐇(𐐇)	¹⁴⁹ 𐐈(𐐈)		¹⁶⁰ 𐐉(𐐉)	¹³⁴ 𐐊(𐐊)			
y	³¹ 𐐋(𐐋)	³² 𐐌(𐐌)	³³ 𐐍(𐐍)	¹⁰⁹ 𐐎(𐐎)	⁸⁰ 𐐏(𐐏)	¹²¹ 𐐐(𐐐)	¹⁴¹ 𐐑(𐐑)			
ɲg	¹⁵⁵ 𐐒(𐐒)	¹⁵⁹ 𐐓(𐐓)	⁸² 𐐔(𐐔)	¹¹⁵ 𐐕(𐐕)	⁸⁶ 𐐖(𐐖)	¹⁸³ 𐐗(𐐗)	¹⁵⁶ 𐐘(𐐘)	¹²⁷ 𐐙(𐐙)		
g	⁹⁰ 𐐚(𐐚)	¹¹¹ 𐐛(𐐛)	¹⁶⁸ 𐐜(𐐜)	¹⁹⁰ 𐐝(𐐝)	¹⁴⁶ 𐐞(𐐞)	¹²⁰ 𐐟(𐐟)	¹⁰⁶ 𐐠(𐐠)	¹⁶⁷ 𐐡(𐐡)	¹⁶⁶ 𐐢(𐐢)	
k	¹ 𐐣(𐐣)	² 𐐤(𐐤)	³ 𐐥(𐐥)	⁶⁵ 𐐦(𐐦)	⁹⁵ 𐐧(𐐧)	⁴⁸ 𐐨(𐐨)	⁷⁶ 𐐩(𐐩)	¹⁷⁷ 𐐪(𐐪)		
h	¹⁷⁶ 𐐬(𐐬)	⁴¹ 𐐭(𐐭)	¹⁸⁶ 𐐮(𐐮)	⁴⁰ 𐐯(𐐯)	⁹⁶ 𐐰(𐐰)	¹⁴⁰ 𐐱(𐐱)	⁴² 𐐲(𐐲)			⁸³ 𐐳(𐐳) hei
						¹⁹⁵ 𐐴(𐐴)				¹²⁸ 𐐵(𐐵) hou
-	¹³ 𐐶(𐐶)	¹⁴ 𐐷(𐐷)	¹⁵ 𐐸(𐐸)	¹⁶³ 𐐹(𐐹)	¹⁰⁰ 𐐺(𐐺)	¹⁴⁷ 𐐻(𐐻)	¹⁶⁵ 𐐼(𐐼)		¹³⁷ 𐐽(𐐽)	
NASAL SYLLABLES	ĩ	ã	ũ	ẽ	ɛ̃	õ				
ĩ	⁵³ 𐐿(𐐿)	¹³⁰ 𐑀(𐑀)	⁸⁷ 𐑁(𐑁)		⁵² 𐑂(𐑂)	⁵⁷ 𐑃(𐑃)		⁴⁶ 𐑄(𐑄)		
m	⁷ 𐑅(𐑅)	⁸ 𐑆(𐑆)	⁹ 𐑇(𐑇)		⁵⁹ 𐑈(𐑈)	⁹⁴ 𐑉(𐑉)		¹⁵⁴ 𐑊(𐑊)		¹⁸⁹ 𐑋(𐑋) müc
n	³⁷ 𐑌(𐑌)	³⁸ 𐑍(𐑍)	³⁹ 𐑎(𐑎)		¹¹⁷ 𐑏(𐑏)	¹⁶⁹ 𐑐(𐑐)				
ny	¹⁶⁴ 𐑑(𐑑)	⁵⁸ 𐑒(𐑒)	¹⁷⁰ 𐑓(𐑓)		⁹⁸ 𐑔(𐑔)	⁶⁰ 𐑕(𐑕)				
ɲ		⁴³ 𐑖(𐑖)			¹⁸⁴ 𐑗(𐑗)			¹⁸¹ 𐑘(𐑘)		
-	¹³⁵ 𐑙(𐑙)			¹⁸² 𐑚(𐑚)	¹³¹ 𐑛(𐑛)					

Figure 2. Table of Mende syllables from Dalby .

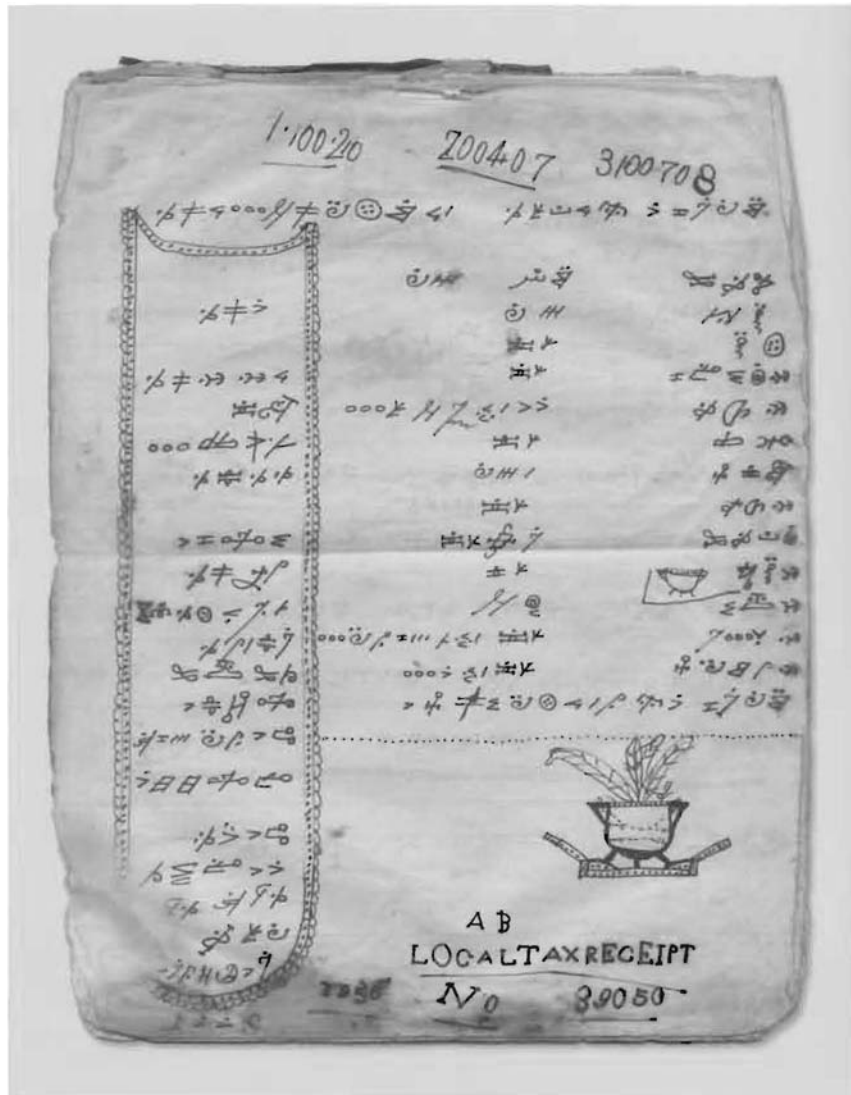


Figure 3. Tax receipt from Sierra Leone in Mende script, from Tuchscherer 2007.

A. Administrative

1. Title

Preliminary proposal for encoding the Mende script in the SMP of the UCS

2. Requester's name

Michael Everson

3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)

Individual contribution.

4. Submission date

2010-01-23

5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

6. Choose one of the following:

6a. This is a complete proposal

No.

6b. More information will be provided later

Yes.

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:

1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

Yes.

1b. Proposed name of script

Mende.

1c. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

No.

1d. Name of the existing block

2. Number of characters in proposal

194.

3. Proposed category (A-Contemporary; B.1-Specialized (small collection); B.2-Specialized (large collection); C-Major extinct; D-Attested extinct; E-Minor extinct; F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic; G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols)

Category A.

4a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

Yes.

4b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the "character naming guidelines" in Annex L of P&P document?

Yes.

4c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

Yes.

5a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

Jason Glavy and Michael Everson.

5b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

Michael Everson, FontLab.

6a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

Yes.

6b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

Yes.

7. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?

Yes.

8. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

See above.

C. Technical – Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.

No.

2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?

No.

2b. If YES, with whom?

2c. If YES, available relevant documents

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?

See above.

4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)

Relatively rare.

4b. Reference

5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?

Yes.

5b. If YES, where?

Scholars and some local use in Sierra Leone.

6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?

No.

6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?

6c. If YES, reference

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?

Yes.

8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?

No.

8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

8c. If YES, reference

9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?

No.

9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

9c. If YES, reference

10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?

No.

10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?

10c. If YES, reference

11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?

No.

11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?

11c. If YES, reference

11d. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?

No.

11e. If YES, reference

12a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?

No.

12b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)

13a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?

No.

13b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?