

About FLI

Pakistan is a country rich in cultural and ethnic diversity. Many of Pakistan's people recognize the importance of preserving this wealth of cultural heritage, including Pakistan's many languages. However, until recently there has been a lack of institutional support in this area. For this reason, the Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) was founded in 2003. FLI's intent is to function as a resource centre for the many language communities in Pakistan's mountainous northern region.

For nearly ten years, FLI has been providing training and mentorship for a number of language activists, social workers, and local researchers in the area who are working to preserve and document the languages and cultures of northern Pakistan. Some of these people are compiling dictionaries, some are developing community-based multi-lingual literacy programmes, and some are working to produce literature in their respective languages. FLI is able to assist in these endeavours by offer training, curriculum development, and project facilitation for people working in these fields.

Goals of FLI

- Preserve oral traditions, poetry, proverbs, folk tales and other aspects of cultural heritage

- Develop bilingual or trilingual dictionaries and glossaries
- Improve reading and writing skills through mother-tongue-based literacy programs
- Produce literature in the national, regional and vernacular languages of northern Pakistan

Achievements

- Helped to establish Mother-tongue-based Multilingual Education Schools in three language communities
- Published several books in disadvantaged languages
- Connected people working in different languages
- Provided advocacy for language rights and multilingual education
- Established a library for researchers in linguistics, literacy & anthropology
- Trained and enabled people to document their mother tongues
- Established international links for knowledge-sharing
- Developed a training curriculum

Available Resources

- Resource centre for lesser-known and disadvantaged language communities in northern Pakistan.
- Training in language and culture documentation, lexicography, literacy

resource development, organizational development, project leadership and management.

- Bridge-building assistance within and between the many different local communities.
- A platform for collaboration between local communities.
- Capacity-building training to help establish multilingual education schools and improve literacy rates, especially among those most at risk.
- Advocacy through conferences, media and its network of relationships to promote better policies in education.
- Publications that develop a better understanding of the linguistic and cultural diversity of the region.



FLI's Target Languages of Northern Pakistan

1. Balti
2. Bateri
3. Burushaski
4. Chilisso
5. Dameli
6. Domaaki
7. Gawar-Bati
8. Gawri
9. Gojri
10. Gowro
11. Hindko
12. Indus Kohistani
13. Kalasha
14. Kalkoti
15. Kam-Kataviri
16. Kashmiri
17. Khowar
18. Kundal Shahi
19. Ormuri
20. Pahari-Potwari
21. Palula
22. Pashto
23. Shina
24. Torwali
25. Ushojo
26. Wakhi
27. Yidgha

For more information, contact FLI at:

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**FORUM FOR LANGUAGE
INITIATIVES**

*Preserving for future generations the richness
of traditional stories and customs*

