Training and resource centre working to enable the language communities of northern Pakistan to preserve and promote their mother tongues.
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 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.

**OUR VALUES**

The following core values are the guiding principles for FLI:

- Transferring knowledge and skills.
- Developing human resources.
- Serving through partnership and networking.
- Affirming the intrinsic worth of all mother tongues and cultures.
- Building capable, visionary leaders in the field of language development who are committed to excellence and integrity.

**OUR MAIN OBJECTIVES & GOALS**

- Promote social development in different language communities.
- Produce well-trained, competent men and women able to carry out linguistic and cultural research, produce vernacular literature and provide training and consultant help to new language development workers.
- Serve through partnership with local communities and other agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, with similar aims and objectives.
- Promote and develop the mother tongue of all target language groups and their respective cultures.
- Motivate men, women and children to work for their welfare and development of the community at large through the use of local media.
- Promote civic responsibility through training and dissemination of information in local languages.
- Bring out the capability and leadership qualities among the individuals of the community in the field of language and social development.

**OUR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AIMS**

The primary aim of all that we do is to equip Pakistani nationals to produce and use all kinds of literature in their mother tongue.

The secondary aim of FLI is to help facilitate the establishment of effective mother-tongue literacy programs, which help people read and write in their mother tongue language. Once learned, they can then more effectively learn to read and write in Urdu, the national language of Pakistan.
Northern Pakistan is home to nearly 30 distinct languages, many of them with a relatively small number of speakers. Due to lack of institutional support many of these languages have been under the threat of extinction. The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) was established in 2002 with the goal of preserving these languages by building capacity among the people from local communities in the area of language documentation, multilingual education, literature production and organizational development.

In addition, FLI also publishes books about the languages and cultures of the region, runs advocacy campaigns for the language communities and builds bridges among people in the region. External linguists, anthropologists and specialists, in the areas of multilingual education and management, work as mentors and master trainers. They trained a core group of people from the language groups (LGs) through both long and short duration training interventions. Despite of many challenges, FLI has made significant progress towards achieving the goals in its first 15 years.

The situation as whole in the country and among these language communities is very different from the way it was back in 2002. Many trainees of FLI are actively involved in preserving and developing their mother tongues. Some have formed community-based organizations and established mother tongue-based education programs, and one of the provincial governments (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) has passed a bill to establish a government department to develop the languages in the province. Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly has also been moved with a resolution to preserve and promote the regional languages of Gilgit-Baltistan. FLI's administrative and training responsibilities have also transitioned to Pakistani citizens who have benefited the most from the trainings, although these external experts continue to provide consultancy and training services to FLI's local leadership.
FLI administration asked me to write a message for its Annual Report as the Chairman of its Board of Directors. I cannot decline this request of the visionary and professional team at FLI who has been in this journey with me since the inception of this organization back in 2002.

The need for an organization like FLI was first felt when we were trying to organize our various efforts regarding research of the languages and cultures of Northern Pakistan, our individual and joint efforts to increase the literacy rate in KP in particular and in Pakistan in general, and raising voices for the marginalized communities in Northern Pakistan. Thus, in order to organize all these activities in a way that would make them as effective as possible and to give them a legal cover, FLI was established.

In its journey over the past several years, FLI has played a vital role in creating awareness among indigenous language communities regarding their linguistic rights. It has also played a prominent role in advocating for language rights among stakeholders at various levels and on various fronts. As a result of its networking and advocacy, FLI has accomplished tasks that are crucial to the recognition and preservation of language rights over the past several years.

Let me also take this opportunity to make an appeal to all those good minds and hearts who want to play their respective roles for all of humanity and for the people of Pakistan dwelling in the mountainous ranges of the Karakuram, Himalayas and Hindukush specifically: FLI is a responsible, professional, accountable organization with a committed and hardworking professional team of trained individuals, and should be recognized as such.

Let me urge you that together we can, and together we must, make a difference for the larger interests of the ethnic and linguistic minorities, the indigenous and marginalized citizens of Pakistan living in the mountain regions. Let's raise our hands in front of Almighty Allah to give us the courage and patience to face all the challenges and hardships in mitigating the problems and issues of these people and to bless us with honesty, fair play, good will, optimism, a spirit of team work and collectivism, and above all, a spirit of serving humanity at large. AMEN.
Language Relatedness in Target Region

INDO-IRANIAN

Iranian
- Western
  - Northwestern
    - Ormuri
  - Eastern
  - Southeastern
    - Pashto
    - Pamir
      - Wakhi
      - Yidgha
- INDO-Aryan
  - Northwestern Zone
    - Kashmiri
    - Lahnda
      - Hindko
      - Panjabi
    - Kunar
      - Dameli
      - Gawarbatı
    - Chitral
      - Kalasha
      - Khowar
    - Kohistani
      - Bateri
      - Chilisso
      - Gawri
      - Gowro
      - Indus-Kohistani
      - Torwali
- Shina
  - Shina
  - Kalkoti
  - Palula
  - Ushojo
  - Kundal Shahi

Nuristani
- Kataviri-Kamviri

Northern Zone
- Western Pahari
  - Pahari-Potwari

Central Group
- Domaaki

Central Zone
- Rajasthani
  - Gojri

SINO-TIBETAN
- Tibeto-Burman
  - Himalayish
  - Tibeto-Kahauri
  - Tibetic
    - Tibetan
      - Western
      - Balti

ISOLATE
- Burushaski
Assalam u Alaikum and Hello to everyone,

I am glad to share that we have completed another successful year. Our struggle for the preservation and promotion of the disadvantaged languages of Northern Pakistan continues with the same zeal and fervor. During the time period covered in this report, we have developed language documentation skills of more people, published more books, kept fighting for the rights of language communities and strengthened the mother tongue-based literacy projects run by our partner organizations. You will find a description of all that we have been accomplishing for the benefit of our national heritages in this short, comprehensive booklet.

We celebrate with the Ushojo community in Swat, and the Dameli, Gawarbari and Yidgha communities in Chitral for turning their verbal languages into written form for the first time last year. We have put many members from these communities in the driver's seat of their language development efforts by equipping them with required skills, and we are hopeful that they will take the lead in initiating on-going activities and progress. On behalf of FLI, I assure them all of our continued support in their on-going linguistic work in the future. We also were able to partner with PMU-Interlife and Payap University to provide a university-level Project Management Course. Twelve community leaders from 8 Language communities successfully completed this year-long course, to the benefit of their community organizations. We hope their service to their language communities will be greatly enhanced by the skills gained through this course.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all our partner organizations and stakeholders, particularly: SIDA-PMU, SIL, Payap University in Thailand, Henrik Liljegren and Stockholm University in Sweden, and USAID. Without their support, our work would not be possible.

Summing up, I wish all FLI staff members a very successful year in 2017 of accomplishing even more than what we achieved last year. I also congratulate our media team for completing this comprehensive report.

Thank you
Target Languages

FLI works with the following languages, spoken in Northern-Pakistan, for the purpose of preserving them through documentation and development. Fifteen of them have been documented through projects such as word collection and dictionary development, while six of those 15 have also started Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) programs and three have Adult Literacy Programs (ALP) in their respective areas;

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. KundalShahi
19. Ormuri
20. Pahari-Potohari
21. Palula
22. Pashto
23. Shina
24. Torwali
25. Ushojo
26. Wakhi
27. Yidgha
Languages Being Documented by Newly-Trained Mother-Tongue Speakers

More than 150 people from a dozen language communities were trained in basic language documentation and language research by FLI-facilitated trainings and mentoring. Many of these people are now engaged in dictionary making, orthography development and producing literature as a result of these trainings. During the last year, these training events included:

Writing System (Orthography) Development Workshops

Approximately 50 people from the Dameli, Gawarabati, Kalasha, Yidgha and Ushojo language communities were trained in good practices for orthography development for their mother tongues. As the result of these workshops, these language communities were able to develop and update the writing systems of their heritage languages.

Writers' Workshops

In addition to the Orthography Development Workshops, FLI further enhanced the skills of more than 50 people in language documentation from the language communities mentioned above through a series of four writers' workshops held in each of the respective language regions. Spread throughout the reporting year, these workshops provided the people with the opportunity to further test and refine their writing systems and to learn how to produce literature in their mother tongues. The activities in these workshops caused issues with the writing systems to rise to the surface, allowing them to be addressed and dealt with as the orthographies were refined.
Semantic Domain Workshops

The three Semantic Domain Workshops that FLI held in each of the Kalasha, Yidgha, Dameli, Gawarbat and Ushojo language regions made up a very important part of these communities' language documentation trainings. They enhanced the skills of more than 50 people total from these communities in the collection of words from each of their languages in a professional, efficient manner. As a result of these workshops, five dictionaries were published in five of the languages we worked with during the last year.

Publication of Culturally Relevant Literature

Training and mentoring under the Basic Language Documentation program that FLI initiated for the people of these five language communities included mentoring the trainees through the process of collecting, recording, and publishing folktales, folk songs and proverbs of their mother tongues and cultures. At least ten books and CDs were published as a result of this process to add to the documentation of these 5 languages.

Community Organizations Launch Vernacular Language Websites

FLI, in collaboration with Kalam Media, an international partner of FLI, helped ten local language development organizations to develop websites for their ten respective local languages. The community based organizations (CBOs) which participated in this Website Development Workshop (held in Islamabad) represented two language communities form South Pakistan; Marwari and Saraiki, and eight language communities from North Pakistan; Shina, Palula, Khowar, Gawri, Torwali, Indus Kohistani, Hindko and Gojri. Each language community was represented by two participants who were trained in website development and given the opportunity to begin formatting and publishing their websites. As a result of this workshop, all of these organizations were able to completely develop their websites and activate them, making data about these languages and communities widely available and, giving each of these communities a digital platform for their language documentation and development activities.
Books in Disadvantaged Languages, Published

FLI publishes books in and about disadvantaged languages that highlight important linguistic or cultural features of these languages. FLI publishes two series: one academic series called “FLI Language and Cultural Series” and another vernacular series called “Maqami Zaban-o-Adab ka Ishati Silsilah” (متاگیزبان واداب کا اشاعت سلسلہ).

During this reporting period, FLI and its trainees published ten more books in five of the languages of Northern Pakistan with following titles:

1. Dameli Majmua Alfaaz (Dameli Wordlist)
2. Dameli Alif Bay (Dameli Alphabet Book)
3. Gawarabati Majmua Alfaaz (Gawarabati Wordlist)
4. Gawarabati Alif Bay (Gawarabati Alphabet Book)
5. Yidgha Majmua Alfaaz (Yidgha Wordlist)
6. Yidgha Alif Bay (Yidgha Alphabet Book)
7. Ushojo Majmua Alfaaz (Ushojo Wordlist)
8. Ushojo Alif Bay (Ushojo Alphabet Book)
9. Khowar Matalan Gurzain (Proverbs Garden, Khowar)
10. Khowar Muhavira (Khowar Idioms)
Empowering the Partners

CBOs Trained in Organizational Development

In addition to building the capacity of our individual partners in various areas, FLI also helped to build the capacity and credibility of its partner organizations. During the reporting year, CBOs from more than a dozen language communities - Khowar, Shina, Gawri, Torwali, Ushojo, Yidgha, Gojri, Kundal Shahi, Gawarbati, Dameli, Marwari, Saraiki, and Hindko - learned how to strengthen their organizational structure, management and leadership. The trainings to these ends covered the areas of finance management, project development and management, transparency and leadership development. FLI's training programs facilitated during the last year for these purposes included:

- The Identity Based Community Development Program (IBCD)
- SWOT Analysis Training
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Community of Practice
- Advocacy Community of Practice
Languages of Northern Pakistan and surrounding regions

Map created with QGIS 2.18.4. Map design: Henrik Liljegren (2017). Produced for the Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI), with the right to display and distribute.
FLI in collaboration with its partner CBOs has introduced a multilingual preschool system in the country by helping language communities to establish Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) schools. So far, 369 students have been enrolled in our 14 schools under these programs that are run by our CBOs in six language communities: Palula, Khowar, Hindko, Indus-Kohistani, Gawri and Torwali.

MTB-MLE is a quality education approach, highly supported and recommended by UNESCO, that first builds a strong cognitive foundation in the language that children understand and speak best (L1), then gradually transfers these acquired reading, writing and numeracy skills into a second language (L2), as required to gain access to the mainstream school system.

FLI helped six language communities initiate multilingual education programmes by providing trainings in methodology and committee formation, for supervisors and teachers, and developing and publishing materials. Also noteworthy is that 46% of the kids receiving education in their mother tongue from these schools are girls – a very impressive percentage given the culture and general attitude towards girls’ education in the regions where these schools are located. During the reporting period, the following activities were completed to further strengthen the MLE Schools.

- Good monitoring systems were established
- School records as well as teaching and instructional materials were upgraded
- Supervision and project management skills were improved
- In-service teacher trainings were held by the CBOs to further improve teaching skills
- Awareness raising and mobilization in communities were improved through literacy needs assessments and connecting the communities with government education authorities.
- Two years of revised and re-designed MTB-MLE curriculum materials were printed for all six MLE projects.

**A Second Chance for the Uneducated: Adult Literacy Programmes (ALP)**

FLI is also helping two of its partner CBOs to run Adult Literacy Centers that provide education for those who did not have the opportunity to attend school as children, but want to improve their education now as adults. So far, 30 women and 15 men have enrolled in three centers that have been established by the Gawri Community Development Project (GCDP) and the Palula Community Welfare Organization (PCWO). Just as with the MTB-MLE preschool programmes, FLI provides these organizations with trainings, curriculum development, and the printing of materials for their adult literacy programmes as well.
Standing Up for the Rights of Disadvantaged Communities

FLI has been raising the issues faced by indigenous language communities at various forums to advocate for them to be granted their due rights. However, lack of awareness about these rights among the communities themselves was an issue that needed to be addressed when we began our advocacy efforts. Thanks to FLI’s advocacy campaigns, this has changed drastically, and the communities’ knowledge base is much improved now compared to when FLI was founded 15 years ago. FLI’s advocacy activities for language rights and multilingual education continue to be effective, as do FLI’s motivational activities to encourage the disadvantaged language communities to recognize the importance of their mother-tongues.

GBLA resolves to promote regional languages

The Legislative Assembly of Gilgit-Baltistan (GBLA) passed a resolution last year with a majority vote, asking the state government to take action for the preservation and promotion of the languages of Gilgit-Baltistan. People at such a high level are now becoming aware of the importance of the languages that they have been ignoring for decades. In many cases, and this one specifically, this new awareness is a direct result of FLI’s advocacy efforts, in coordination with its local partners.

Khowar Qaida Amended and Accepted

FLI played an active role in the reprinting of the Khowar Qaida, a controversial primer book previously deemed unacceptable in the relevant region. The previous KPK government passed legislation to include four regional languages -- Saraiki, Hindko, Khowar and Indus Kohistani -- along with the previously-included Pashto in the province’s education system as a subject in primary level of education in the languages’ respective regions. The Khowar Qaida, prepared by the KP Curriculum Development Directorate, encountered some acceptability issues in Chitral regarding some of the included material. FLI's Executive Director was included in the Correction Committee, giving FLI the opportunity to address the matter and propose corrections to the offending content. As a result, the Khowar Qaida was amended and has now been reprinted with the approved content.

Journalists Acknowledge Indigenous Languages

Approximately 30 local journalists from Gilgit-Baltistan attended FLI’s media seminar, held at the Gilgit Press Club, and gained greater awareness about the languages spoken in their surrounding region. While sharing at the event, the president of the press club, a senior journalist, said, "I don't use my native language while speaking to my children at home, and today I feel how ignorant I have been." FLI's awareness-raising among the media and government departments was very effective. Through its growing network, FLI kept influencing all the stakeholders at all levels, focusing first on the communities in order to educate them about their rights, then connecting them with higher-level influencers such as the media and politicians. As a result, the situation in the city of Gilgit has changed drastically, and the writers, journalists and language activists have intensified their awareness-raising campaign for language rights and development through all channels available to them.
Three language communities, Gauri, Shina and Torwali were tested under a survey program by the FLI team and as a result the concerned community people were facilitated to make plans for strengthening the use of their languages for various purposes after finding the weak areas during the survey in the reporting year.

The survey focused the most on main sectors; Identity, Spoken and Writing & Reading with regards to a heritage language in a speech community. The Gauri language was found struggling in the Spoken area as the language is facing a tremendous pressure from the dominant Pashto even in its native place Kalam, Swat. The Shina language, a lingua franca in Gilgit-Baltistan was very strong in many areas but finds itself in battle with Urdu in the Gilgit city due to the population influx the growing economic activities are causing. The Torwali language faces same pressure as does the Gauri language in Swat.

The Sustainable Use Model (SUM), a latest tool to plan the future for a language was used with above language communities to figure out the areas requiring working on. The survey ended up developing a smart plan to increase the language use in daily life so that the language could safely travel long into the future. For the purpose they prepared plans and set targets to make their languages an essential part of their identity and strengthen the use for speaking.
In the year ending January - June 2016, FLI's consolidated income was PKR 8,794,921 and consolidated expenditure was PKR 7,950,045.

The consolidated accounts of FLI include the full accounts of the PMU I-LEAD Project and SGAFP-USAID.

FLI's accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost convention and in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

**INCOME**

Consolidated income was PKR 8,794,921 for six months. FLI's own income was PKR 530,343 accounting for 6.03% of overall income. Grants from PMU InterLife was PKR 6,253,678 and from SGAFP-USAID was PKR 2,010,900 accounting 71.11% and 22.86% of total income for PMU InterLife and SGAFP-USAID.

### BREAKDOWN OF GRANT INCOME

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<td>SGAFP – USAID</td>
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<td>FLI</td>
<td>530,343</td>
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<td>Total Grant Income</td>
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EXPENDITURE

Consolidated expenditure was PKR 7,950,045. FLI's own expenditure was PKR 464,791 accounting for 5.85% of overall expenditure. Expenditure under PMU InterLife's I-LEAD project was PKR 4,685,305 and under SGAFP-USAID was PKR 2,799,949 accounting 58.93% and 35.22% of total expenditure for PMU InterLife and SGAFP-USAID.

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<th>USAID</th>
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<td>2,783,436</td>
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</table>
The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) is grateful to many organizations for their support in giving a voice and providing a platform to the disadvantaged linguistic communities living in Northern Pakistan. These marginalized and vulnerable communities could not previously benefit from the progress this country as a whole has made over the years due to the lack of resources and assistance provided to these communities.

FLI endeavored to change this by making these communities proud of who they are and helping them access the resources they need. It gave them opportunities to gain new skills and use their abilities and, most of all, it helped them to understand the value of their unique cultural identities. Gradually, these communities responded and today, most of those with which we are working now recognize their potential power and influence, and are turning their weaknesses into strengths.

But this shift was not possible without the support FLI received from other great institutions. These institutions continually support us through financial assistance, training, capacity building opportunities, and mentoring, all of which make us more capable to train others. We at FLI are very grateful for their generous and consistent financial assistance and long partnership. The organizations which partnered with us throughout the reporting period and continue that support today are listed below:
Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy
(The first NPO Certification Agency, authorized by The Government of Pakistan vide notification No.11/6(1)/2006)

Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy hereby certifies that according to the records of the organisation

Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI)

has complied with the desired applicable requirements and meets certification standards in the areas of Internal Governance, Financial Management and Programme Delivery and has been awarded PCP Certification.

Executive Director

PCP-2016/449

04-10-2016

04-10-2019

Islamabad

Issued on

Valid up to

Place of Issue
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<td>2</td>
<td>Gawri Community Development Program (GCDP)</td>
<td>Kalam Swat KPK</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Institute for Education &amp; Development (IBT)</td>
<td>Bahrain, Swat KPK</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sakshen Research Development Foundation (SRDF)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Mother-tongue Institute for Education &amp; Research (MIER)</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Alqalam Welfare Organization Arandu (AWOA)</td>
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<td>Yidgha Development Network (YDN)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Bakarwal Mobile Schools (BMS)</td>
<td>Rawalpindi, Punjab</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FLI's Achievements

- FLI helped start Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education (MTB-MLE) pilot projects in Gawri, Palula, and instructional material development, three language communities (Hindko, Indus
- Enhanced organizational development skills of personnel from seven language and cultural organizations by training them in finance, project management and leadership development.
- Published a number of books in its academic and vernacular series; “FLI Language and Culture Series” and “MaqamiZaban-o-AdabkalShatiSilisa” (ماگامی زبان و ادبکالشاتی سلسله) respectively.
- Translated important language-related materials from English into Urdu which include semantic domains, linguistics key terms, and UNESCO MLE brochures.
- Provided a platform for the disadvantaged language communities of northern Pakistan through trainings and conferences to collaborate for mutual learning.
- Provided access to academic resources to Pakistani and non-Pakistani researchers, trainers and consultants by establishing a library of linguistics, anthropology, literacy, orthography, lexicography, training and management books and articles and electronic resources.
- Advocated for language rights and multilingual education among disadvantaged language communities which now regularly celebrate International Mother Language Day (February) and International Literacy Day (September).
- More than 30 people from a dozen language communities were trained in basic language documentation, dictionary-making, orthography development, and literature production.
- Awareness-raising among the media and government is also very effective. Journalists are, in turn, using FLI’s information for their views and for writing articles. A provincial government, KPK initiated language development work by appointing a Language Authority for the region. The Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly has also adopted a resolution, asking the concerned government to take action in order to preserve and promote the languages, spoken in GB.
- FLI has established international links for knowledge sharing and has good relationship with the Foundation for Endangered Languages (UK), SIL International, Sorosoro (France), LingDay (Japan), Bhasha Research Centre (India), Payap and Mahidol Universities (Thailand), RNLD (Australia), and UNESCO (Thailand). FLI is a planning group member of the CTLDC and member of Asia-Pacific Multilingual Education working group.