



Empowering language communities of Northern Pakistan to revitalize their linguistic and cultural heritage through research, training, education and advocacy

Annual Report 2018

Forum for Language Initiatives



We envisage integrated, diverse, sustainable and culturally recognized communities

◇ About us

Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI), a nongovernmental, nonpolitical and not for profit research organization is based in Islamabad. FLI's target area is northern Pakistan comprising Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir. FLI works for language rights and enables community people to develop their languages. There are more than 70 languages in Pakistan and around 30 of them spoken in its northern part. 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.

OUR VALUES

Transparency & Accountability
Integrity
Empathy
Knowledge Sharing
Partnership
Teamwork
Gender Equality
Plurality

◇ In 05 years down the road;

- Successful implementation of KP and GB governments' Language in Education policies through advocacy
- Capacity building of partner organizations enabling them to document their respective languages
- Up-gradation and strengthening of mother tongue based education program through partnership
- Formation of community based organizations in five more language communities
- Establishment of Research & Development wing in FLI
- Integration of Kalasha and Gojri MLE programs to mainstream with MTB MLE approach
- Inclusion of 05 more languages in KP govt's school curriculum
- Expansion and extension of Adult Literacy Program to two more language communities
- Organizing migrated people from ethno-linguistic communities, living in major cities of Pakistan

MESSAGE



Fakhruddin

Executive Director

Assalam-o-Alaikum and hello,

I'm happy to present to you some fresh stories about the achievements, which we at FFI accomplished last year with the support of our donors, partners and stakeholders. We consistently pursued our objectives of language preservation, community empowerment and rights advocacy throughout the year. We involved more people and enhanced their skills in language documentation. We also finalized FFI's strategic path this year.

Our advocacy efforts with the relevant government officials of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) bore much fruit, and together with these governments, we made progress toward ensuring the sustainable use of our heritage languages. We hope that the newly elected government in KP steps up its efforts to more effectively support the disadvantaged groups of the province now that some of the newly elected legislators have knowledge about the issues which have been hindering the development work of our languages.

The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) government is striving hard to create unanimity among the language communities on their language development efforts. The exertions of GB government have helped the Shina language community in GB to resolve issues related to its writing system. It is our desire that other language communities in GB will also be motivated and take advantage of the favorable environment provided by the government to them.

Internally, I am happy to see my leadership team growing, learning and enhancing its abilities to envision the projects on their own. We look forward to reaching out to more language communities working on many fronts and expanding our sphere of influence. We started the mother-tongue-based, multilingual (MLE) up-gradation project last year in 3 language communities, and established a satellite office in Swat, KP to better support that effort. We have plans to further expand this year and hope to continue moving ahead. My best wishes and encouragement are for my team to keep going. I also want to express my thanks to all of our stakeholders for their support and collaboration.

Thank you.

Strategic Path Paved for FLI

Strategic planning provides guidelines, reviews the progress and paves the path for the future of any organization in the development sector. It determines the timeframe for the target accomplishments after it simplifies the goals of the organization. Strategic planning discusses the challenges of an organization's plans in a helpful way that also leads to recommended solutions focusing on sustainability. With these stated aims in mind, the Strategic Planning Meetings for FLI took place in February 2018. Many good and learned minds came from the target regions to Islamabad to take part in these meetings, including those with academic and project management backgrounds. The participants included personalities from FLI's partner organizations, FLI's trainees, and members of FLI's executive board who represent various ethnolinguistic communities throughout northern Pakistan.

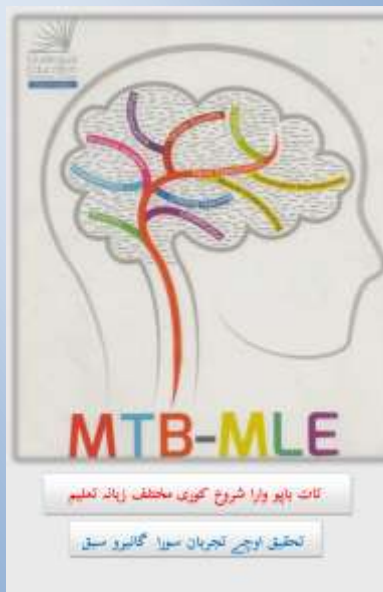
A set of 13 goals to be achieved by 2024, a revision of the Mission & Vision statements of the organization in view of looming opportunities, and a strategy to maintain the sustainability of the organization were among what came out of the planning. The challenges and their apparent redressal were discussed in detail laying down the priorities for the future. The community activists also shared the difficulties they are facing in their endeavors and the potential support FLI could provide to them. These strategic planning meetings for FLI took place five years after their last set of strategic planning meetings.



UNESCO hails FLI for dispersal of its message in local Languages

A UNESCO representative, from its Bangkok office, Ms Kristy Bang has expressed pleasure to FLI for translating its message into one of Pakistan's languages. In an email, she thanked FLI for dispersing the World Body's message under the theme, "*Children learn quickly in their mother tongue*" in the Khowar language which aims to make the message comprehensible to the many people who speak that language. FLI translated one section of UNESCO's MLE promotional documentary into Khowar, a language widely spoken in Chitral, in Gilgit-Baltistan, and in Swat. The short film has subsequently been posted online and shared via social media. The local version of the documentary was received warmly by subscribers. The content of the documentary suggests that people need to adopt the idea of providing early childhood education that begins with their mother tongue. FLI has been striving to introduce this model in northern Pakistan. Comprising some case studies from around the world, the documentary makes it clear that children learn more quickly and better when taught in their mother tongue. It's hoped that FLI's other partner organizations will follow through by localizing the message in their languages as well.

What's more, FLI has printed UNESCO's MLE booklet in two languages, Gawri and Khowar, with the cooperation of the respective CBOs people who volunteered their services for the translation. We appreciate that Muhammad Nabi from the Gawri Community Development Program (GCDP), Swat, and Farid Ahmed Raza from the Mother tongue Institute of Education and Research (MIER), Chitral, translated this booklet into their respective languages.



Dictionary-Making Skills Enhanced

Eight people from four language communities who were part of FLI's basic dictionary-making training (Basic Lexicography Workshop) in 2016 attained new and advanced skills in a weeklong workshop FLI held to improve their proficiency in Lexicography. The participants came from the Shina, Yidgha, Gawarbat and Dameli language communities. The workshop was held in April 2018 in Islamabad and enabled the participants to:

- Proficiently use the next-level software in dictionary making. Participants can now easily export collected data from the previous basic software into the more advanced program.
- More effectively understand and use the fields of *Definitions* and *Parts of Speech*, including the editing, revision, polishing and updating of their existing data in these fields.
- Understand the various possible modes of dictionary publications, including print, web, Smartphone app and digital publications.

The participants also learned how to identify and represent the scientific information for the local names of flora and fauna in their native languages.





The Ormuri language gets its writing issues resolved

The Ormuri language is moving steadily forward towards its goals in preservation and development. To make this journey smooth and successful, FLI is helping the Ormuri community people through various enabling programs. It has so far organized two training programs to strengthen the development work for the Ormuri language. A workshop of five days in length for the language was organized in February 2018 in Islamabad aimed at reviewing the orthography, including the assessment of the advantages of using a different writing system for the Ormuri language. Ten members of the Ormuri language community, nine men and one woman, including writers, poets and teachers, attended the workshop. In May 2018, FLI organized a *Writers' Workshop* for the Orumuri language to resolve most of the writing issues in the language and to facilitate the language community in language development. Nine people attended this three-day workshop, held in the Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) city of the KP province. The purpose of the workshop was to build the confidence of the Ormuri people in using their language for producing literature in their language. The workshop also aimed at enabling them to test and revise the produced material. Since the content creation required various activities like the recording, transcription and translation of traditional stories (folktales), the training was effective in exemplifying all the aspects of technical documentation to the participants. It's hoped that given these trainings, the Ormuri language speakers will continue their efforts towards the documentation and development of their language. FLI has planned to hold another workshop next year for this language community in order to facilitate the use of a computerized keyboard for typing in the language. The hope is that issues relating to fonts and orthography (writing system) will be addressed and reconciled in this event.

The Ormuri language is spoken in Kaniguram, a pocket in Mahsud Pashtoon of Waziristan. It is the ancestral language of the Burki tribe. Due to the current conflict in the area, the whole population of the group has migrated to different parts of Pakistan. According to the Ethnologue (2013), the total number of Ormuri speakers is around 6,000.

Adult Literacy Facilitators enhanced their Teaching Skills

The teachers, supervisors, and all others involved with developing Adult Literacy Program (ALP) through FLI benefitted from a series of on-site trainings held for their capacity building. The Gawri and Palula language communities are running learning centres for adults with a particular focus on women. FLI held this training in June 2018 for the Palula community in Ashret, Chitral, and in July 2018 for the Gawri community in Kalam, Swat, as both the projects have completed the previous stages of the adult literacy program. Planning for the start of the third stage is underway. The goals of the workshop were to help the participants understand the theoretical framework, including its context and background and learn about the types of and approaches to education. Understanding how adults are motivated to learn, including the approach and methodology of engaging adult students, were some of the main targets of the training. The success and great impact of this program has caused FLI to extend its adult literacy venture into two more communities. This program for the Hindko and Khowar language communities is likely to commence in 2020.



FLI's Adult Literacy Program (ALP) is designed and implemented on following:

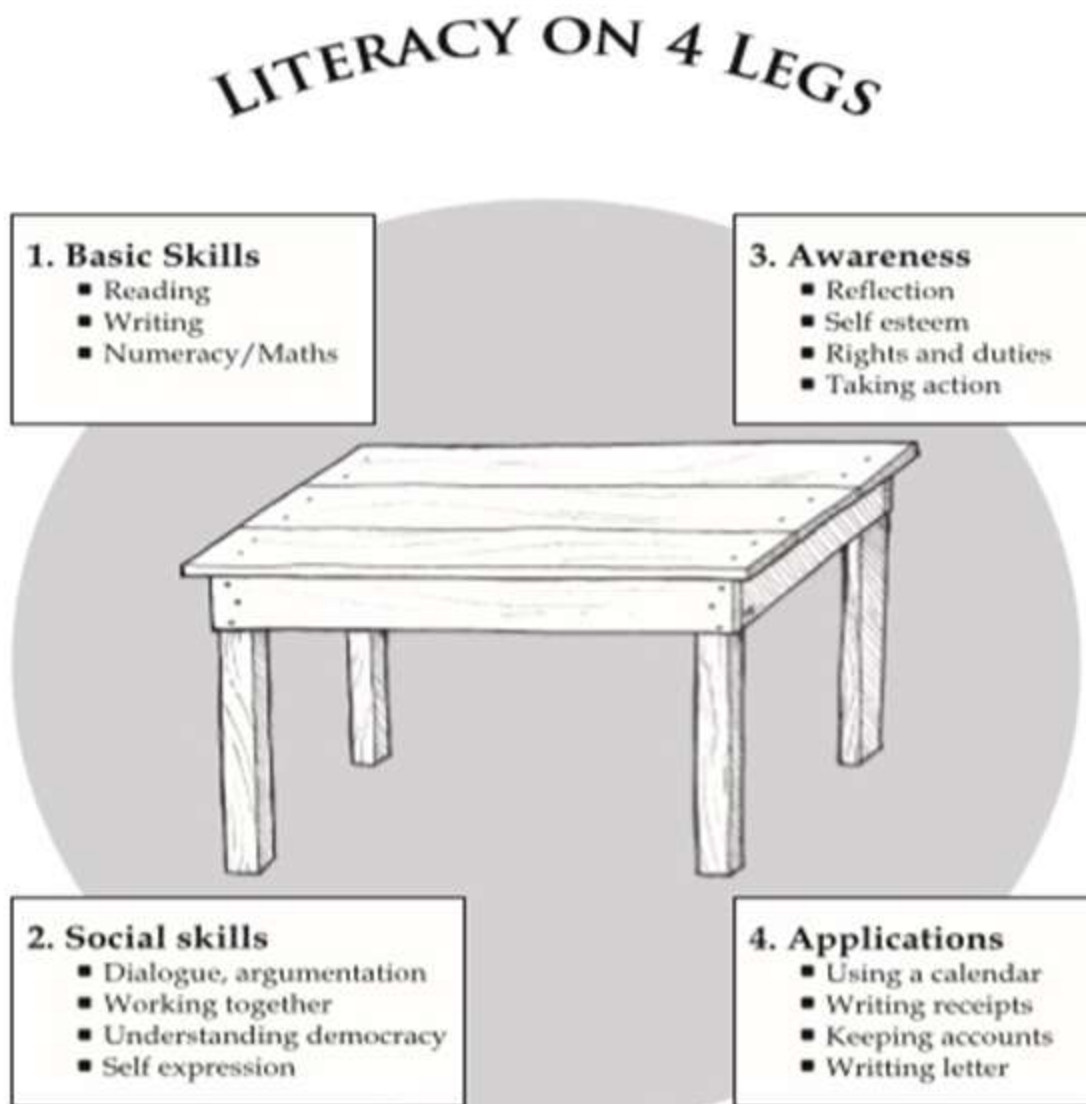


Chart 1. Source; *Literacy Manual, PMU, 2011.*

Large Media Coverage to Languages Observed in 2018

Badeshi: Only three people speak this 'extinct' language

By Zafar Syed
BBC Urdu

26 February 2018



25 endangered languages you need to listen to before they disappear

پہلا صفحہ تازہ ترین سال 2018 پاکستان دنیا



DAWN نیوز

Other Sciences

search

زبانوں کی موت، یعنی خزانوں کی موت

... family is approximately 4,500 years old

DAILY SABAH TRAVEL

Daily Sabah > Life > Travel

Pakistan: A land of many languages

ANADOLU AGENCY

PAKISTAN

Published
March 9, 2018



Yidgha language set to extinct soon

29 August 2018

By Ejaz Ahmed

Dear world! get ready for performing the last rituals of another indigenous language, spoken in northern district of Chitral. This Pamiri language, Yidgha, will go into extinction probably in 10 years as the native children and adults are no longer using this as their mother tongue. The official burial will take place when the elders who speak this with their fellow elders will leave the world with their language in not more than a decade. This will be the second casualty of a language of Pakistan in a short time after Badeshi in Swat, a district situated in close proximity of Chitral. There are, according to Muhammad Zaman Sagar, a language researcher working with FLI, the only organization in private sector in Pakistan to care for minority languages, merely two elders alive who can speak Badeshi.



Belonging to the Indo-European, Indo-Iranian group of languages, the Yidgha is said to have arrived in Chitral some 500 years ago, travelling with the companions of Pir Shah Nasir Khisro, a Persian saint who preached Ismaili sect of Islam in the valley in the 15th century. This language is called Murni on Afghan side where it is spoken in Murjan valley. The companions of Pir hailed from the

www.fli-online.org

Language and Literature Festival

The observance of *International Mother Language Day* has become a regular part of cultural calendar in Islamabad, hitherto, not by the government but has the support of some of government institutions. The two day event is held in a famous government premises; *Lok Virsa* at every third weekend of February each year. The Indus Cultural Forum, a non-governmental organization organizes this *Language and Literature Festival* gathering the people across the country who love their languages. Many foreign language researchers also attend the event and present their research work. FLI supports this event through many ways either by taking part in this event or contributing to its organization. FLI's staff members also play their role as organizing committee members by contributing to make the event successful. This event provides great opportunity to language activists, writers and researchers including students to come together, to know about the importance of language preservation and development, to benefit from the views of great researchers and to learn from each other's work and experience.



The Change Maker,

A poet motivates people from his community to revitalize their language



The audience responded enthusiastically to a speech given in their own local language in a community centre of Golaghmuli, the Ghizar district of Gilgit-Baltistan this year. This was a strange and new experience for them as speeches in public gatherings were given in languages other than their mother tongue. The speaker concluded his speech with this line: "Learning and using major languages is good and very important, but the most important thing is that our traditional language should not be overlooked, because once we lose our language, we would lose our identity." The audience roared in agreement. The speaker was Javed Hayat Kakakhel, a poet from the Khowar language community who attended FLI's language vitality survey in 2017. Further inspired by the public's positive reaction to his speech in his mother tongue, Javed Kakakhel campaigned with even more fervour by raising awareness among the people from his community to make the best use of their native language, and now it has become the norm that the people use Khowar for communication in worship places, public gatherings and other events.

Exactly the same thing happened in the Lotkuh area of district Chitral where a teacher helped a student prepare a speech in Yidgha language to deliver in an event held in a local government school. Yidgha is the native language of the area. The audience comprising all the teachers, students and other people present on the spot reacted to the speech with a pleasant surprise. There was a standing ovation even by those who could not understand the message of the speech. What's more, this teacher has made a commitment that at least one speech in Yidgha will be made a regular part of such events to be organized in the school in future.

All this change did not occur overnight. People from these communities used to shy away from expressing their cultural bonds but now publically appreciate them. This happened after FLI campaigned for community awareness about language-use involving the people through various interventions. One of the such involvements is SUM, the Sustainable Use Model, a tool being used for measuring the vitality of a language. The main aspect of SUM workshop is to help the community identify the factors that threaten the language's vitality and then develop practical and strategic plans to make sure the language remains sustainable. This series of events has triggered great activism among communities since 2015 when the SUM workshops were started. The poet of Khowar from Ghizar and the teacher in Lotkuh, who became advocates for their respective languages, were, *inter alia* part of FLI's SUM initiative. Each of these workshops were conducted in a community and involved 4 to 5 community researchers, called Mother Tongue Facilitators (MT Facilitators) who received some basic training and then were sent out into the community to collect information about language use from a larger pool of people from the community. In the year under review, two more languages, Hindko (Abbotabad) and Yidgha (Lotkuh, Chitral) were surveyed with the purpose of learning more about the needs and expectations of the language communities. The MT facilitators have developed plans to strengthen their language in their area.



Shah Nasir

Children Learn Quickly in their Mother Tongue



Waqas

The concluding session of 11th International Urdu Conference, held in November 2018 in Karachi, recommended that Pakistani children be provided with an education that begins in their mother tongue during their primary schooling years. The participants, consisting of literary people from all over the world, discussed the importance of mother-tongue-based education in earlier sessions. These people, based on their knowledge, experience and observation were of the view that education in the mother tongue was the only way out to the educational mess, especially in response to the drop-out rate which has spiked in schools across the country. They asserted that *children enjoy learning in their native language because they more quickly and easily comprehend the lessons*.

FLI has long before endorsed the idea of education in the mother-tongue, and has put a lot of effort into introducing this model in Pakistan. In 2008 a pilot project of mother-tongue-based schools was initiated with full technical support of FLI. Established in six language communities of its target area, these schools provide the basic education in the children's mother tongue (during their first 2 years of primary school) and have been producing very encouraging results so far. Here we share the stories of two children who are currently studying in nearby private school after completing pre-school in the MLE school which was established with FLI's assistance..

Waqas is a 2nd grade student in a private school in Ashret village of Chitral. His teachers admire his learning abilities and call him as a competent student. Together with Waqas there is another student, Nasir, who is in the same class. These two young students not only understanding the lessons well, but they also earn high marks for writing Urdu and English correctly. Teachers in this private school want all of their students to perform as well as Waqas and Nasir. The school is an English medium and most of the students struggle to learn the very basic and simple elements, but Waqas and Nasir face no difficulties in the class. When they were admitted to this school for grade 1, they impressed their teachers so much that their teachers promoted them immediately to the second grade.

inspired by the high performance of his both the students, the principal of this private school, Rashid, has become a strong believer in the mother-tongue-based (MLE) education. He wishes all his students had the same background of pre-schooling in their mother tongue like Waqas and Nasir have brought with them to the school

Skardu Press Club endorses Language Promotion

The journalists of Skardu Press Club in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) have pledged to prioritize and support the language promotion in their reporting. It's a great move because the languages do better when media support them. The media not only raises the awareness among communities but it also influences those at the helm of affairs. Involving the media, especially the local journalists in language promotional activities has been some of the most impactful ventures of FLI. The goal of this activity was to make the local journalists aware of the importance of regional languages, of the issues our languages are facing, and to suggest the possible solutions to that issues. So far, FLI has organized four seminars for journalists of various communities. This time, FLI had a fruitful meeting with the local journalists of Skardu, in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB). The seminar was held in Skardu press club on July 15, 2018. The Balti language, the issues it faces, and the opportunities for its development were discussed during the seminar with major attention on the matter that how the local media and press club can play their role in this venture. The journalists were urged upon to highlight the language issues in view of the modern era challenges. FLI also offered to provide its linguistic content and research work to the journalists in order to facilitate their reporting on language affairs, and to cement its relationship with press clubs in its target area so that the languages could be given enough space and time in the media.



Shina language set to be part of Govt. Curriculum

The people from Shina language community in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) deserve appreciation for resolving the orthography (writing system) issues of their language. This success has paved the way for the language to be part of the GB government's curriculum. FLI team met with and congratulated the officials of Sassen Research and Development Forum (SRDF), a partner organization of FLI in GB. This organization played a vital role to achieve consensus on language development works within the Shina community. FLI also assured them of its full support in their future works in language development.

The Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) government has been attaching high importance with the languages spoken in this geographical unit through initiatives of great significance for the language development. It has constituted a curriculum committee to develop curriculum in vernacular languages of the region. The languages, soon to be part of education in GB include Shina, Balti, Burushaski, Khowar and Wakhi. FLI is eagerly looking for opportunities to extend its support to GB government in its endeavors for language preservation. Therefore, FLI's advocacy team, led by its Executive Director visited the area in July 2018 for exploring the opportunities of mutual cooperation with GB government. It had fruitful meetings with some government officials who have been part of government's language development initiatives. It was encouraging to see that the government was moving ahead steadily to address various issues arising out of this newly initiated process with sustainable and futuristic plans. FLI will be working with GB government for enabling its officials in language development in days to come.





Khovar and Balti languages getting strengthened

During its advocacy visit to the region, FLI team found it inspiring that the Khovar language in Gilgit Baltistan was moving ahead with a great pace. The literary people of the community are considering various options in view of GB government's initiatives and knowledgeable discussions are taking place within the community. FLI has planned a variety of interventions for the Khovar language in GB aiming to equip and enable the community to embrace the challenges of the new era requirements.

Similarly, the writers, poets, teachers, and journalists from the Balti language community gathered in Skardu press club in July 2018 to meet the FLI team and suggested various actions of mutual assistance for the development of Balti language. Some of the Balti community people have been participating in FLI's trainings in the past. More interaction was stressed upon as required in light of the development initiatives in GB region. The Balti language is ready to be part of GB government schools' curriculum and FLI is happy to facilitate the language.

Looking into Bateri and Mankiyali languages

Batera

FLI's advocacy team visited Batera village in Bisham, situated in the southern region of district Kohistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in April 2018 and met with community people to explore about the Bateri language. Some 20,000 people live in this area and most of them speak the Bateri language but they cannot read or write in their language. This language is in constant contact with major languages of the region and its speakers are invariably exposed to various circumstances with regards to cultures and languages which put pressure on their identity and effect the orality of the their native language. A couple of Bateri speakers have already been part of various language development interventions of FLI in the past. This visit has recommended many activities to the organization on how and what pattern FLI has to carryout for preservation of Bateri language in days to come.

Mankiyali

The Mankiyali, also belonging to the Dardic Kohistani group is one of the smallest languages spoken in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province with merely 500 speakers. These people live in Dana village, located in Badi Shungli union council of Mansehra district. This language is potentially viable to survive and develop as its speakers are optimistic to work for the development of their traditional language. During the meeting with Mankiyali community, a group of 10 people comprising both young and adult enthusiasts asked the FLI team to consider some basic enabling schemes for Mankiyali community. FLI is working on a couple of activities for the Mankiyali language community so that they carry forward their mother tongue towards a safe future while preserving all their intangible heritage.





International Literacy Day observed in Swat

The partner organizations of FLI leave no stone unturned for raising the community awareness specifically on education and literacy. The Gawri and Torwali language communities, in Swat observed *International Literacy Day* on September 08, 2018 and invited community people to the event. They invited, among others specifically the parents of the students studying in the respective MLE schools. The significance of literacy and its role in social development, the importance of women education, and education in mother tongue were some of the top themes the speakers shed lights on during the event. The children, on the occasion carried out some extracurricular activities including the speeches delivered in their mother tongue.

FLI on the Rights of Women and Children

Twelve women from five language communities of northern Pakistan benefited from an awareness raising activity regarding their rights which FLI organized in January 2018 in Islamabad. These women represented the Khowar, Shina, Burushaski, Wakhi and Palula language communities. Various technicalities were dealt with during the activity including differentiating between gender terminologies. The overall aim of this workshop was to make the participants aware of the rights guaranteed to them by the constitution of Pakistan and the laws which enforce these rights. One of the goals of this workshop was to help women understand that gender stereotyping must not define their existence, instead they must be empowered to embrace their identity apart from these stereotypes and allow this change to impact their lives. This interactive program involved the participants actively, which added to the impact of this learning opportunity.

In another activity held by FLI, globally-recognized material about the protection of children's rights was translated into six languages of northern Pakistan, the target region of FLI. The localized material was then uploaded onto the websites of FLI's partner organizations, making this information accessible in an understandable way for the people of each community. The Child Rights Protection material was translated into the Gawri, Torwali, Palula, Khowar, Indus Kohistani and Hindko languages during this activity and can now be used by MLE projects FLI supports in said communities.



Sharing the Lessons of *Traditions*

The traditions, customs and indigenous acumen that have evolved in Northern Pakistan throughout history offer a lot which we can learn from even in the present day. The ethnolinguistic communities that have lived in this region for centuries elegantly use and manage their available resources. They have befriended nature and its harshness, deriving tidy arrangements and smartly surviving seasons of challenges by putting to use the wisdom they have obtained through a long history of overcoming the elements. Humanity is now obliged to look back into this history and apply that indigenous wisdom in the battle against global warming, climate change and social conflicts facing the earth currently.

For this purpose, FLI organized a Community of Practice (CoP) on Indigenous Resource Management in April 2018 in Islamabad. The intention of this CoP was to collaborate regarding which customs are still used effectively in certain areas and which of them have the potential to be applied with similar effectiveness in other places. Twenty people belonging to various language and culture groups attended this one-day event. The goal of this CoP was to provide the communities of North Pakistan an opportunity to share their indigenous wisdom of managing the natural resources in their areas and learn from each other. Twelve people from north Pakistan gave presentations elaborating on how the natural resources of land, forest, water and pastures (grasslands) are currently or have been traditionally managed in their respective regions. In order to solidify the learning goal of this CoP, participants then translated their learning from the presentations into a lesson that they could then apply to their own context.



Over 1000 students start learning in their language

The enrolment in mother tongue based schools in six language communities of Northern Pakistan has achieved the milestone of one thousand mark. Initiated as the pilot project in 2008 in three language communities: Gawri, Palula and Torwali and extended to three more in 2015: Indus Kohistani, Khowar and Hindko, the mother tongue based educational model has enrolled 1087 students this year of which about 50% (531) are girls. The worth mentioning is the news that the senior projects, after having completed the Grade-I are likely to start Grade-II soon while the junior projects are planning to upgrade to Grade-I. The schools, run by the respective community based organizations begin education in children's mother tongue and bridge them to Urdu and English subsequently. FLI supports these schools by providing training in curriculum development, teachers training, school committee formation as well as printing the books.



Brief Language & Cultural News

The dreamed Cultural Policy formulated in KP

"This cultural policy document is the result of deliberation, discussion and negotiations with several stakeholders – government, researchers, academia, musicians, craftsmen, linguists, performing artists, historians, and civil society groups including non-governmental and international organizations – and is built on the positive and constructive inputs from these stakeholders to ensure a democratic, participatory, transparent and well informed document". This statement by the Secretary Culture, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on the occasion of releasing the Cultural Policy Document reflects the untiring efforts made by FLI and its partner organizations and individuals for realization of this policy in KP.

Senior MLE projects upgraded their Curriculum

The FLI-supported multilingual educational program has grown to the point of being able to enter the next level of development by including the second Language in their curriculum. The three senior projects: Gawri, Palula and Torwali, have developed the transitional material for grade-1. The material was upgraded in the Transitional Material Development workshop, held by FLI in Islamabad. This five-day residential training was organized in January 2018 with the goals of enabling the participants to understand the purpose of developing graded reading materials in their language, documenting original stories, and then reviewing and editing their own and others' writings.

103 Adult Women become Literate

FLI, apart from supporting an education initiative for children based on their mother tongue in six different language communities of its target region, has introduced another great program that provides learning opportunities to those adults who did not have the opportunity of an education as children. The Adult Literacy Program (ALP) was initiated in 2015 for the Gawri (Swat) and Palula (Chitral) language communities, and has so far benefited 103 women and 27 men who completed the three learning stages of this program.

Hundreds of Shina speakers turn up for a cultural program in Karachi

A huge crowd of Shina speakers gathered at the Rangoonwala Community Centre in Karachi to promote their language in March 2018. The community centre, having a 500 seating capacity was full to its maximum with the ecstatic participants who were mostly those residing in the city for livelihood. Dancing to the Shina tunes they wore cultural costumes, they sang Shina songs, and spoke Shina language throughout the day. The activity comprised various programs which was third in its series, held to open a Shina Musical Album., The GB Folks, an organization founded to promote Shina culture and Shina music in the major cities of Pakistan organized the event. The great literary personality of Gilgit Baltistan, Zafar Waqar Taj who is also the Chairman of Shina Curriculum Development Committee, GB graced the event with his presence. There are more than 200,000 Shina speakers in Karachi who invariably look for any opportunity to mingle with their fellow native speakers, and to celebrate any traditional festival. FLI was represented in this event by its Training Coordinator, also a Shina speaker, Amir Haider who presented his research work on sustainability of Shina during this program.

KP Government Prints Over 2 Million Books in Regional Languages

The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Textbook Board, Peshawar, has printed more than two million (2,119,178) books in four regional languages spoken in the province. The books, printed in 2017, were distributed in 2018 among the students of government primary schools across the province. The languages include Pashto, Hindko, Saraiki and Khowar. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, under the initiative of Promotion of Regional Languages, a division of *The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Promotion of Regional Languages Authority Act 2012*, has been providing books in these languages as a subject to KG and Class-I since 2017. This was initiated in response to FLI's request to the Textbook Board authorities in Peshawar. They said the provision of books to subsequent classes will be made at the rate of one additional class level each year.

According to the Textbook Board authorities, 1,063,000 books for KG and 768,000 for Class-I were printed and distributed among Pashto speaking students in certain areas. The number of books printed for KG and Class-I in the Hindko language are said to be 126,900 and 88,840 respectively, while for the Saraiki speaking students, 31,250 books for KG and 21,470 books for Class-I have been printed. Khowar was the fourth language to have been included in the list and received 18,330 books for KG and 13,880 books for Class-I. Indus Kohistani was meant to be the fifth language in this list, but some errors in the official notification regarding printing books has stalled the printing and distribution for this language community. FLI is striving hard to resolve the disputes hindering the books from being printed for the Indus Kohistani language community.

	Pashto	Hindko	Saraiki	Khowar
KG	1,063,000	126,900	31,250	18,330
Book-I	768,000	88,840	21,470	13,880

No latest statistics of school enrolment in KP is available, however, according to the Sector Education Plan 2012, Department of BISE KP, there were 4.17 million children enrolled in 2012-13. A huge majority (71%) of them go to the government schools. This means that half of the students in the province have been provided with at least one book to read in their native language. But certainly this is not sufficient. An inclusive approach to gradually incorporate all the languages of the province in this plan is not too much to expect. There are 28 languages in the province and none of them deserves to be overlooked or considered less privileged and unworthy of the government benefaction due them.

2018 IN PICTURES



Participation in Language Fest, Islamabad



*MLE
Coordinators
sharing their
learning with
each other*



A scene of Strategic Planning



Participants of CoP on Indigenous Wisdom

*Writers
workshop
for Khowar
in Ghizar*



Advocacy meeting with KP MPA Mr. Wazirzada



SUM workshop for Hind ko speech community



*Strategic
Planning
in
progress*



Evaluation of MLE School in Kohistan



Ormuri L. Researchers in FLI office

*FLI
Leadership
Team
members
with PMU
Auditors*



Meeting with Bateri Language Community

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LanguageForum



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