

FORUM FOR LANGUAGE INITIATIVES



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

The Organization

Established in 2002 as a non-profit and non-government organization, FLI has been working in language documentation, literacy, organizational development and other related fields. FLI is registered with government of Pakistan as a non-profit organization.

Rationale

North Pakistan is home to around 30 distinct languages, the majority of which are indigenous to the region. Many of these languages are listed among those that are highly endangered due to no institutional support. The ethno linguistic communities of this region wanted to preserve and promote their languages but were unable to do so because of lack of technical expertise, knowledge and resources. In view of this, FLI was established to provide training, mentorship, and capacity development to mother tongue speakers of these endangered languages of Northern Pakistan who are working for the preservation and promotion of their languages and cultures. FLI also helps its target language communities to establish mother-tongue based multilingual education programs by providing training to them in mother tongue-based literacy principles, material development, and teaching, as well as school management committee formation and curriculum printing. FLI also publishes books in and about the languages and cultures of the region, runs advocacy campaigns for the language communities and builds bridges among the people from the language communities for knowledge sharing.

Vision

We envisage integrated, diverse, sustainable and culturally recognized communities

Target area and communities

The overall target group of FLI is the speakers of minority languages in the northern-most part of Pakistan, primarily in the mountainous areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province and Gilgit- Baltistan as well as Azad Jammu Kashmir (AJK). Their vision is to benefit a large percentage of these language communities in the area of language development, specifically literacy and access to important literature. The number of speakers of each relevant language ranges from a few hundred to several million. However, FLI has also been advocating at a national level for the recognition of all languages spoken in Pakistan.

Objectives

- Governments recognized indigenous languages to use in education and extend their support to all languages of FLI target area as a result of FLI's interventions
- Helped indigenous language communities to maintain and promote their cultural identities through enhanced abilities, participation, leadership building, and platform to use their mother tongue in maximum domains
- Enhanced collaboration with govt bodies, universities, national and international organizations including community-based organizations to boost the language development work and nurture research into indigenous languages

We Achieved:

- Provided the local researchers with a platform to get together and work for their lesser known languages
- Enhanced awareness among communities regarding the importance of mother tongues
- Generated a workforce of more than 2000 mother tongue speakers from at least 23 language communities of northern Pakistan in various domains of language documentation through our enabling programs
- Saved languages from extinction by providing them with a writing system and enabling community researchers to work for strengthening of their languages
- Helped 15 communities to establish Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to provide an organized platform for language development work within their communities
- Trained community researchers in organizational development, financial management and community mobilization so that they can successfully run these CBOs
- Published dozens of books in or about the indigenous cultures of northern Pakistan
- Supported the initiation of a mother tongue based preschool educational program in six language communities
- Empowered hundreds of adults (male and female) in two language communities through adult literacy programs
- Developed PC and Android keyboards for many indigenous language communities
- Trained govt. officials of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan in curriculum review

Target Languages

S.No	Languages	Location	S. No	Languages	Location
1.	Balti	Gilgit Baltistan	16.	Khowar	Chitral, Gilgit Baltistan, Swat
2.	Bateri	Kolai Palas Kohistan	17.	Kundal Shahi	Azad Jammu Kashmir
3.	Burushaski	Gilgit Baltistan	18.	Madaklashti	Chitral
4.	Chillisso	Dir Kohistan	19.	Mankiyali	Mansehra
5.	Dameli	Chitral	20.	Ormuri	Waziristan
6.	Domaaki	Gilgit Baltistan	21.	Palula	Chitral
7.	Gawarbati	Chitral	22.	Pahari Potwari	Mansehra
8.	Gawri	Swat Kohistan	23.	Pashto	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
9.	Gojri	Mansehra, Azad Jammu Kashmir	24.	Shekhani (Kati, Kamviri)	Chitral
10.	Gowro	Dir Kohistan	25.	Shina	Gilgit Baltistan, KP
11.	Hindko	Abbotabad	26.	Torwali	Swat Kohistan
12.	Indus Kohistani	Kohistan	27.	Ushojo	Swat
13.	Kalkoti	Dir Kohistani	28.	Wakhi	Gilgit Baltistan
14.	Kashmiri	Azad Jammu Kashmir	29.	Yadgha	Chitral
15.	Kalasha	Chitral	30.		

Books We Published

Khovar

کھوار

1. کھوار- اُردو- انگریزی بول چال
2. (کھوار اُصول شاعری) کھوار برکش
3. کھوار متالان گزین (کھوار ضرب الامثال)
4. کھوار محاورے
5. روبن سن کروسو (انگریزی ناول کا کھوار ترجمہ)

Kataviri

کتہ وری

1. کتہ وری الف، بے
2. کتہ وری- اردو- انگریزی بول چال
3. کتہ وری ضرب الامثال
4. کتہ وری لوک کہانیاں
5. انگریزی ناول کا کتہ وری ترجمہ

Dameli

دمیلی

1. دمیلی الف، بے
2. دمیلی- اردو- انگریزی بول چال
3. دامیاں باپشا تہ شُلوک (دمیلی لوک کہانیاں)
4. Dameli Wordlist (in Dameli and Urdu)
5. Dameli Proverb (in Dameli, Urdu and English)

Gawarbati

گورباتی

1. گورباتی الف- بے
2. ایچان (گورباتی لوک کہانیاں)
3. حورم فار (گورباتی شعری مجموعہ)
4. Gawarbati Wordlist (in Dameli and Urdu)
5. Gawarbati Grammar and Proverb

Palula

پالولا

1. پالولا قاعدہ
2. پالولا الف، بے
3. پالولا کتاب (جماعت اول، دوم)
4. پالولا-اردو-انگریزی تصویری لغت
5. پالولا معلومات عامہ
6. انگریزی بول چال-اُردو-پالولا
7. پالولا متلی (پالولا ضرب الامثال)
8. پالولا گلدستہ اشعار

14. Palula Vocabulary (in Palula and English)

15. Palula Texts (in Palula and English)

Gawri

گاؤری

1. گاؤری الف، بے
2. گاؤری قاعدہ
3. گاؤری کتاب (جماعت اول، دوم)
4. گاؤری-اردو-انگریزی تصویری لغت
5. گاؤری معلومات عامہ
6. گاؤری-اُردو-انگریزی بول چال
7. میچھیر تے میچ (مگس بانی) گاؤری

8. Reports on Local Names & Uses of Plants

in Kalam Kohistan (in English, Urdu, and Gawri)

9. Traditional History of Kalam (in Urdu)

Ushojo

اوشوجو

1. اوشوجو الف، بے

1. Ushojo Wordlist

Yadgha

یدغا

2. یدغا الف، بے

3. Yadgha Wordlist (in Yidgha and Urdu)

ابا سندھ کوہستانی - Indus Kohistani

1. انڈس کوہستانی الف، بے
2. انڈس کوہستانی قاعدہ
3. ابا سندھ کوہستانی - اُردو - انگریزی بول چال
4. ابا سندھ کوہستانی متلی (انڈس کوہستانی ضرب الامثال)

Shina

شینا

1. شینا کوہستانی قاعدہ
2. دادئے شلوکیے (شینا لوک کہانیاں)
3. شینا گلتی اور شینا کوہستانی زبان کے تقابلی الفاظ و مصادر

Hindko

ہندکو

1. ہندکو الف ، بے
2. ہندکو قاعدہ

Pahari Pothwari پہاڑی پوٹھواری

1. Pahari and Pothwari: A Sociolinguistics Survey (in English)

Torwali

ٲوروالى

1. ٲوروالى الف، بے
2. ٲوروالى قاعده
3. ٲوروالى ڪتاب (جماعت اول، دوم)
4. ٲوروالى-اردو-انگريزى تصويرى لغت
5. ٲوروالى معلومات عامه
6. ٲوروالى ڪوٲستانى- ضرب لامثال

Ormuri

ارمڑى

2. ڪٲى نر ٺٺلى (ٲٲهر مىں ٲهول) اُرمڑى شاعرى بمعه

انگريزى ترجمه

3. Ormuri Dictionary (Ormuri, Urdu and English)
4. The Ormuri Language in Past and Present (in English and Ormuri)

Other Books Published under FLI's Culture Series

1. ثقافت
2. Kalkatak: A Crossroads of Cultures in Chitral (in English)
3. Treasures of Seven Kings: Stories from Northern Pakistan (in English)
4. Traditional Wedding Customs in Northern Pakistan-Urdu (soon to be published)

Tackling Covid-19 through Languages

FLI used its language preservation and community enabling skills to protect its target communities from the pandemic Covid-19. The year 2020 has brought many challenges to our communities, among which the Corona virus has posed a great threat to the people we work with. One of our target areas, Swat, where our sub-office was located, was hit particularly hard by the pandemic. Even our staff members stationed there were exposed to the deadly virus. This situation drove the organization to contribute its part, especially through raising awareness regarding how to protect from the virus. At FLI's encouragement, the precautionary measures, prescribed by the government of Pakistan, health authorities and relevant international organizations, were translated in the 11 local languages of the area. This information was then printed onto large banners and displayed in various public places.

Ministry of National Health Services,
Regulations and Coordination
Government of Pakistan

نوول کورونا وائرس
(COVID - 19)

تان اوچے تان خاندانو بیه چھیکاری حفاظت کورور

اشریخکو یا کھوینکو وخت
اپاکو وچے لسکارو وائرس
سورا بند کورور.

کھارشانگو علامت، شبرو
رویان نس پیکار پریو کورور.

گندہ یوسنان سورا غیجھان،
تسکارو وائرس موخی مونسور.

استعمال یرو تشوپیرو
ایویتی کچرو ڈبو پختور.

تورار لیشی پیکو
ضرورت کی یوئے
غولو موڑو مونسور.

تان یوسنان باقاعدہ گیو سورا
صاین دانی یوگو سورا نیگور
یا یوسنان پچین مینی لائور
استعمال کورور.

Developed & Distributed by
Forum for Language Initiatives

صحبت مند پاکستان

1166
corona.info@nhrc.gov.pk
www.nhrc.gov.pk

پہلیپ لائن
ای میل
ویب سائٹ

Tackling Covid-19 through Languages

FLI did not stop here, it decided to further expand its contribution and embarked on another mission to create awareness regarding the disease among those who use social media. For this purpose, FLI produced quality short films in the local languages. This video project covered 15 languages and resulted in a beautiful end-product that was appreciated by our target communities. The video messages in 15 indigenous languages carried awareness messages regarding Covid-19, and were received well by the audience. People shared the videos on social media and appreciated the effort.



