

Quarterly Activity Report

Apr to Jun, 2026

News & Updates: Activities, Outcomes, Impact

Inside Story Highlights:

FLI Holds Summit for National-Level Partners:

27 representatives
from 16 language
communities across
northern Pakistan
joined the event

FLI capacitates 50 Govt. Schoolteachers in Saraiki Language Teaching:

50 teachers – with
equal participation of
men and women –
marking a successful
step toward
strengthening
mother-tongue
education.

FLI Takes Up Madaklashti Dialect of Persian:

A blend of young and
experienced
community language
enthusiasts joined the
workshop to begin its
development journey.



FLI Takes UP Madaklashti Variety of Persian Language in Chitral

Chitral, 8-12 June 2026

The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) has launched its 26th language development venture by taking up Madaklashti—the local variety of Persian spoken in Shishikuh Valley, Lower Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This marks a significant milestone in FLI's work across northern Pakistan, where more than 30 languages are spoken within its target area.



In collaboration with Hunarmandan and local researchers, FLI successfully conducted a five-day orthography workshop in Madaklasht. The initiative represents a major step toward preserving the Madaklashti Persian language, its cultural heritage, and community identity.

The workshop gathered 17 linguists, researchers, community leaders, and representatives of the Madaklashti community—including nine women. Participants engaged in in-depth discussions on linguistic features, script development, historical context, and cultural significance. These sessions provided a platform for scholarly exchange and community reflection, ensuring that orthography development is grounded in both academic rigor and local wisdom.

Rather than concluding with a final decision, the workshop initiated a long-term collective process. FLI will continue to facilitate consultative meetings, training programs, and scholarly sessions to refine and build consensus around the orthography. Importantly, the community itself will lead this journey, making informed decisions about its language and identity, while FLI experts provide technical guidance and a roadmap.

This achievement lays the foundation for standardized publications, research-based language development, and the transmission of cultural knowledge to future generations. FLI extends heartfelt gratitude to all experts, community leaders, artisans, and supporting institutions whose contributions made this historic effort possible.

As the first-ever activity of its kind in the Madaklashti community, the workshop reflects FLI's enduring commitment to language preservation. More initiatives will follow to strengthen the vitality and continuity of the Madaklashti Persian language for generations to come.



National Summit: FLI Partners Commit to Strengthen Heritage Languages-

ISLAMABAD – APRIL 8, 2026

The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) brought together its partners for a one-day summit in Islamabad, where 27 representatives from 16 language communities across northern Pakistan and the federal capital gathered to review last year's achievements and chart the course for 2026.

The summit was chaired by Rozi Khan Burki, Chairman of FLI's Executive Board, who emphasized that language researchers are now empowered to lead development efforts thanks to FLI's sustained support. Fakhruddin Akhunzada, FLI's Executive Director, welcomed participants who braved the rainy weather to ensure full participation.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Muhammad Kamal, Head of English at Allama Iqbal Open University and FLI board member, who highlighted the importance of strengthening multilingualism, diversity, and language preservation.

For the first time, Munawar from the Indus Cultural Forum (ICF) joined the summit, praising FLI's role in promoting cultural diversity and pledging continued collaboration. A guest from UNESCO's Esperanto language program also introduced participants to this artificial language, sparking dialogue on global linguistic innovation. Assistant Registrar Open University, Ms. Bibi Yasmin also graced with her presence.

Partner Presentations:

In the second session, partners delivered 13 presentations showcasing progress since last year's meeting. They shared insights on:

Using social media to engage young people in language work

The role of poetry in language revival

Advocacy strategies to mobilize communities

How local leadership can influence language preservation efforts

The summit concluded with a collective pledge to:

Work jointly on heritage language preservation

Ensure gender-balanced approaches

Continue sharing knowledge and strategies in the days ahead

FLI Strengthens Capacity of 50 Government Schoolteachers in Saraiki Language Instruction



FLI successfully concluded a three-day training workshop in Dera Ismail Khan, equipping 50 government schoolteachers – half of them women – with practical skills to teach Saraiki as part of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa curriculum.

Organized in collaboration with the Directorate of Professional Development, Peshawar, the workshop was hosted at Mufti Mahmood School and College in Dera Ismail Khan district of KP. The closing ceremony featured certificate distribution to participants and trainers by Mr. Muneerr Ali Shah, representing the Directorate.

The initiative was designed to strengthen teacher capacity in mother-tongue education, addressing the lack of formal training that has slowed policy implementation. Local education officers, dignitaries, and the school's principal praised FLI's role in empowering teachers and advancing linguistic diversity.

FLI Program Manager Naseem Haider announced plans for another training later this year to reach a wider pool of educators. He emphasized the organization's long-term commitment to preserving regional languages and reinforcing cultural heritage through quality teaching.

By bridging the gap between policy and practice, FLI continues to play a pivotal role in ensuring that Saraiki and other mother tongues are not only preserved but actively taught in classrooms, enriching the educational experience for future generations.

FLI's Regional Partners from Gilgit-Baltistan Convene in Gilgit



Gilgit, June 18, 2026

The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) convened its regional partners from Gilgit-Baltistan in Gilgit City for a strategic networking meeting focused on strengthening collaboration for language and cultural preservation. The session provided a platform for community representatives to align their advocacy efforts with academic and government stakeholders.

Representatives from six language communities—Shina, Balti, Burushaski, Khowar, Wakhi, and Domaaki—joined the meeting, alongside officials and scholars. Mr. Abdul Saboor represented the Gilgit-Baltistan Government, while Dr. Kaneez Fatima from Karakoram International University and Dr. Issa, Head of the English Department at the University of Baltistan, contributed their expertise. Dr. Issa delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the importance of institutional support for community-led initiatives.

Participants reviewed the objectives of their previous networking session and developed new plans for community-level and institutional engagement. Each partner shared updates on last year's advocacy efforts, while Mr. Saboor guided them on approaching institutions for funding and support. FLI reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening ties among language communities, academia, and government bodies, encouraging partners to activate their networks for the cause of languages and cultures.

Ormuri Poets Enhance Their Skills in Creative Documentation



Dera Ismail Khan, May 18-20, 2026

The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) organized a three-day workshop for Ormuri poets, enabling them to create content and write in their own language. Ormuri, spoken in Kaniguram, South Waziristan, by around 6,000 people, has been part of FLI's language development work for many years. This activity marked the expansion of FLI's one-year Poetry Promotion Project to Ormuri, with a focus on strengthening poets' digital capacity for creative documentation. Seven poets participated in sessions that combined linguistic standardization with practical training in modern technology. The program introduced them to language work with digital tools, creative documentation techniques, social media use, and video editing. Applied practice with accessible software allowed participants to directly engage with editing platforms, enhancing their ability to preserve and share cultural content in both traditional and digital spaces.

FLI designed the workshop to build on earlier literacy and community engagement initiatives, ensuring that Ormuri poetry continues to thrive. Recognizing that many Ormuri speakers live outside their native region, FLI plans further interventions to involve more poets and oral artists. Additional activities are scheduled in the coming days to broaden participation and sustain momentum for the cause of Ormuri language and culture.



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Together, let's keep the voices of our communities alive and thriving!