

Empowering Voices. Preserving Heritage.

A quarter of practical language development, teacher capacity building, community-led literary activity, and new publications across Pakistan's indigenous languages.



50

government teachers empowered

25

women teachers

15

Madaklashti participants

300+

Ormuri Mushaira audience

LANGUAGE • EDUCATION • LITERATURE • COMMUNITY

50 Government Teachers Strengthen Khowar Education

Booni, Upper Chitral • September 2026



Teachers participate in the three-day Khowar Writers' Workshop in Booni.

The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) conducted a three-day Writers' Workshop for Government School Teachers of Upper Chitral, empowering 50 teachers—including 25 women—with practical skills in Khowar reading, writing, orthography, classroom pedagogy, and writing techniques.

The training strengthened teachers' ability to use Khowar accurately and confidently in educational settings and enhanced their capacity to support mother-tongue learning among students. Building on FLI's earlier training initiatives for Khowar subject teaching, the workshop provided practical knowledge that participants can apply directly in their classrooms.

The initiative contributed to implementation of the provincial Mother Languages in Education policy by strengthening the capacity of frontline educators. Participants reported increased confidence in reading and writing Khowar and expressed readiness to apply their learning in schools.

The workshop concluded with certificates of participation for all 50 teachers. Strong participation by women educators further strengthened the initiative's reach and their role in advancing mother-tongue education and preserving Khowar linguistic heritage.

Building on earlier work

FLI had previously trained 100 school teachers—including 50 women—in mother-tongue teaching in Upper Chitral.

Expanding the teacher network

A further 30 teachers of Qutaiba Public School in Lower Chitral, including 17 women, received training in Khowar subject teaching.

Madaklashti Language Moves Toward Development

Madaklasht, Lower Chitral • 06–08 September 2026



Participants of the second phase of writers' training in Madaklasht.

15

participants

7

women

3

days

2nd

phase of writers' training

FLI successfully concluded the second phase of writers' training in Madaklasht, following the landmark Orthography Workshop held on 8–12 June 2026. The three-day training focused on writing principles and laid further groundwork for a functional writing system for Madaklashti Persian.

Fifteen writers, teachers, and students attended all sessions, including seven women. FLI particularly welcomed the active participation of women, whose engagement reflects the community's growing commitment to language development.

Madaklashti is spoken in the upper villages of Shishikuh Valley in Lower Chitral. FLI recently took up the language as part of its wider mission to preserve and strengthen linguistic heritage. Continued training and support are intended to help the language gain a functional writing system, opening space for literature development and cultural preservation.

FLI reaffirmed its commitment to stand with the community as Madaklashti Persian develops as a literate language, while encouraging local researchers to apply their learning to safeguard and enrich their heritage for future generations.

Ormuri Poets Return to Kanigram

Kanigram, South Waziristan • A literary gathering and Ormuri Mushaira



12

Ormuri poets presented their work

300+

people attended with enthusiasm

With financial support from FLI and in collaboration with Pir Roshan Literary Tolana, Kanigram, FLI supported a vibrant literary session and Ormuri Mushaira in Kanigram, South Waziristan. The event brought together poets, elders, and community members in a celebration of language and literature.

Twelve renowned Ormuri poets presented their poetry before an audience of more than 300 people. The gathering provided a rare opportunity for poets to present their work in their own language and before their own community in their native place.

For Ormuri speakers, who often live scattered across urban centres because of security challenges, bringing poets back to their native place carried significance beyond the literary programme. It strengthened community bonds and created a public space for the language.

FLI began its Ormuri poetry promotion effort nine months earlier and intends to continue the initiative through the end of 2026. The Mushaira helped revive interest in indigenous languages, encouraged literary expression, and recognized poets' contributions through awards and shields.

Young Voices, Living Literary Traditions

KALKOT, UPPER DIR

Kalkoti Poets & Students Push Their Language Forward

FLI supported its partner organization, the Kalkoti Community Welfare Organization (KCWO), in hosting “Kalkoti Poetry & Student Speeches 2026” in Kalkot, Upper Dir. The programme celebrated the Kalkoti language, local culture, and literary talent while giving young people a platform to express themselves.



Kalkoti community members and youth gather around poetry, speeches, and cultural expression.

Schoolchildren delivered speeches in their mother tongue on themes including “My Kohistan” and “The Role of Education”, while renowned and emerging poets recited poetry on Kohistan, nature, peace, and sacrifice. Religious scholars reflected on the role of literature in building positive communities.

The gathering marked a step toward reviving literary traditions and strengthening cultural identity. Kalkoti, spoken by around 15,000 people in Upper Dir, has recently entered the literary domain, with community researchers and activists actively promoting the language. FLI implemented its first poetry promotion project in Kalkoti last year, helping spark a continuing tradition of poetic expression.

BIORI, LOWER CHITRAL • 18 JULY 2026

Palula Community Gathers Around Poetry

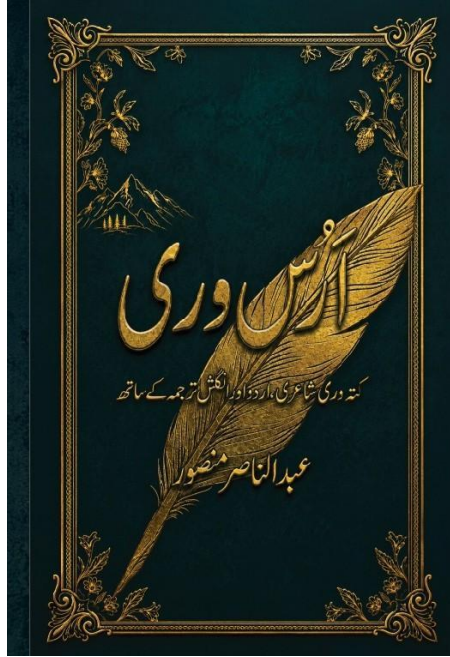


FLI supported its partner, the Palula Community Welfare Organization (PCWO), in organizing a poetry gathering in Biori village of Lower Chitral. Dozens of community members, including youth and elders, joined more than a dozen poets who expressed themselves in Palula.

The gathering formed part of FLI’s flagship Poetry Promotion Project in Palula and Ormuri communities. Through poetry and other oral arts, FLI continues to support local partners in creating spaces where indigenous languages can be heard, practiced, and passed on to younger generations.

The event was attended by German linguist Dr. Jakob, who is conducting research on Kateviri, and FLI’s Executive Director, underscoring the organization’s continued engagement with linguistic diversity.

First Poetry Anthology Published in Kateviri



Aruswari — “tasty words” — the first-ever poetry anthology in Kateviri.

FLI has published Aruswari—meaning “tasty words”—the first-ever poetry anthology in the Kateviri language. The landmark collection brings together the creative voices of nine Kateviri poets and represents an important step in the preservation and promotion of the language.

The anthology is trilingual: alongside the original Kateviri poems, readers can access Urdu and English translations. This format opens the collection to linguists, researchers, and readers who are unfamiliar with the language and its script.

Special recognition goes to Abdul Nasir Mansur, whose motivation encouraged poets to contribute, and to Dr. Jakob of Germany, who provided IPA translations of the verses.

Kateviri, a Nooristani language spoken by around 4,500 people in peripheral villages of the Kalash Valley, has seen significant literary development in recent years. Since FLI began supporting Kateviri in 2022, local researchers led by Nasir Mansur have produced six books in four years, all printed by FLI. Their work demonstrates a sustained community commitment to developing written literature in the language.

FLI congratulates the Kate community and reaffirms its commitment to supporting community-led efforts to strengthen and preserve the language.

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Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI)

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