Islamabad, February 28, 2020: The National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) and ALIGHT Pakistan (formerly American Refugee Committee), have agreed to join hands to impart free education to out-of-school children at 22 schools in Gilgit-Baltistan province. These schools will focus on the enrolment and quality education of the children belonging to the marginalised communities in the province.

An agreement to this effect was signed by Col (Retd.). Dr. Amirullah Marwat, Chairman, NCHD and Mr. Kamran Iftikhar Lone, Deputy Chief of Party, Alight Pakistan, at a simple but impressive ceremony at the former’s office in Islamabad. Director Education, NCHD, Dr. Shafqat Ali, Deputy Director Education, Mr. Tahir Hameed Wyne, Assistant Director Education, Mr. Tufail Ahmed and Syed Husnain Naqvi were also present on this occasion.
The enrolment of out-of-school children will kick off in the first week of March where more than 650 out-of-school children between the age of 6-16 will get quality education in Gilgit and Diamir districts of the province.

Pakistan has the second-highest number of out-of-school children, with at least 5.6 million children under the age of 9 not attending school (UNESCO). Since 2018, ALIGHT Pakistan is running country’s largest-ever out-of-school children enrolment intervention in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan and Qatar’s Education Above All Foundation. The programme, titled “Educate a Child (EAC)” aims at the enrolment of over one million out-of-school children across Pakistan. ALIGHT Pakistan is implementing EAC program in collaboration with Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), provincial educational departments and other civil society organizations in 56 districts of Pakistan where ALIGHT Pakistan has already enrolled over 800,000 out-of-school children.