



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network



Photo credit: © Aga Khan Development Network \ Alain Liits

- Established:** Head Office: Geneva, Switzerland (1967), Pakistan (1969), United Kingdom (1973), Kenya (1974), India (1978), Bangladesh, Canada (1980), United States of America (1981), Portugal (1983), Tanzania (1991), Uganda (1992), Tajikistan (1995), Mozambique (2000), Afghanistan, Syria, Kyrgyz Republic (2003), Egypt (2006), Madagascar (2006), Mali, Russia (2007)
- Founder & Chairman:** His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the Shia Ismaili Muslims.
- Type of Organization:** Private, nonprofit, non-denominational development agency; part of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of nine institutions working in social, cultural and economic development, primarily in Asia and Africa.
- Purpose:** AKF seeks sustainable solutions to long-term problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and poor health with special emphasis on the needs of rural communities in some of the poorest, mountainous, coastal and remote areas in the world.
- Program Priorities:** Health, education, rural development, civil society and the environment, with particular emphasis on community participation, gender, pluralism and human resource development.
- Grantees:** Grants are normally made to non-governmental organizations that share the Foundation's goals. In some cases, where there is no appropriate partner, the Foundation may help to create a new civil society organization or may manage projects directly. Grantees are selected without regard to origin, religion, gender or political association.
- Staff:** Over 3,000 worldwide. AKF attempts, as a management principle, to develop local human resource capacity. Most employees are nationals of the countries where AKF offices are located.
- Project Portfolio:** Over 200 projects/programs in 19 countries – primarily in Africa and South and Central Asia.
- Funding Sources:** His Highness the Aga Khan; grants from development agencies; income from the endowment; and donations from individuals and corporations of which 100% of funds raised go directly to projects supported by the Foundation.
- Funding Partners:** AKF programs receive funding from more than 60 national and international development agencies: Governments (including Canada, Germany, India, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States); European Commission; specialized agencies of the United Nations; the World Bank; foundations, non-governmental agencies; and corporations.
- U.S. Partners:** U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. State Department, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, The Ford Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Citigroup Foundation, Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, Flora Family Foundation, South Asia Earthquake Relief Fund, CARE, Microsoft Corporation, Johnson & Johnson, among others.

A K D N

A G A K H A N D E V E L O P M E N T N E T W O R K

- The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is a group of development agencies with mandates ranging from health and education to architecture, culture, microfinance, rural development, disaster reduction, the promotion of private sector enterprise and the revitalization of historic cities.
- The AKDN is a network of private, nondenominational, development agencies operating in over 25 countries, established by His Highness the Aga Khan. The AKDN seeks to empower communities and individuals, often in disadvantaged circumstances, improve living conditions and opportunities. His Highness the Aga Khan is the Founder and Chairman of the Board and 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims.
- The overarching goal of the AKDN's programs is to help poor communities achieve a level of self-reliance whereby they are able to plan their own futures and help those even more disadvantaged than themselves.
- The Network's agencies work for the common good of all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin or religion and its underlying impulse is the ethic of compassion for the vulnerable of society.
- The AKDN agencies make a long-term commitment to the areas in which they work, guided by the philosophy that a humane, sustainable environment must reflect the choices made by people themselves in harmony with their environment. Sustainability is a central consideration from the outset of every AKDN initiative.
- AKDN is committed to promoting pluralistic societies and nurturing civil society.



Photo credit: © Aga Khan Foundation / Jean-Luc Ray

- AKDN, the largest private network of its kind, uses an integrated approach that combines social, economic and cultural development.
- Engagement in cultural development is one of its most unique aspects among development efforts. Other organizations are doing work in culture preservation, but integrating architecture and culture as an area of responsibility and a catalytic engine for development is a distinctive characteristic of the AKDN.
- The AKDN has thousands of dedicated volunteers, low-cost operations, and transparent management as well as a solid grassroots presence in developing countries and openness to innovative ideas and best practices.

AKDN's agencies include:

- **3 foundations:** Aga Khan Foundation, Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance, and Aga Khan Trust for Culture
- **5 nonprofit service agencies:** Aga Khan Education Services, Aga Khan Health Services, Aga Khan Planning and Building Services, Aga Khan Academies and Focus Humanitarian Assistance
- **2 universities:** Aga Khan University and University of Central Asia
- **1 economic development fund:** Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development

The AKDN employs approximately 80,000 people, the majority of whom are based in developing countries. The AKDN's annual budget for non-profit development activities in 2010 was \$650 million. The project companies of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) generate annual revenues of \$2 billion (all surpluses are reinvested in further development activities). AKFED has 63 companies and 35,000+ employees, demonstrating it is possible to operate for-profit, ethics-driven enterprises in challenging environments.

AKDN works in concert with local and national government, donors, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and communities to implement strategies that contribute to the development of an economically dynamic, politically stable, culturally tolerant and intellectually vibrant society.

www.akdn.org