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AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

THE IMAMAT

ECONOMIC

DEVELOPMENT

Social Economic Development

Aga Khan Fund for
Economic Development

Aga Khan Agency for
Microfinance

Aga Khan University

Aga Khan Trust
for Culture

Tourism Promotion
Services

Industrial Promotion
Services

Financial Services

Aga Khan Development Services

Aga Khan University Services

Aga Khan Planning and
Building Services

Aga Khan Health Services

Aga Khan Education Services

Aga Khan Award for
Architecture

Historic Cities

CULTURE

Support Programme

Education and Culture
Programme

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Cover: Following the December 2004 tsunami disaster which affected 301 villages in Andhra Pradesh, AKDN’s humanitarian assistance efforts have provided 260 boats and 26 tonnes of nets to fishermen who had lost these assets. A three-year development programme will continue to enhance the state of disaster preparedness among these coastal communities.
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Recent disasters, especially the October 2005 earthquake in Pakistan and India and the December 2004 tsunami, have highlighted the severe setbacks to development caused by disasters. In addition to the tragic loss of life, livelihoods were lost, local economies were ruined and parents struggled to feed their families. Incremental gains made over decades – houses, workshops, factories, schools, clinics and the entire infrastructure of civil society – were destroyed by a wave or by two minutes of seismic activity. Disasters such as these can cut up to 15 percent of an entire country’s annual GDP, according to the World Bank.

For these reasons, the Foundation and other AKDN agencies work to build resilient communities which can prepare for, respond to, and survive natural disasters. They focus on four aspects of disaster resistance and response: mitigation, preparedness, disaster response and post-disaster development.

**Mitigation** takes various forms, from early warning and communications systems to earthquake- and cyclone-resistant house construction. A good example is the work of Focus Humanitarian Assistance (FOCUS), an AKDN affiliate, in Tajikistan. It has set up early warning systems, including radio stations, and is involved in the Central Asian Earthquake Safety Initiative. It has relocated a school from a landslide area and replaced another school with a new earthquake-resilient facility. Its “Lake Sarez Risk Mitigation Project” is a multi-faceted programme that mobilises communities to take measures to reduce the potential impact of local hazards such as landslides, avalanches and the risk of flooding from nearby Lake Sarez.

AKDN programmes have also helped prepare communities for the next disaster; through improved building techniques, such as seismic- and cyclone-resistant roofing in coastal areas of Gujarat. Training in disaster preparedness, including first aid, rescue and the transport of injured people has also been implemented. In Tajikistan, alarm systems are designed to alert people to flooding. A stockpile of emergency food rations and other supplies help people survive such an event.

FOCUS is the lead agency in disaster response. It provides necessities for survival, including food kits and non-food items such as blankets, tarpaulins, kitchen utensils, clothing, tents, medicine and drinking water for relief efforts. In the immediate aftermath of the tsunami, FOCUS delivered humanitarian assistance to survivors in Andra Pradesh and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

In Pakistan, the day after the devastating earthquake of 8 October 2005, FOCUS search and rescue teams were deployed in Islamabad and, on 10 October, to Muzaffarabad and surrounding areas. The Aga Khan University, including its University Hospital, and the Aga Khan Health Services, provided over 80 doctors and specialists, 40 nurses, and teams of medical technicians, field officers, and medical students. Support included emergency surgical procedures and healthcare through three health centres established by the Aga Khan Health Service in partnership with UNICEF; mass vaccinations for Measles,
Typhoid, Tetanus toxoid and Hepatitis A; emergency training in basic nursing, life support, wound care, medical and psychiatric support and trauma counselling; and surveillance for the control of infectious diseases in affected areas.

The Aga Khan Planning and Building Service helped construct temporary shelters and seismic-resistant buildings. AKF’s helicopters flew over 800 sorties, carried more than 1,000 metric tonnes of relief and medical cargo and transported over 3,500 passengers, including more than 1,500 casualties. Efforts encompassed evacuation and relief operations in more than a dozen locations, including some of the most remote and difficult-to-access areas. They delivered food items for more than 150,000 people, distributed over 4,000 tents and more than 44,000 blankets, and evacuated more than 1,500 casualties from vulnerable locations. The work of over 1,000 volunteers was an integral part of the AKDN effort.

Post-disaster development activities often run concurrently with ongoing relief efforts. Community mobilisation is critical. In Gujarat, for example, AKDN programmes following the Bhuj earthquake included the construction of disaster-resistant houses, new education centres, community-managed drinking water supply systems and water harvesting structures, primary health care systems, as well as the implementation of savings and credit schemes and disaster preparedness and management training.

In Andra Pradesh, following the tsunami, AKDN disaster response efforts also made a quick transition to post-disaster development. Initially, these efforts centred on grants for the replacement or repair of boats and nets, fish-drying platforms and fish-smoking and pickling units. Through the funding received from the European Commission’s Humanitarian Office and the Canadian International Development Agency, AKF assisted 1,270 fishing families affected by the tsunami. In addition, 1,000 fishing communities have been provided with ice boxes, fish-drying platforms and training for better fish-handling practices. Livelihood diversification options have been made available to some 240 vulnerable families. At the same time, efforts are underway to provide other economic opportunities, such as livestock rearing and training for carpentry and engine repair.

In the immediate aftermath of disasters, there is little to celebrate, but over time communities can emerge stronger. A disaster can lead to a new impetus for development, as it has in Gujarat, for example, where a crumbling 50-year-old water supply system was destroyed by the earthquake. The community organised itself, formed a drinking water committee and collected Rs. 150,000 for the construction of a raised tank. Likewise, the necessity of rebuilding the healthcare system after the Kashmir earthquake in Pakistan and India may lead to better overall healthcare. Disasters can tear villages apart, but they can also bring communities and nations together in a renewed commitment to improve the quality of life.

– Aga Khan Foundation 2005

Above: His Highness the Aga Khan touring earthquake relief efforts in Pakistan.
OVERVIEW

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

The Aga Khan Foundation is part of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). Founded and guided by His Highness the Aga Khan, the AKDN brings together a number of international development agencies, institutions and programmes that work primarily in the poorest parts of South and Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East. All AKDN agencies conduct their programmes without regard to faith, origin or gender.

The Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance works to expand access for the poor to a wider range of financial services, including micro-insurance, small housing loans, savings, education and health accounts. Its programmes range from village lending cooperatives to self-standing microfinance banks in South and Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Aga Khan Education Services aims to diminish obstacles to educational access, quality and achievement. It operates more than 300 schools and advanced educational programmes at the pre-school, primary, secondary and higher secondary levels in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Uganda. It emphasises student-centred teaching methods, field-based teacher training and school improvement.

Aga Khan Health Services provides primary and curative health care in Afghanistan, India, Kenya, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Tanzania through 237 health centres, dispensaries, hospitals, diagnostic centres and community health outlets. Annually, AKHS provides primary health care to one million beneficiaries and handles 1.2 million patient visits. AKHS also works with governments and other institutions to improve national health systems.

Aga Khan Planning and Building Services assists communities with village planning, natural hazard mitigation, environmental sanitation, water supply systems and improved design and construction of both housing and public buildings. It provides material and technical expertise, training and construction management services to rural and urban areas.

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture encompasses the triennial Aga Khan Award for Architecture; the Historic Cities Support Programme, which undertakes conservation and rehabilitation in ways that act as catalysts for development; the Humanities Project, which develops humanities curricula.
for use in universities in Central Asia; the Music Initiative, which preserves and promotes the traditional music of Central Asia; ArchNet.org, an online archive of materials on architecture and related issues; the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, which is based at Harvard and MIT; and the Museums Project, which is creating museums in Toronto and Cairo.

The Aga Khan University is a major centre for education, training and research. Chartered as Pakistan’s first private international university in 1983, AKU has made significant contributions on a range of development challenges. It has teaching sites in Afghanistan, Kenya, Pakistan, Syria, Tanzania, Uganda and the United Kingdom. Following the establishment of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Institute for Educational Development and the Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, AKU is moving towards becoming a comprehensive University with a Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The University of Central Asia, chartered in 2000, is located on three campuses: in Khorog, Tajikistan; Tekeli, Kazakhstan; and Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic. UCA’s mission is to foster economic and social development in the mountain regions of Central Asia. It will offer a Master of Arts degree in mountain development; a Bachelor of Arts programme based on the liberal arts and sciences; and non-degree continuing education courses.

The Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development is the only for-profit agency in the Network. Often acting in collaboration with local and international partners, AKFED takes bold but calculated steps to invest in fragile and complex settings. It mobilises investment for the construction, rehabilitation or expansion of infrastructure, sets up sustainable financial institutions, builds economically viable enterprises that provide essential goods and services, and creates employment opportunities.

Focus Humanitarian Assistance, an AKDN affiliate, provides emergency relief supplies and services to victims of conflict and natural disasters. It also works with AKF to help people recover from these events and make the transition to long-term development and self-reliance.

AKDN institutions work together with the world’s leading aid and development agencies. (See “Programme Partners”, page 46, for more information.)
AKF AND THE AKDN

AKDN Countries of Activity

AKF Countries of Activity
The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and its sister AKDN agencies have been experimenting with innovative approaches to development for nearly 40 years. These efforts have included projects designed to reduce the impact of both slow and sudden-onset disasters, including drought-resistant crops and rainwater harvesting systems in coastal areas and soil stabilisation and early warning systems in high mountain zones.

In every undertaking, the overriding goal is to assist in the struggle against hunger, disease, illiteracy, ignorance and social exclusion. Central to all these efforts have been inclusive, community-based development approaches, in which local organisations identify, prioritise and implement projects with the Foundation’s assistance. Within this ethos, AKF focuses on four major areas: education, rural development, health and civil society.

AKF’s approach also features a long-term commitment that can run over several decades and be maintained through political and social uncertainty. It has been the Foundation’s experience that quick fixes rarely take root; rather, sustainable development requires careful, culturally appropriate and disciplined application of best practices over periods that may be longer than typical funding cycles. AKF therefore strives to maintain long-term relationships with donor agencies and peer organisations for the mobilisation of funds, human resources and expertise. It also works to encourage indigenous philanthropy.

Once community organisations begin providing services to their members, AKF expands the programme by establishing village organisations in other districts. AKF then brings them into a federated structure and links them to local governments through collaboration on development issues. It also
provides fund-raising advice and contacts to the current and former recipients of its grants through its civil society activities.

Through endowments and capital investments, AKF helps to ensure the viability of these institutions. For example, it has aided community pre-schools in Africa build endowments. AKF’s support extends to the creation of civil society institutions, including pre-primary, primary, secondary, technical and professional schools; maternity homes, hospitals, research centres; and sports, recreation and cultural centres.

AKF both implements projects and makes grants. Most Foundation grants are made to local field-based organisations. When an appropriate partner for a programme does not exist, the Foundation will create one – such as its rural development programmes – or manage the project directly. Over the years, AKF has built a solid reputation for accountable management of grants within a clearly defined thematic strategy and geographic focus.

His Highness the Aga Khan, who founded AKF in 1967, provides regular funding for administration and programme initiatives as well as contributions to its endowment. The Ismaili community contributes invaluable volunteer time, professional services and substantial financial resources. Other funding sources include more than 60 national and international development agencies and many thousands of individual and corporate donors. In 2005 with a budget of US$ 165 million, AKF funded projects in 16 countries.

The Foundation is committed to disseminating lessons from its field experiences through collaboration, public dissemination and policy dialogue. Models that the Foundation have promoted have been adapted and replicated by governments and international donors across a spectrum of environments and economies.

The Foundation is based in Geneva, Switzerland, with branches and affiliates in Central and South Asia, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and North America. In every country, the Foundation works for the common good of all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin, religion or political association.
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Firmly committed to reducing rural poverty, particularly in resource-poor, degraded or remote environments, the Foundation concentrates its efforts on a small number of programmes scaled to meet the needs of the communities in which it works. High mountain, coastal and arid areas are a particular focus. AKF’s rural support programmes have also been asked to assist with the reconstruction of areas that have suffered the effects of conflict or disaster.

A central strategy is to create or strengthen institutional structures at the village level through which people can prioritise needs and decide how best to manage common resources. These village organisations, whether broad-based or interest-specific, represent the community to government and other development partners, including civil society organisations and the private sector.

Training programmes support the effectiveness and sustainability of these institutions by providing the management, technical expertise and other resources needed to plan, implement and maintain local development activities.

Communities build personal and community capital through their management of natural resources such as water storage, irrigation systems, soil conservation or forestry. These efforts include the construction of small-scale infrastructure, such as rural roads, bridges, canals, micro-hydel, or agricultural storage facilities.

Income growth is promoted by increasing agricultural productivity through new farming methods, provision of better seed, creation and improvement of markets, land development, micro-credit, increasing off-farm incomes and supporting enterprise development.

Local capital is mobilised by promoting savings and developing financial services to enable broad access to credit. All programmes are designed to have a combined effect so as to create a critical mass of economic activities that raise living standards.

Through its Mountain Societies Development Support Programme in Tajikistan, AKF implements rural support programmes ranging from agriculture and infrastructure projects to enterprise development and training schemes. More than 2,400 infrastructure projects – schools, roads, bridges, water supplies, mini-hydroelectric stations – have been completed in the 12 years it has been operating.
The Foundation’s overall aims in education are to improve the quality of basic education by ensuring better early caring and learning environments for young children; increase access to education; keep children in school longer; and raise levels of academic achievement. Girls, the very poor and geographically remote populations receive special attention. AKF both implements its own education initiatives and funds others through grants to governments and NGOs.

Current grants focus on: the location, timing and content of teacher training; professional development for educators and caregivers; the role of governments, NGOs, communities and parents in financing and managing education; and the cultural and economic relevance of the curriculum.

The Early Childhood Development portfolio includes various community-based approaches that enhance early childcare and education opportunities. AKF has worked closely with communities to create culturally appropriate curricula that take into account relevant early childhood education and care practices. To ensure more holistic and early interventions, AKF coordinates its efforts with the Foundation’s health initiatives.

In contexts where many teachers have no more than primary-level education themselves and materials and training are in short supply, the Foundation concentrates resources in centres managed by local NGOs or governments. Several resource centres, which provide courses on the creation of student-centred teaching and learning environments and offer in-classroom support and follow-up to teachers from affiliated schools, have been established and strengthened in Asia and Africa.

These efforts are complemented by overall school improvement programmes at the district and provincial levels. The Foundation also provides mechanisms, such as mini-endowments and matching grants, which allow parents and communities a wider role in managing and co-financing their children’s education. This is a particularly important development in countries where governments are not able to provide even the primary cycle of schooling.
HEALTH

The Foundation plays a key role in developing ways to enable poor communities, both rural and urban, to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to protect and promote good health. It has been a pioneer of community health efforts in India and Pakistan, has assisted health sector reform in Tajikistan, helped rebuild the health infrastructure in Afghanistan and Mozambique and funded primary health care facilities in East Africa.

In all its undertakings, the Foundation promotes equitable health policies and financing mechanisms that contribute to sustaining service delivery and the provision of basic services. A particular focus is improving the health status of vulnerable groups – especially women of childbearing age and children under five – who live in geographically remote areas.

AKF works to strengthen health care systems by building the skills of government and primary level health care professionals. It also contributes to health sector reform; the improvement of environmental and household health through the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene promotion; the enhancement of maternal and child health; the improvement of nutritional status; and programmes to combat infectious diseases.

CIVIL SOCIETY

AKF’s broad definition of civil society extends beyond that of foreign-funded NGOs. Through research, training, advice and funding, AKF supports a variety of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that address common challenges of poor communities. The characteristics of these organisations are developmental rather than purely charitable; participatory; non-discriminatory; dedicated to orderly positive change; and ready to support pluralism. Their activities have a positive impact and clear public benefit.

To increase the impact and efficiency of these organisations, the Foundation works to create what the Aga Khan has called an “enabling environment” of laws and policies that govern relations between the state and civil society. In many countries, including Tanzania, Kenya and Pakistan, AKF has helped governments and CSOs develop a mature and responsive legal and
fiscal framework that addresses outstanding issues such as the legal status of civil society organisations and tax incentives to encourage indigenous philanthropy. In Pakistan, AKF has helped create the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy, a unique organisation dedicated to this task.

Many of AKF’s partners ask for advice, training and related institution-strengthening services. The Foundation has assisted these partners by establishing resource centres that provide the required services. For example, the Foundation has helped to create a range of learning tools in development management and resource mobilisation that are suitable for CSOs. It has also set up a Young Development Professionals programme in East Africa comprising in-service training, mentoring and course work.

**CROSS-CUTTING CONCERNS**

Several concerns cut across the main themes discussed above. These concerns are: community participation, environment, gender and development, pluralism, human resource development and public awareness of development issues.

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

The benefit of community participation in development programmes has been demonstrated widely. When local people – rather than external organisations – identify, prioritise and address their own development needs, the chances for sustained success are usually far greater.

To this end, the Foundation’s development model is based on community participation. In practice, this might mean that a community’s priorities are at variance with expert advice. For example, a programme for relatively quick economic rewards may be given priority over a health clinic, yet in the long term the scale of community mobilisation engendered by the economic rewards may make subsequent health programmes more effective.

Experience has shown that as community organisations created for economic benefit mature, they gain the confidence and vision to address longer-term social needs. For example, the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme in Tajikistan began as a humanitarian
mission following the collapse of the Soviet Union and has moved on to tackle a wide range of development issues, from food security to education and health.

ENVIRONMENT
In resource-poor areas, poor people are often forced to consume the few natural resources available to them despite the importance of these resources to their future well-being. The most common example is firewood used for cooking. The result is often deeper poverty, depleted soils, deforested hills, polluted water, disease and despair.

To reverse this destructive course, the Foundation’s rural development programmes – including those in India, Kenya, Pakistan and Tajikistan – combine local organisation, appropriate technology and investments in the regeneration of natural resources to arrest depletion and then rebuild these critical assets.

Raising awareness of environmental issues through health and education programmes also encourages people to act in the best interests of the community. AKF’s water and sanitation programmes in South Asia and Africa, which include both the installation of physical infrastructure and awareness-raising activities, have had dramatic impacts on infant and child mortality, female education, overall health and life expectancy.

In 2005, AKF initiated discussions on integrating into AKF the activities of the Bellerive Foundation, founded by the late Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan in Switzerland in 1977. Special focus areas would include water resource management and measures to reduce the vulnerability of poor populations to earthquakes and other natural disasters.

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT
In many countries, a woman’s ability to contribute to society is constrained by social, cultural and political traditions. Compared to men, they tend to be less educated, more limited in their options and paid less. Yet women manage households, raise children, pass knowledge to the next generation, tend livestock, grow crops and run businesses.

Research and experience have shown that taking gender considerations
into account in planning economic and social interventions increases the probability of their success. It has also been shown that families and communities benefit exponentially when women reap greater rewards for their own efforts and labour, and men recognise their contributions.

The Foundation supports women by training them in forestry, masonry, crop and livestock management, accounting, financial management and marketing. It promotes village credit schemes, early childhood development, education and careers for women, as well as conducting research on gender issues and engaging men in dialogue regarding attitudinal and structural changes flowing from development programmes.

**PLURALISM**

Pluralism, which can be defined as appreciation, tolerance and openness towards other peoples’ cultures, social structures, values and beliefs, is part of the essential infrastructure for development. It runs through all AKF activities, offering a practical means of optimising individual and social potential, managing diversity, mitigating conflict and laying the foundation for equitable human development.

The Foundation’s Madrasa Programme in East Africa is a good example of pluralism in action. Previously, Madrasa schools were exclusively devoted to religious education, but when the local community wanted to broaden the education of its children, it requested assistance from the Foundation. AKF supported local educators in the development of an integrated, culturally relevant curriculum that has expanded educational horizons and raised levels of academic achievement, allowing children to make the transition into mainstream school systems.

**HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

The Foundation supports a wide variety of education and training activities. These range from upgrading technical skills to providing scholarships for degree programmes, as well as from instructing managers of women’s organisations in leadership and administration to providing internships to young development professionals. Many development management education activities are carried out under the Civil Society Programme. The International Scholarship Programme enables outstanding students...
from Foundation countries to attend top universities in Europe, North America and Asia. Through an international competition, the programme provides a limited number of post-graduate degree scholarships, which are 50 percent loan, 50 percent grant.

PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DEVELOPMENT ISSUES
Presenting development issues to the public at large is an integral part of the Aga Khan Development Network’s activities and, in particular, those of the Foundation. Public awareness of the need to help the poor achieve a level of self-reliance and, in turn, help those even needier than themselves, is vital to the success of the Foundation’s programmes. Some of the tools used to disseminate information about AKF’s work are publications, TV, press coverage, videos, Internet (www.akdn.org), exhibitions and fund-raising events such as Partnership Walks and Golf Days.

Right: In Mozambique, village members press sunflower seeds to produce oil, which is sold for income generation. Below: In Afghanistan, men and children collect clean water from a central water supply system installed by AKF’s water and sanitation programme.
COUNTRY REVIEW
ASIA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

AFGHANISTAN

Under the National Solidarity Programme (NSP) in Afghanistan, AKF is working with community development councils throughout the northeast. It has played a significant role in the decrease in food insecurity and the decline in poppy production in core programme areas in Badakhshan. The Rural Microcredit Programme provided loans to over 10,000 new clients, none of whom had accessed credit previously. Programmes have made a significant contribution to social service access through the construction of over 40 schools and 22 health facilities. AKF is currently overseeing 265 community infrastructure projects under the NSP. The Rural Education Support Programme has reached over 65,000 students and 2,000 teachers.

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

In Kyrgyzstan, the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme’s education activities focused on Early Childhood Development (ECD). By working with the government, community members and teachers, ECD is contributing to the establishment of a relevant kindergarten system. Together, they are constructing and renovating central and satellite kindergartens and recruiting and training kindergarten teachers and supervisors. An ECD resource centre for teachers and supervisors has also been established.

SPOTLIGHT: IMPROVING HEALTH SERVICES

AKF is working with the Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS) and the Aga Khan University in Kabul and Karachi to build quality health services that are relevant to the needs of rural communities. Some of these needs are being addressed by installing water supply and sanitation infrastructure for the operations of the community health programme; actively pursuing components of the nursing and midwifery training; and constructing or rehabilitating rural health clinics.

At the end of 2005, AKHS was operating 119 Health Posts, each with two Community Health Workers, 17 Basic Health Centres, five Community Health Centres and one Hospital (in Bamiyan). The Hospital serves as a referral unit for seven districts in the province. Attendance continues
to increase. Hospital deliveries, for example, doubled in 2005. This is attributable to both economic development in the area and the hospital’s growing reputation. To facilitate community involvement, a new emergency room and blood bank have been added and a hospital committee established in the facility.

Particular attention is given to mother and child health. Local women are trained as village health workers, traditional birth attendants and polyvalent nurses. Currently, this includes Community Midwifery Education programmes in Bamiyan and Badakhshan. There are also refresher programmes for doctors and nurses. The Bamiyan hospital provides a training environment for the community midwifery school and for laboratory assistants working in clinics. AKHS’s provincial teams provide training for clinic personnel as new technologies, infectious disease strategies and evidence-based health care are introduced into Afghan health services.

Water and sanitation programmes complement the health services and are started only after discussion with village communities. AKDN provides the initial materials and technical advice, the community contributes the labour and commits to maintain the facility, for which training is also provided. Pre- and post-implementation surveys have shown that AKF’s water and sanitation interventions reduced child mortality and morbidity by 50 percent in a one-year period. These interventions reach over 50,000 households each year.

Since 1980, AKF has been working on rural development, microfinance and education projects in partnership with BRAC, other non-governmental organisations and AKDN agencies. These innovative partnerships have yielded a number of best practices and a great deal of knowledge about poverty reduction.

**SPOTLIGHT: BRAC-AKFC LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**

In 2005, AKF, through the BRAC-AKFC Learning Partnership, continued to leverage the knowledge generated by BRAC’s innovative programme, Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction (CFPR), which targets the ultra-poor. Beneficiaries were provided with enterprise development training, access to wage employment to help them earn a living, human rights and legal awareness training, and access to health care. CFPR works with the ultra-poor to build their confidence and enhance their capacity to join existing development programmes.

The Partnership aims to deepen and broaden the impact of BRAC’s CFPR project – within Bangladesh, across South Asia, and internationally – by drawing on the global best practices in poverty reduction for the ultra-poor and by sharing lessons emerging from CFPR with the broader development community.

In 2002, a group of seven women joined BRAC’s programme, Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction, and were given access to leased land as well as a cow each. Encouraged by BRAC to diversify their assets and livelihoods, one has started a tiny roadside grocery shop nearby. Prior to joining BRAC, the women all worked as day labourers, barely making do with one meal a day and owning only one set of clothes. Today, improvements include three meals a day and sanitation in their houses.

The Canadian International Development Agency is a significant supporter of AKDN programmes in Bangladesh.
The Foundation is working to enhance the quality of life of poor and disadvantaged communities. Its overall goal is to strengthen civil society and contribute to national development. In collaboration with other AKDN agencies and carefully selected partners, AKF works in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

The Foundation is improving the quality of education available to marginalised and excluded communities in over 1,000 schools. AKF and its partners are working alongside state governments through the Sarva Shiksha Abiyan programme – a national programme to improve education quality – introducing new methods and approaches that take into account social and cultural practices and involve local government bodies.

To address rural poverty and improve livelihoods, the Foundation is supporting activities for 400,000 people across four states in the semi-arid and rain-fed regions of western and central India. Over 1,400 community organisations have been formed, of which 50 percent of the 33,000 members are women. Knowledge and resource centres have also been established in collaboration
with state governments to provide training and make available essential information on rural livelihoods to enable communities to equip themselves with the latest techniques and practices.

Integrated community health interventions reach out to a population of over 240,000. The promotion of community-led approaches ensures access to quality, affordable child survival programmes, maternal health, and other essential community health services in collaboration with public and private health systems. AKF’s environmental health, water supply and sanitation activities reflect the needs of women and take into account their dignity and safety. Recently, Karan village in Siddhpur Taluka of Gujarat – an area covered by the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services – received the Nirmal Gram award for complete sanitation coverage.

SPOTLIGHT: POST-TSUNAMI RELIEF IN ANDHRA PRADESH

In December 2004, the earthquake and resulting tsunami affected 301 villages spanning nine coastal districts causing damage worth US$ 17 million. The AKDN initiatives in the 15 tsunami-affected habitations of Nagayalanka Mandal, Krishna District, straddle the continuum of emergency relief assistance and longer-term development programming. The immediate relief and aid provided through Focus Humanitarian Assistance, India, reached more than 11,000 affected families through food and non-food aid (13 villages).

Humanitarian assistance has been provided to 1,650 affected fishing families through the distribution of 260 boats, 26 tonnes of nets and 770 ice boxes. Assistance to diversify livelihoods has been provided to 370 families. Beneficiaries – comprising primarily women – receive livestock support (160), capital support (170) for fish-vending activities, tailoring support (30) and other small businesses (10). Capacity building interventions have been undertaken for ensuring the restoration of livelihoods during times of disaster.

Funding partners for programmes in India include the Canadian International Development Agency, European Commission, Japan International Cooperation Agency and the US Agency for International Development.

Activities under the Post-Tsunami Humanitarian Assistance programme include provision of boats, nets and ice boxes to families who lost these assets; the construction of retaining walls, at six sites, for boat safety; the construction of five fish-drying platforms and the promotion of racks for fish drying; better fish-handling practices; alternate livelihoods for 370 families dependent on fishing; and capacity building of communities for boat construction and repair; engine repair; net making and mending.
AKF projects in the Kyrgyz Republic focus on rural development, health and education and are implemented through the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP). Working in the remote and mountainous Alai and Chon Alai districts of the Osh Oblast, AKF helps farming communities identify their development priorities, improve the yields of crops and their nutritional value, build water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion projects, and increase incomes through livestock ownership and handicrafts manufacture. It also provides access to early childhood development for children by establishing central and satellite kindergartens.

Since 2004, village organisations, sub-committees and interest groups have been established in 23 villages. Infrastructure projects have been completed in eight villages and are underway in another 13 villages. Sixty-six farmers have been assisted in accessing new varieties of seed potato. Goat and poultry lending has been undertaken with 10 groups, and goat lending expanded to a further 43 groups. An Income Generation Unit was established and a handicraft project was created for four women’s groups.
SPOTLIGHT: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY MOBILISATION

During Soviet times, children in Kyrgyzstan had widespread access to kindergartens. Today, government kindergartens are mainly limited to cities and larger towns. In 2005, AKF’s Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme assisted in the introduction of a more relevant kindergarten system. It introduced innovative and effective ECD models that could be replicated nationwide. The main goal is to improve the development of children aged three to six years.

In 2005, two central kindergartens were renovated, three central kindergartens were constructed and 10 satellite kindergartens established. The programme supplied necessary equipment and effective teaching-learning materials. It recruited kindergarten teachers and supervisors and trained them in effective and innovative ECD approaches and techniques. In Osh, at the Institute for Professional Development – an in-service training institute – an ECD resource centre was established where training of trainers courses were conducted.

Community members, teachers and parents encourage young children in outdoor games, which help to develop both physical and mental abilities.

Through the ECD Programme, community members help provide kindergartens with low-cost learning materials.
Together with Focus Humanitarian Assistance (an affiliate of the AKDN), the Foundation played an important role in coordinating and assisting emergency relief operations after the October earthquake. With the assistance of four AKF helicopters, two of which were flown in from Tajikistan, FOCUS provided food supplies to over 150,000 people, distributed over 1,000 metric tonnes of relief supplies and evacuated over 1,500 casualties. In November, His Highness the Aga Khan announced a three-year, US$ 50 million commitment by the AKDN to support reconstruction, socio-economic development and earthquake-preparedness in areas of the North West Frontier Province and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

In 2005, the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) developed 12 Local Support Organisations to provide a formal platform for dialogue, development planning, and delivery of services to existing community organisations from 320 villages. Implementing projects ranging from agriculture to literacy training, AKRSP initiated 45 new infrastructure and natural resource management activities to benefit 12,000 households. Capacity building activities, in new areas such as training in gem stone cutting and information technology, were conducted to train 2,200 men and women. AKRSP continued to promote organic farming techniques to capture local and international organic food markets.

AKF and other AKDN agencies are working together to develop education programmes from early childhood to tertiary levels. These efforts include projects to address gender mainstreaming, civil society, professional and policy development and public-private partnerships; transitioning between different levels of education; adult literacy; and non-formal education. According to a European Commission Global Monitoring Mission, matriculation results are improving in both Aga Khan Diamond Jubilee Schools and the community-based schools, and enrolment has increased by 18 percent over the last two years. In Early Childhood Development, AKF has intervened at two new levels: the 0 to 3 age group and classes 1 and 2.

AKF’s health programme includes collaboration with the Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS) in support of effective maternal and child health care.
AKHS operates 65 facilities that provide quality health care for a population of over 540,000 in the Northern Areas and Chitral. It also has facilities in Sindh and Punjab.

**SPOTLIGHT: BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME (BACIP)**

In the Northern Areas and Chitral, and the Thatta District in Sindh, living conditions are harsh and winters severe. Houses often do not have insulation, are dark and damp, and often provide ideal conditions for diseases to spread among families, particularly women and children. Through BACIP, AKF and the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services (AKPBS) work to improve the household environment, including sanitation, health and hygiene awareness. Through research, testing and application, over 60 different interventions designed to improve building standards have been created. The impact of these activities includes more efficient stoves for cooking and heating, and a reduction in smoke from fuel stoves – a common cause of respiratory conditions.

BACIP has been able to generate a reasonable demand for its products, thus providing more business for the potential manufacturers, installers, suppliers and house repairers, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation and an improved built environment. More than 12,800 housing improvements in 143 villages have been realized, benefitting 51,400 people. BACIP also influences standards by training local craftsmen and builders in improved house construction techniques. Over the years, more than 300 local artisans and entrepreneurs in various trades have benefited from this training. At the national level, BACIP counsels municipal officials on creating a healthier environment through village growth planning and management.

The Canadian International Development Agency, European Commission, Flora Foundation USA, Japanese Government, Johnson & Johnson, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Pfizer, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, UN Development Programme and the US Agency for International Development, are some of the many partners supporting the programmes in Pakistan.
AKF’s integrated development programme includes rural development, health, education, the strengthening of civil society and the promotion of small enterprises.

Its rural development activities, which are conducted under the auspices of the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP), include establishing and developing civil society institutions; agricultural development and livestock diversification; training for local communities, local government and NGOs; and support for setting up small enterprises, with special emphasis on women.

The AKDN Health programme in 2005 provided 300 standard protocol books on treatment of 36 diseases for Primary Health Services facilities; developed a safe motherhood textbook in collaboration with the Department of Health; provided training in clinical practice to over 200 key nursing staff; and implemented the Growth Monitoring Programme in all districts of Gorno-Badakhshan (GBAO) covering 7,820 children under three years of age (the prevalence of underweight children dropped to one percent compared to four percent in 2001). Integrated Management of Childhood Illness training was conducted in all seven districts and in Khorog; and essential diagnostic equipment and requisite training were provided to Darwaz, Rushan and Khorog Hospitals. The pharmaceutical component of the programme trained 90 doctors, 83 nurses and 15 pharmacists in the rational use of drugs.


**SPOTLIGHT: INSTITUTE FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The Institute for Professional Development in GBAO, a government institution and an AKF grantee, provides support to all 320 schools in...
the eight districts of GBAO, and 33 schools in the Khatlon and Rasht Valley regions. This support focuses on bolstering the four pillars that are essential for advancing education quality in Tajikistan: in-service teacher training and in-class support; education management training; provision, creation and publication of materials combined with training in all aspects of teaching/learning resources; and parent and community mobilisation and support. The Institute has an explicit government mandate to cover the education needs of the Oblast – an area with 6,800 teachers and 53,000 students.

In 2005, under the Institute’s programme, five new core-satellite school systems in Khatlon and Rasht Valley regions were established; over 7,000 curriculum frameworks and 2,250 dual language books were printed and distributed to all schools in the programme; a training of trainers’ programme was held to develop the Mathematics component of the primary module; and the Mentoring Programme for hands-on Whole School Support was established.

In addition to its 28 Teacher-Trainers, the Institute presides over a network of school-based trainers – called Key Teachers – who were trained at the Institute and who can provide year-round in-school training and support to even the remotest of areas. More than 15 training courses were delivered covering a variety of disciplines. Over 30,000 students and 1,000 teachers were reached in 2005.

The Institute is also serving the emerging education quality needs of Afghan Badakhshan. Certain of the Institute’s programmes that are appropriate for the remote and rural areas of Afghanistan have already begun for AKF Afghanistan’s Teacher Training College in Shugnan.


Child-centred, active learning methods require teachers to create resources to enrich lessons and support the learning environment. Learning Resource Centres have been set up in the Institutes for Professional Development and in 18 core schools. Government institutions are engaged in all activities.
SYRIA

In Syria, AKF is implementing a multi-input area development programme, focusing on rural economic development, early childhood development, community health and the strengthening of community organisations.

In education, the professional development of teachers and Early Childhood Development (ECD) are the main focus. The Aga Khan University (AKU) works with the Ministry of Education to improve English language instruction. As of December 2005, 39 instructors had completed an eight-week Certificate Programme at AKU’s Karachi campus in Pakistan.

The ECD programme has been involved in policy and strategy development. Training and professional development activities were also organised in 2005 in order to begin creating a group of core trainers, supervisors and leaders. Needs assessments in several areas have led to a pilot community centre in Taltout. In 2005, six summer camps for 1,000 children between three and nine years were held. Adults and youth volunteers (225) were trained to lead the activities for the camp.

To address water scarcity in the country, the Rural Support Programme has designed modern drip irrigation networks for 140 farmers and introduced new varieties of barley for 208 beneficiaries and vetch for 14 beneficiaries. The programme is encouraging alternative agriculture and the adoption of new breeds of livestock for 14 beneficiaries. Regular training and awareness presentations are held by the Programme on drip irrigation, water efficiency, mushroom production and livestock issues. The programme also supports women’s groups and handicraft production.

SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY HEALTH

In Syria, AKF and its sister agencies are responding to needs for health promotion and preventive care, particularly in rural areas. It has adopted an integrated approach that focuses on community health and disease prevention, with special consideration given to mothers and young children. The programme is mobilising communities through Community-based Organisations and Village Development committees. In the Salamieh
District, there are now Community Organisations in 20 Villages, with 10 health committees.

In 2005, the Health Programme implemented its first health promotion campaign, which focused on encouraging breastfeeding. Five percent of mothers now breastfeed exclusively for the first six months. In addition, the Programme implemented training, workshops, awareness sessions and other activities for Health Committee members, health workers/volunteers, nurses and doctors.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health the Programme is implementing a Nursing Quality Assurance Programme to improve standards of practice and nursing care. In 2005, the programme was extended to three additional hospitals: Mujtahid (Damascus), Banyas (Tartous), and Salamieh (Hama). The programme is also working to improve leadership in the field of nursing and has reviewed and improved the nursing curriculum in Syria. Over 25 nurses and 10 nursing directors, in addition to a number of school directors, clinical trainers and English teachers visited AKU in Karachi to review the School of Nursing’s systems, policies and procedures.
KENYA, TANZANIA ANDUGANDA

For over 20 years, AKF’s branches in East Africa have worked on a variety of integrated development activities, including health sector reform, enhancement of education quality, rural development in coastal areas and the strengthening of the civil society sector.

AKF’s rural development activities include mobilising communities through the establishment and strengthening of village organisations; constructing or improving infrastructure such as roads and dams; savings and credit programmes in support of income generation; and technical support for a range of self-help activities, such as agricultural production, natural resources management, livestock production and small business schemes.

AKF’s work in Early Childhood Development in Madrasa Resource Centre and School Improvement projects has developed, tested and rolled-out innovative approaches that have demonstrated the importance of child-to-child activities, community involvement and empowerment, teacher training in pedagogical skills and the development and use of low-cost learning materials in improving educational quality and student retention. AKF works closely with governments to scale-up these models at the national level.

AKF strengthens government health systems and supports AKDN partners in training critical health personnel. The Aga Khan University’s (AKU) Advanced Nursing Studies programme, for example, is designed to enhance nursing qualifications. The programme had enrolled 760 nursing students (in all three countries) as of August 2005.

TANZANIA
A specific variety of seaweed, which is widely grown along the coasts of Tanzania and Mozambique, produces carrageenan, a key ingredient in many food and industrial products. Seaweed cultivation, which AKF has supported, has low input costs and provides women with a steady monthly income.
AKF has been working with marginalised and impoverished communities in the Coast Province since 1997 to increase food security and improve livelihoods. The continuation of this effort in 2005 resulted in the generation of 61 village-level development plans; the training of 400 community resource persons; the construction of an earth dam to benefit 3,900 people from five villages; the establishment of 24 demonstration plots to serve as farmer field schools; the establishment of six acres of community cassava bulking plots; and intensified agricultural extension around small farm reservoirs leading to improvements in the production of vegetables and an increase in revenue from their sale. Under the programme, studies were carried out to determine the income generation potential of various local produce such as groundnut, charcoal and indigenous poultry.

The Coastal Rural Support Programme (CRSP) also facilitated the generation of 17 school development plans for its Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres and, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, provided Vitamin A supplements in 16 of these Centres.

During 2005, the project to strengthen the Raha Leo Government Primary Health Care Centre in Zanzibar introduced cost sharing as a pilot study in line with the government’s health sector reform strategy. Following the introduction of voluntary counselling and testing services in 2004, patients requesting counselling and testing increased from seven in January, when the programme was launched, to more than 110 in July.

Clinic staff attended to an average of 2,073 patients per month, providing a range of services to address tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS and general outpatient care. Working with AKF’s NGO Resource Centre, the programme is expected to have considerable influence and impact on the growth of civil society in Zanzibar.
SPOTLIGHT: ENHANCEMENT OF UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY, UGANDA

The Enhancement of Universal Primary Education and Community programme was launched in April 2005, building on the success of previous school improvement projects in the greater Kampala area. The focus of the programme is on strengthening government and community schools through the training of teachers and other education personnel, providing resources for making low cost/no cost educational materials and the development of school-based resource centres. The programme aims to mainstream these approaches within local government bodies.

Under the programme, issues such as the education of marginalised populations and HIV/AIDS prevention are being addressed. To improve the quality of, and accessibility to, primary school level education — especially for working and street children — the programme is mobilising urban communities in Kampala and the Wakiso District towns.

In the promotion of its programmes in East Africa, AKF gratefully acknowledges the support of the Canadian International Development Agency, Comic Relief (UK), Danish International Development Agency, European Commission, Ford Foundation, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Johnson & Johnson, Rockefeller Foundation, Uganda Ministry of Education, UK Department for International Development and the US Agency for International Development.

An evaluation of AKF’s NGO Resource Centre in Zanzibar by the Poverty Eradication Network in October 2005 highlights a good example of how rural subsistence communities in Nungwi, a fishing village on the coast of Unguja, can finance their own development through self-imposed tariffs. Starting with a one percent levy on fish sales that was subsequently increased to five percent and augmented by membership fees, a community-managed fund was used to finance five water projects in surrounding villages, including three bore holes, a booster station and a water tank with a total value of over 378 million Tanzanian Shillings. NGORC trained the community-based organisation responsible for managing the fund in critical capacities such as financial management, governance, resource mobilisation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Children’s education in disadvantaged and poor urban communities within Kampala City and Wakiso District towns is improved through teacher training.
The Coastal Rural Support Programme is the cornerstone of a larger regional development initiative for northern Mozambique. Since its inception in 2001, the Programme has had five main objectives: increase rural incomes, enhance food security, improve the overall health status, increase access to quality education and strengthen civil society in the region.

Incomes have risen steadily over the last few years. In 2005, there were 5,600 households cultivating cash crops (including seaweed and sesame) or owning livestock in the programme area, compared to almost none in 2002. Farmers sold 67 tonnes of sesame and seaweed, valued at more than US$ 30,000. Another US$ 50,000 was generated through livestock, bringing the total wealth creation to US$ 80,000 in 2005.

CRSP supported a government campaign that provided over 100,000 vaccinations against measles and polio to children in the programme area, thereby contributing to improvements in health. Incidence of malaria also dropped in the two districts reached by the CRSP health component, despite a rise across the province.

In education, the Programme has more than doubled the number of literacy teachers trained, from 30 to 67. It has also implemented a number of projects that will help communities, civil society organisations and government to manage development over the long-term.

Complementing the efforts of CRSP, Bridges to the Future was launched in 2005 with an integrated approach to human resource development and civil society strengthening. Still in its initial stages, the project has successfully built on the scholarship component of CRSP and is preparing to provide technical and university level educational opportunities to 70 emerging leaders in Cabo Delgado.

**SPOTLIGHT: INCREASING INCOME THROUGH CASH CROP PRODUCTION**

When AKF began working in northern Mozambique in 2002, less than ten percent of farmers sold agricultural produce and practically none produced...
cash crops for sale. Farmers worked at subsistence levels, producing barely enough food to sustain their families. This extremely low level of economic activity resulted in per capita income of less than US$ 50 per year, a figure that includes the value of the food eaten.

To help farmers move beyond subsistence farming and raise incomes, AKF introduced four cash crops: sesame seed, which is in high demand across northern Mozambique and southern Tanzania for export to India, China and Japan (US$ 4 of planting seed can produce three hundred dollars worth of sesame); groundnuts, which are also in high demand domestically and for export to South Africa (although the seed is costlier than sesame, groundnuts improve soil fertility, making them an important part of sustainable farming systems); a specific variety of seaweed, which is widely grown along the coast of Tanzania, produces carrageenan, a key ingredient in many food and industrial products (the crop, which has very low input costs, provides women growers with a steady monthly income); and Bird’s eye chili peppers, another export crop that is in high demand in northern Mozambique (even more profitable than sesame, US$ 1 of seed can produce US$ 200 of peppers). Chili peppers also repel the marauding elephants that damage farmers’ fields.

To introduce these cash crops, CRSP is supporting farmers at each link in the chain, from accessing planting seed to selling the crop. Certified planting seed for sesame and groundnuts is now being produced in Cabo Delgado for the first time. The seed is being sold through a network of 26 rural shops, giving farmers easy access to inputs. Thirteen nurseries run by farmers are selling chili pepper seedlings. A company interested in buying seaweed is advancing inputs to women growers in order to increase production. CRSP’s extension network is teaching nearly 10,000 farmers how to grow these and other crops. Ten farmers’ associations, trained by CRSP, are purchasing cash crops on behalf of agri-businesses, facilitating crop marketing.

In 2005, 5,600 households cultivated cash crops or owned livestock in AKF’s intervention areas compared to almost none in 2002. Farmers, who previously worked at subsistence levels – producing barely enough food to sustain their families sold 67 tonnes of agricultural produce, valued at more than US$ 30,000, and increased wealth by a further US$ 50,000 through poultry sales.

Development partners in Mozambique include the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Canadian International Development Agency, Instituto Portuguese de Apoio ao Desenvolvimento, Mozal Community Development Trust and the United Nations Childrens’ Fund.
AKF Portugal, within its new programme, has established several partnerships. In December 2005, it signed a Partnership Agreement with the Patriarch of Lisbon that provides the framework for cooperation on addressing poverty alleviation and problems of social exclusion. The Agreement reflects a shared commitment to an improvement in the quality of life of marginalised and disadvantaged populations. It follows eight years of dialogue and cooperation between institutions of the Catholic Church and agencies of the AKDN in Portugal and Mozambique. Cooperation has included the provision of material resources and technical assistance for higher education in Mozambique and a programme to create opportunities for professional and educational interchange in Portugal.

AKF Portugal currently runs one major programme, the Urban Community Support Programme (UCSP), in the neighbourhoods of Alta de Lisboa, Mira Sintra and Ameixoeira. The overall goal is to improve the quality of life for marginalized groups within urban Portugal (including cultural and ethnic minorities) by enhancing the community’s ability to address their own needs, manage their own social and economic development and promote sustainable local development initiatives.

**SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY MOBILISATION**

Mobilising communities has been key to the success of the programme. A survey involving 1,585 families (the equivalent of 25 percent of the population in each area of the three initial neighbourhoods), community-based associations,
schools, health centres and other public service providers led to a number of innovative community activities in 2005.

These activities included training programmes, sports events and a spring festival. Other support activities include capacity building in management, community participation and grassroots organisation. Classroom activities involved the Childhood Association, which conducted AKF Portugal’s recent Integrated Educare Project. Other initiatives include support for entrepreneurs and discussion group sessions on awareness of health issues based on data from the baseline report.

UCSP has developed partnerships with the House of Mercy of Lisbon, the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Municipality of Lisbon, the Municipality of Sintra, Hewlett Packard, Central Business, Associação Criança and Associação de Comércio e Indústria de Sintra. It is co-funded by the European Commission.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Through resource mobilisation, research, engagement in policy issues, human resource development and humanitarian assistance, AKF(UK) aims to improve the lives of disadvantaged communities in Central and South Asia and East Africa. It focuses on education, rural development, health, microfinance and early childhood development. In recent years, it has also supported disaster preparedness and resilience measures for poor communities in Tajikistan and elsewhere.

Partners working with AKF(UK) include the British Council, Comic Relief (UK), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, EuronAid, European Commission, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Johnson & Johnson, Norwegian Agency for International Development, n(o)vib-Oxfam Netherlands and the United Kingdom Department for International Development. Significant support has also been given by the Ismaili Community.
SPOTLIGHT: RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE IN TAJIKISTAN

Vanj, Shugnan, Roshtkala and Ishkashim in Gorno-Badakhshan, Tajikistan, are the districts currently benefiting from a project to reduce the vulnerability of communities to natural hazards. Working with local communities, the project is raising awareness of potential disasters and identifying specific hazards, as well as training community members to increase their disaster preparedness and carry out structural mitigation.

Funded by DIPECHO (the Disaster Preparedness programme of the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Department), the project builds on similar work by Focus Humanitarian Assistance (an affiliate of the AKDN) in the Bartang Valley and a major risk mitigation project at the site of Lake Sarez. A key aim is to enhance the institutional capacity and knowledge base of the Ministry of Emergency Situations and Civil Defence to address the threat of natural disasters on a long-term basis. The Ministry has been provided with computer equipment and peripherals as well as training in the use of a newly installed two-way radio system.

The project’s design of a multi-hazard risk model is innovative and strategically important in its aim to institutionalise a new way of managing disasters in Tajikistan. In addition, the design of an exportable hazard assessment training curricula for use by higher education institutes in Tajikistan (as well as in Central Asia and through the University of Central Asia) will be an important and lasting result of the project. A group of scientists has successfully graduated from the course. Knowledge and experience gained is being utilised to inform the development of the Aga Khan Planning and Building Services and FOCUS seismic risk management programme, initiated in April 2005.

Basic disaster awareness training has been undertaken by FOCUS staff, and 26 community-initiated mitigation projects were supported in villages designated – through the risk model – as particularly prone to hazards.
Among the Aga Khan Foundation Canada’s (AKFC) activities are human resource development, policy engagement and development education. In 2005, activities included roundtables, lecture series and conferences; documentary films, books, surveys and case studies; and learning partnerships and other types of institutional linkages.

**SPOTLIGHT: PROGRAMME AGREEMENT WITH CIDA**

AKFC and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) have been long-time partners and key contributors to AKDN programming. A central pillar of this relationship is the CIDA Program Agreement, which has allowed the AKDN to pilot promising initiatives; implement, replicate or scale up programmes; develop long-term relationships with local development partners; and promote learning within projects and across countries and regions. The first AKFC-CIDA Program Agreement was signed in 1985 and has been renewed five times, most recently in 2005.

In 2005, the Agreement provided support to 25 initiatives in Kenya, Tanzania, Egypt, Afghanistan, India, Uganda, and Canada. In East Africa, projects carried out by the Professional Development Centres and the Madrasa Programme (among others) contributed to improvements in the quality of education for students and reforms to the regional education systems at all levels. In Egypt, support from the Agreement allowed for the piloting of new AKDN initiatives and strengthened the capabilities of local partners to undertake these efforts. Lastly, the water and sanitation initiative of the Gujarat Environmental Health Improvement Programme was highlighted as a best practice by the Government of Gujarat and awarded a contract to manage community water supply programmes in three districts.

Over the past two decades, the Agreement has helped foster a new generation of African, Asian and Canadian development leaders. In 2005, it provided scholarships for six mid-career professionals from Asia to advance their skills in Canada; hands-on experience for 24 young East African professionals; and management training and overseas work opportunities for 22 Canadian young professionals. The Agreement supported 25 Canadian Development Exchange positions in Afghanistan, Pakistan and eastern Africa.

AKFC’s partnership with CIDA provides scholarships for mid-career professionals from Asia who want to advance their skills in Canada. The Programme also allows young Canadian professionals to receive training and work experience overseas.
AKF USA continues to play a vital role in resource mobilisation and technical support for many of AKDN’s international programmes, including those in Afghanistan, East Africa, India, Pakistan and Tajikistan. It also runs a number of national programmes, such as support for the resettlement of immigrant families and the promotion of a better understanding of Islamic cultures in American schools. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Flora Family Foundation, South Asia Earthquake Relief Fund, Johnson & Johnson, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the US Department of Agriculture and the US State Department are some of AKF’s generous partners.

SPOTLIGHT: EDUCATION FOR MARGINALISED CHILDREN AND QUALITY LEARNING

As a major part of USAID’s Education Quality Improvement Programme, AKF USA provides technical support to the Education for Marginalised Children and Quality Learning project in Kenya and Zanzibar.

Resource mobilisation and technical support given by AKF’s affiliates in Canada, the UK and the USA help farmers in Afghanistan to increase production of crops while contributing to containing poppy production.
In Kenya, the project focuses on expanding educational opportunities for children living in two areas that have been affected by chronic impoverishment, water scarcity and recurrent famine – children who have traditionally fared less well than others in terms of their educational achievement.

In the Coast Province, priority is given to creating early childhood and lower primary school learning environments that engage parents, stimulate children to learn and help teachers raise and maintain quality. The programme has facilitated health campaigns at eight Early Childhood Development centres; trained School Management Committee members in nearly 50 schools; and conducted training and follow-up with 14 Early Childhood Development centre teachers.

In the North Eastern Province, the project aims to identify and address the unique educational needs of pastoralist communities and work to increase community and parental participation in all aspects of school life; improve coordination and dialogue among service providers; build human resources and improve small scale infrastructure. Among other activities, the project has provided learning materials to 10 Early Childhood Development centres, organised a community awareness session on the importance of education and carried out a survey of facilities, student nutrition, community attitude and teacher background.

In Zanzibar, the Mradi Wa Kuendeleza Elimu project aims to improve the quality of learning by working with government systems ranging from pre-school to the secondary level. Project funds support the Zanzibar Madrasa Resource Centre, Teacher Advancement Programme, NGO Resource Centre and Professional Development Centre.

Support was also given to the development of the draft education policy; establishment of 18 new Madrasa programme pre-primary schools; and training of 116 teachers, as well as School Management Committee and Civil Society Organisation members, education managers, teachers and tutors.
Partnership Walks and a Golf Day were the major fund-raising events in 2005 in Canada and the United States. These events bring together families, government and business leaders, media, the arts, corporations, students and community groups for a day of learning and entertainment, as well as fund raising, for AKF projects in Asia and Africa. Hundreds of volunteers help make the events possible.

**CANADA**

Since starting in Vancouver in 1985, the World Partnership Walk has grown to include nine cities across Canada. It has raised more than C$ 31 million (US$ 28 million). In 2005, 35,000 walkers and sponsors helped to raise more than C$ 4 million (US$ 3.5 million). World Partnership Golf was launched nationally in 2000 by AKFC. The 2005 tournaments, which were held in six cities, successfully raised C$ 700,000 (US$ 630,000). Funds raised by these events enable AKFC to leverage additional support from major donors like the Canadian International Development Agency and help fund more than 25 development initiatives in Asia and Africa.

**UNITED STATES**

Partnership Walk, which raised US$ 4.4 million in 2005, commemorated its 10th Anniversary in the United States. Over the decade, 25 Walks were held in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles, bringing together 185,000 people and raising US$ 22.9 million. “Investing in People” was the theme for this year’s Walk, in recognition of the UN Year of Microcredit and AKF’s longstanding programmes. These include training teachers and nurses, improving school facilities and curricula, and boosting farmers’ agricultural productivity.

Through matching grants and generous contributions from other agencies, corporations and foundations, the impact of the Walks is greatly extended. The US Agency for International Development, US Department of Agriculture, US Department of State and private organisations, such as Rockefeller Foundation, Johnson & Johnson and the American Red Cross, are among many that contribute.

Hundreds of volunteers help make fund-raising events successful. In 2005, in Canada and the United States, more than US$ 7.9 million was raised at Partnership Walks. European Walks will take place in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Norway, Sweden and The Netherlands in 2006.
Like other AKF programmes, the Coastal Rural Support Programme in Kenya encourages communities to create Civil Society Organisations that can identify and implement their own development priorities. Many communities create programmes for health, education and natural resource management, as well as savings and credit schemes.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CONSOLIDATED (US$ MILLION)*

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants and donations</td>
<td>142.8</td>
<td>175.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from investments</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>23.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income from properties</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income and exchange gain</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>173.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>230.2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme grants and assistance</td>
<td>104.7</td>
<td>128.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation, amortisation and properties</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses and exchange loss</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>149.4</strong></td>
<td><strong>164.6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of Income over expenses</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>65.6</td>
</tr>
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</table>

BALANCE SHEET

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and investments</td>
<td>372.4</td>
<td>425.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables and other current assets</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>77.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-term loans</td>
<td>229.5</td>
<td>243.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Properties and equipment</td>
<td>233.5</td>
<td>268.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>848.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,015.3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities and Fund Balance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payables and liabilities</td>
<td>122.5</td>
<td>201.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balance</td>
<td>726.0</td>
<td>813.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>848.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,015.3</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Unaudited. Includes Aga Khan Foundation’s head office, branches and affiliates.
The Foundation works with many institutional partners across the world. In 2005, those cited below contributed to its programmes. It also works closely with state and national governments in all countries where it operates. In addition, the Ismaili community provides substantial financial support. The Foundation is most grateful to all.

The AKDN has agreements with the following countries and organisations: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, the European Commission, France, Germany, India, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Mali, Mozambique, Pakistan, Portugal, Russia, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom and the United Nations (UNDP and WHO).

AFGHANISTAN
- Government of Afghanistan

AUSTRIA
- Austrian Embassy, Tajikistan
- HOPE 87 (Hundreds of Original Projects for Employment)

CANADA
- Canadian High Commission, India
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Wild Rose Foundation

CZECH REPUBLIC
- Government of the Czech Republic
- People in Need (PIN)

DENMARK
- Danish International Development Agency
- Government of Denmark
- The Office of the Representative of Denmark to Afghanistan

EAST AFRICA
- Government of Kenya
- Government of Tanzania and Zanzibar
- Government of Uganda

FINLAND
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

GERMANY
- German Embassy, Tajikistan
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)
- Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)

INDIA
- Government of India and State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan
- Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd.
- Sir Ratan Tata Trust

JAPAN
- Government of Japan
- Japanese Embassy, Pakistan
- Japanese Embassy, Tajikistan
- Japan International Cooperation Agency

MOZAMBIQUE
- Mozal Community Development Trust

THE NETHERLANDS
- Bernard van Leer Foundation
- Dutch Embassy, India
- Dutch Embassy, Afghanistan
- Government of The Netherlands
- n(o)Vib-Oxfam

NEW ZEALAND
- New Zealand Aid
- New Zealand Embassy, Pakistan

NORWAY
- Government of Norway
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

PAKISTAN
- Government of Pakistan
- The Futures Group

PORTUGAL
- Associação Criação
- Associação de Comércio e Indústria de Sintra
- Catholic Church (Patriarchate of Lisbon)
- Central Business
- Gulbenkian Foundation (Portugal)
- Instituto Portugueses de APOIO ao Desenvolvimento
- Ministério do Trabalho e Solidariedade Social
- Municipality of Lisbon
- Municipality of Sintra
- Santa Casa Misericórdia (House of Mercy)

SWEDEN
- Swedish International Development Agency

SWITZERLAND
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

TAJIKISTAN
- Christian Aid, Tajikistan
- Government of Tajikistan

UNITED KINGDOM
- British High Commission, India
- Comic Relief
- Department for International Development

USA
- American Red Cross
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Citigroup Foundation
- Flora Family Foundation
- Omidyar Fund
- Rockefeller Foundation
- South Asia Earthquake Relief Fund
- US Agency for International Development
- US Department of Agriculture
- US Department of State

INTERNATIONAL
- Asian Development Bank
- ELMA Relief Foundation, The
- EuronAid
- European Commission
- Ford Foundation
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Hewlett Packard
- International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
- International Organization for Migration
- Johnson & Johnson
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- Shell Foundation
- The World Bank
- United Nations (Food and Agriculture Organization, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Children’s Fund, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, World Food Programme)
CURRENT PROJECTS

EDUCATION
• AKU-Institute for Educational Development, Pakistan
• Allied Schools (school improvement) project, Tajikistan
• Coastal Rural Support Programme - Education (Mozambique)
• Continuing education and institutional strengthening, Mozambique
• Education, Dairy and Nutrition Programme (school milk programme), Tajikistan
• Education sector reform programme, Tajikistan
• Educational support for children of marginalised populations, Kenya
• Enhancing teaching of health education, Tajikistan
• Improving the quality of learning in Zanzibar, Tanzania
• Institute for Professional Development, Tajikistan
• Integrated Educare programme (early childhood education), Portugal
• Madrasa Programme Resource Centres and research, East Africa
• Mountain Societies Development Support Programme - Education (Kyrgyz Republic)
• National early childhood development programme, Syria
• Non Formal Primary Education project, Bangladesh (BRAC)
• Northern Pakistan Education Programme
• The Nur Center, Tajikistan
• PIAR-LPCW Women’s Development Program (language development), USA
• Professional Development Centre, East Africa
• Programme for Enrichment of School Level Education, India
• Quality Assurance Institutional Development (improving private education in urban areas), Pakistan
• Releasing Confidence and Creativity (early childhood development), Pakistan
• Rural education support programme, Afghanistan
• School improvement projects and research, East Africa
• Teacher Advancement Programme, Zanzibar
• Teacher education programme (AKU-IED), Syria
• Teachers’ Resource Centre (Early childhood development), Pakistan
• Teacher training colleges, Afghanistan

RURAL DEVELOPMENT
• Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India)
• Aga Khan Rural Support Programme, Pakistan
• Coastal Rural Support Programme (Kenya)
• Coastal Rural Support Programme (Mozambique)
• Integrated rural development programme, with a particular focus on enhancing alternative livelihood options, Afghanistan
• Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (Kyrgyz Republic)
• Mountain Societies Development Support Programme, Tajikistan
• Salami rural support programme, Syria

HEALTH
• Advanced Nursing Studies programme, East Africa
• Building and Construction Improvement Programme, Pakistan
• Building capacity to treat Tuberculosis, Pakistan
• Coastal Rural Support Programme - Health (Mozambique)
• Community health programme in Salamieh, Syria
• Community health programme in the Northern Areas, Pakistan
• Community health programme, Afghanistan
• Community Led Initiatives for Child Survival (Child survival programme in Maharashtra), India
• Essential Hospital Services Programme (Providing essential hospital services), Tajikistan
• Gujarat Environmental Health Improvement Programme (water and sanitation), India
• Gujarat Health Systems Development Programme (community health), India
• Health sector reform programme, Tajikistan
• HIV/AIDS Programme, Zanzibar
• Institutes of Health Sciences, Afghanistan
• Medical facility construction and rehabilitation, Afghanistan
• Mountain Societies Development Support Programme - Health (Kyrgyz Republic)
• Nursing Improvement Programme (AKU-SON), Syria
• Raising awareness of mental health issues, USA
• Rationalising Pharmaceutical Management and Policy, Tajikistan
• Reproductive Health and Child Survival, Tajikistan
• Sharing Health Resources, USA
• Strengthening health systems in Coast Province, Kenya
• Water and Sanitation Extension Programme, Pakistan
• Water and sanitation programme, Afghanistan

CIVIL SOCIETY
• Human Resource Development Network, Pakistan
• Kashf Foundation, Pakistan
• NGO Resource Centre Zanzibar, Tanzania
• NGO Resource Centre, Pakistan
• Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy
• Pakistani Diaspora Philanthropy study
• Social Institutions Development Programme, Pakistan (PAKSID)
• Support for Pakistan NGO Forum
• Support for Taraquee Foundation, Pakistan
• Young Development Professionals programme, East Africa

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
• Earthquake relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, Pakistan/India
• Fostering Disaster Resilient Communities in Isolated Mountain Areas of Tajikistan
• Post-Tsunami Relief to Development, India
• Provision of shelters to returning refugees, Afghanistan

OTHER PROJECTS
• Aga Khan Humanities Project Film on Nosir Khusraw, Tajikistan and Afghanistan
• BRAC Learning Partnership, Canada/Bangladesh
• Canadian Development Exchange Programme
• Capacity building and institutional linkages - University of Central Asia, Canada/USA
• Fellowship in International Development Management, Canada
• Fellowship in International Microfinance and Microenterprise, Canada
• First MicroFinanceBank of Afghanistan
• Human resource development for volunteers, USA
• Initiative on Pluralist Societies, Canada
• International Development Scholarship Programme, Canada
• International Scholarship Programme
• Internship Program, USA
• Islamic Cultural Studies Program, University of Texas at Austin, USA
• Policy and research initiatives, Canada
• Gujarat earthquake rehabilitation, India
• Social Safety Net (institutionalised social services delivery), USA
• Strategic Alliances for Learning, Policy Change and Funding, United Kingdom
• Tajik Scholarship Programme, Tajikistan
• University Seminar Series, Canada
• Urban Community Support Programme, Portugal
FACTS AT A GLANCE

FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN
His Highness the Aga Khan, spiritual leader of the Shia Ismaili Muslims.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
His Highness the Aga Khan, Prince Amyn Aga Khan, Maître André Ardoin, Guillaume de Spoelberch.

ESTABLISHED

ORGANISATION
Private, not-for-profit, non-denominational, development agency. Part of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of eight institutions working in health, education, culture and rural and economic development.

PURPOSE
AKF seeks sustainable solutions to long-term problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and ill-health with special emphasis on the needs of rural communities in mountainous, coastal and other resource-poor areas.

PROGRAMME PRIORITIES
Education, rural development, health, civil society, with particular emphasis on community participation, gender, the environment, pluralism and human resource development.

GRANTEES
Grants are normally made to non-governmental organisations 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 organisation or may manage projects directly. Grantees are selected without regard to origin, religion, gender or political association.

STAFF
2,800 worldwide. AKF attempts, as a management principle, to develop local human resource capacity and most AKF employees are nationals of the countries where AKF offices are located.

GOALS
There are four central objectives:
• Make it possible for poor people to act in ways that will lead to long-term improvements in their income and health, in the environment and in the education of their children;
• Provide communities with a greater range of choices and the understanding necessary to take informed action;
• Enable beneficiaries to gain the confidence and competence to participate in the design, implementation and continuing operation of activities that affect the quality of their lives;
• Put institutional, management and financial structures in place ensuring that programme activities are sustainable without Foundation assistance within a reasonable timeframe.

SOURCES OF FUNDING AND ENDOWMENT
His Highness the Aga Khan, grants from development agencies, income from the endowment and donations from individuals and corporations.

EVALUATION
Major projects are evaluated by independent professionals, in many cases in partnership with the agencies that co-fund them.

For more information please visit our web site: www.akdn.org
Cover: Following the December 2004 tsunami disaster which affected 301 villages in Andhra Pradesh, AKDN’s humanitarian assistance efforts have provided 260 boats and 26 tonnes of nets to fishermen who had lost these assets. A three-year development programme will continue to enhance the state of disaster preparedness among these coastal communities.

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