

My Story, Our Future

Introducing the
2015 Annual
Report



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION
An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

Front cover: In Central Asia, Aga Khan Foundation has long invested in education for girls at all levels, from early childhood through university.

Below: Kids in the Wakhan region of Afghanistan make time for fun. Their families gained access to electricity in 2015 with a new micro-hydropower plant.



My Story, Our Future

The Aga Khan Foundation invests in the cornerstones of thriving communities that allow people to shape their futures. Our shared vision is prosperity for all. For that we make long-term commitments to innovative programs that improve the quality of life.

This year for the first time we share these wonderful stories online through a dynamic microsite. There you will find slideshows, infographics and video showing what your donations catalyze. The microsite displays our FY2015 financial statements. This booklet gives a preview of what you will find there, and invites you to explore and engage.

We understand that each person's story shapes their values. Shared values are the building blocks for a community's future. Our long-term approach invites communities to look forward several generations. Four stories under the theme My Story, Our Future illustrate the connection between the individual and our shared future:



My story begins. A doctor in Pakistan shows how the children born with special care at Aga Khan University are the future for better healthcare.



We gain tools for connecting with others. An author in Kenya shares her passion for reading and storytelling to inspire that same passion in children across the country. Yetu helps make her dream happen.



At home we create spaces that allow our children to flourish. An engineer in Afghanistan tells how two remote communities worked together to bring light and electricity to their families and improve their homes, schools and lives.



With others we adapt and look ahead so our community can thrive. A farmer in Mali explains how techniques learned in composting workshops help vulnerable families in West Africa adapt to climate change with each growing season.

Each story has a beginning. Thank you for being part of that journey.



Caring for Infants: Healthcare Investment in Pakistan

Dr. Muhammad Sohail Salat heads the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) in Karachi, which re-opened its doors in 2015 after a major expansion. To show the clinic's impact, Dr. Salat introduces a young woman born at the hospital 19 years before: Arisha almost didn't live to her first birthday, but thanks to care she received at AKUH, she now aspires to be a doctor.

This program is made possible through a partnership among the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Aga Khan Foundation and the Aga Khan University.

Read the full story on the [Annual Report microsite at www.akfusa.org/2015annualreport](http://www.akfusa.org/2015annualreport)

12,932

Aga Khan University **alumni** since 1983

60%

of AKU students are **women**

#1

ranked health sciences university in Pakistan



The hospital at Aga Khan University expanded its neonatal clinic so it can help more than 1,000 premature births each year. The clinic extends quality care to many in Pakistan who could not afford it.



Young Readers and an Active Civil Society in Kenya

The Yetu Initiative empowers Kenyans to give voice to their concerns and create their own solutions. Yetu (the name means “ours” in Kiswahili) works with civil society organizations to strengthen their work with communities on local priorities. Muthoni Garland, a prize-winning author and co-founder of a Kenyan non-profit group, believes that a reading nation is a smarter nation. Her organization promotes children’s reading through national Read Aloud Days and Start A Library, which aims to put a storybook in the hands of every Kenyan child.

“I grew up in a storytelling culture. My grandmother told me stories—she didn’t pre-chew them. If the story’s good, a child will understand it.”

This program is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Aga Khan Foundation.



The Start A Library campaign was the first digital fundraising campaign supported by the Yetu Initiative, and it quickly raised enough funds to create more than three school libraries. As important, the campaign cultivated skills in Kenyan civil society organizations for connecting with communities on priorities like education.



Read Muthoni’s story and watch the video of her campaign for *Start A Library* on the microsite.



A family in Afghanistan's Wakhan region enjoys lighting at home for the first time. A new electric plant has reduced their costs of cooking and provides opportunities for home-based businesses and for students to study after dark. Electricity has energized small-scale industry and pumps for water access.



Two Communities Join to Light a Better Life

At the flip of a switch, two communities in one of the remotest places on Earth entered a new era. In the Wakhan Corridor, high in the Afghan Pamir mountains, a new micro-hydro power station provides reliable electricity to the residents of these villages over 9,800 feet above sea level. Completed in 2015, the plant is transforming life for people living in the harsh climatic conditions of this area. How these two communities found a way to work together is an important piece of the puzzle.

This program is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Aga Khan Foundation.

↑ 30%

Electricity from micro-hydropower can **increase** rural household **incomes** by about 30%

Explore this story in a photo essay on the microsite at www.akfusa.org/2015annualreport



Adapting to Climate Change: Learning with Farmers

Farm families in Africa's Sahel region are among the most vulnerable to climate change and its impact. "Despite the lack of water we often face, people in my village see tree seedlings and tree planting as sources of income," says Mama Coumaré, a farmer in Mali. The investment that Coumaré and other farm families devote to trees in the harsh environment of the Sahara Desert's edge says much about their deep commitment.

In partnership with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), this program is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Aga Khan Foundation.

Read online how Aga Khan Foundation's support helped Coumaré and others increase their family's food security, nutrition and income.

Potential Impact
of Farmers'
Adaptation to
Climate Change

\$56

more earned
per hectare/year

2.5 M

people **better off**
in West Africa



Our Partners

Each year, government agencies, private foundations, corporations and individuals join together with Aga Khan Foundation to support communities across Africa and Asia to build better futures together. The Foundation's efforts to make long-term commitments to innovative programs that improve quality of life would not be possible without our partners' support. Our partners include:

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