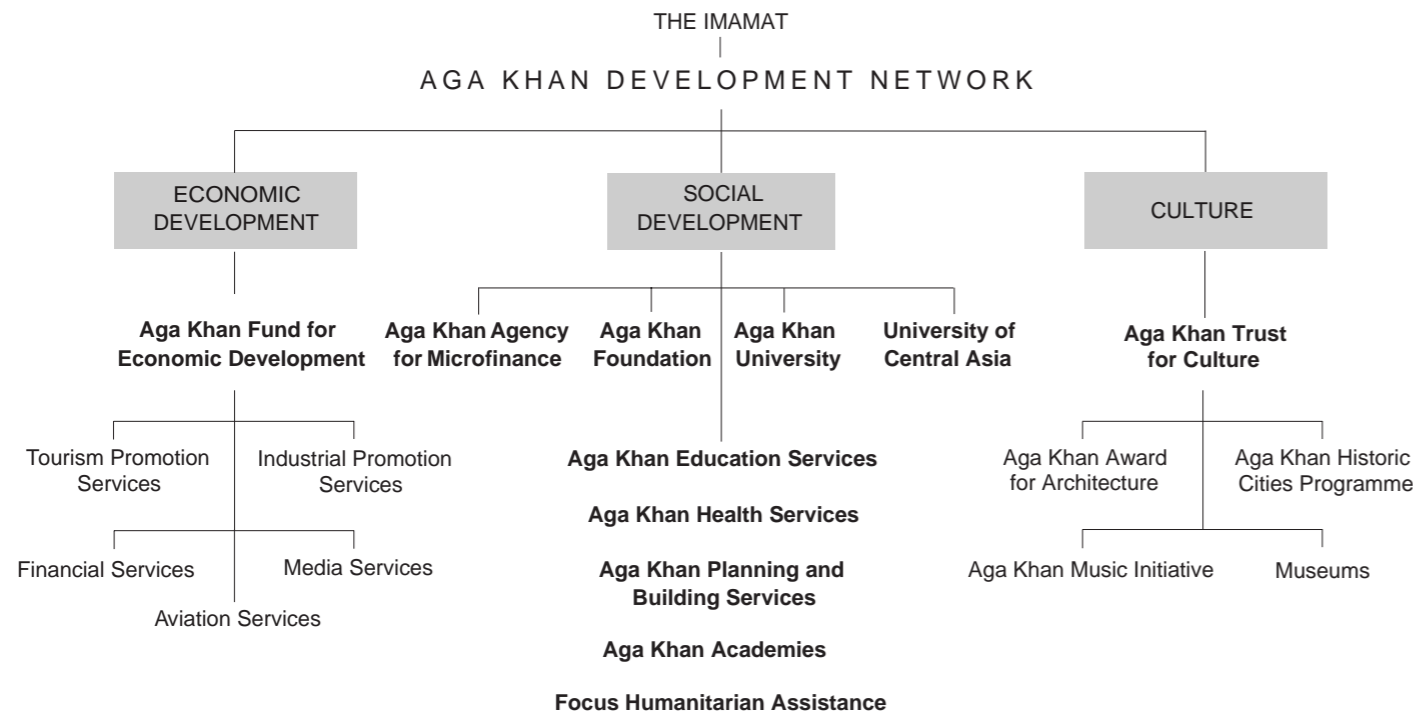


The Aga Khan Development Network's community-based rural development programs, such as this one in Tanzania, link elements such as rural savings and credit, natural resource management, infrastructure, increased agricultural productivity, human skills development, health, education, sanitation and clean water systems.



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AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



Overview of the AKDN and its Agencies

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is a group of private, international, non-denominational agencies working to improve living conditions and opportunities for people in some of the poorest parts of the developing world.

The Network's organizations have individual mandates that range from the fields of health and education to architecture, rural development and the promotion of private-sector enterprise. Together AKDN's institutions and programs work towards a common goal – to build a civil society that responds to the challenges of social, economic and cultural change.

The Network brings together a number of agencies, institutions and programs that have been built up over the past 50 years and, in some cases, date back to the early twentieth century. AKDN agencies conduct their programs without regard to

the faith, origin or gender of the people they serve.

Economic Development

The *Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED)* works to strengthen the role of the private sector in developing countries by promoting entrepreneurial activity and supporting private-sector initiatives. AKFED also plays a catalytic role in mobilizing investment in developing or transitional economies. It makes investments in industrial production, infrastructure, tourism development, financial services, aviation and media. It promotes the creation of the enabling legal and fiscal structures that ensure the viability of private-sector initiatives.

Because of its institutional background and ethical framework, investment decisions are based more on the

prospects for improving the lives of people in the developing world than on bottom-line profitability. AKFED takes bold but calculated steps to invest in environments that are fragile and complex. It has assisted in the rehabilitation of economies after civil conflict or internal turmoil in environments as varied as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Mozambique, Tajikistan and Uganda. Although its project companies operate on a commercial model, all profits are reinvested in further development.

Social Development

The *Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)* seeks sustainable solutions to the long-term problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and ill health throughout the world, with special emphasis on the needs of rural communities in mountainous, coastal and other resource-poor areas. AKF focuses on development in rural areas,



In addition to operating over 200 schools, the Aga Khan Development Network supports education activities in more than 5,600 schools, ranging from pre-primary through university post-graduate courses. Girls, the very poor and geographically remote populations receive special attention.



The Aga Khan Development Network has agreements or protocols with the following countries and organizations: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, the East African Community, the European Commission, France, Germany, India, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Kenya, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mali, Mozambique, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United Nations. Individual agencies also work closely with local, state and national governments in each country in which they are active.

AKDN and its constituent agencies actively seek to cooperate with like-minded institutions in the design, implementation and funding of innovative projects. With the help of program partners, they seek to demonstrate that flexible private organizations with carefully defined objectives can make significant contributions to the well-being of large numbers of people.

Cover Photo: Large infrastructure projects are part of the continuum of development undertaken by AKDN agencies. The Bujagali hydroelectric plant in Jinja, Uganda, which was built by a consortium led by the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, supplies nearly half of the electricity in the country.

health, education, environment, and the strengthening of civil society. Its programs include the Aga Khan Rural Support Programmes in India and Pakistan, the Mountain Societies Development Support Programmes in Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Coastal Rural Support Programmes in Tanzania and Mozambique.

The Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance (AKAM) seeks to alleviate economic and social exclusion, diminish the vulnerability of poor populations, reduce poverty and help people become self-reliant. AKAM operates in both urban and rural settings and offers a range of microfinance services, including savings services, housing credits and education loans. Loans are accompanied by training in basic business concepts so borrowers can become financially self-reliant.

The Aga Khan Education Services (AKES) operates over 200 schools and advanced educational programs at the pre-school, primary, secondary and higher secondary levels in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Kenya, the Kyrgyz Republic, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, Tanzania and Tajikistan. It aims to diminish the many obstacles to educational access, quality and achievement.

The first of a planned network of 18 Aga Khan Academies (AKA) began operating in Mombasa, Kenya, in August 2003. The second followed in Hyderabad, India, in 2011 and the third in Maputo, Mozambique in 2013. The Academies, dedicated to expanding access to education of an international standard of excellence in Asia and Africa, feature

a curriculum based on the International Baccalaureate, a special emphasis on the humanities, and a robust system of international student and teacher exchanges. Admission is merit-based and needs-blind.

The Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS), with over 200 health centers, dispensaries, hospitals, diagnostic facilities and community health outlets, is one of the largest and most comprehensive private, non-profit health networks in the developing world.

The Aga Khan Planning and Building Services (AKPBS) works to improve the built environment through design and construction, village planning, natural hazard mitigation, environmental sanitation and improved water supply systems. It achieves these aims by providing material, technical assistance and construction management services for rural and urban areas.

Two universities are part of the Network. Aga Khan University (AKU) is a major center for education, training and research in the health sciences and teacher education. Chartered as Pakistan's first private international university in 1983, it has since established branches and institutes in East Africa and the United Kingdom. More recently, it has begun establishing Faculties of Arts and Sciences in Arusha, Tanzania and Karachi, Pakistan.

The University of Central Asia (UCA) is the world's first university dedicated exclusively to education and research in mountain regions and societies. Located on three campuses, in Khorog, Tajikistan;

Tekeli, Kazakhstan; and Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic, it will offer a Master of Arts degree within the School of Development and a Bachelor of Arts program based on the liberal arts and sciences.

The School of Professional and Continuing Education, which has engaged over 30,000 course participants since 2006, is Central Asia's first provider of formal, university-based, non-degree educational programs, offering vocational and professional development and personal improvement opportunities to youth and adults.

Culture

The Network's initiatives in culture, architecture, architectural education, urban revitalization and traditional music are the responsibility of the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC).

The Trust focuses on culture as a means of enhancing the physical, social and economic revitalization of communities in the Islamic world. Its programs include:

- The Aga Khan Award for Architecture, established in 1977. Presented every three years, the prize not only rewards individual architects for exemplary contemporary work but also singles out projects that propose innovative and replicable solutions to the problems of social development.
- The Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme, which was set up in 1992 to implement conservation and urban revitalization projects in culturally significant sites of the Islamic world. Such projects bring environmental,

conservation and socio-economic components to bear on development issues in urban and rural settings.

- The Aga Khan Music Initiative, which works to ensure the preservation and development of traditional musical heritage and the music's transmission to new artists and audiences.
- Other cultural initiatives such as the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; ArchNet.org, a virtual archive of materials on architecture, urban design and development; and the Museums Program, encompassing the Aga Khan Museum in Toronto.

Long-Term Commitment

AKDN agencies make a long-term commitment to the areas in which they work. They are guided by the philosophy that a humane, functioning civil society reflects the choices, made by people themselves, of how to live and improve their prospects in harmony with the environment. Sustainability is, therefore, a central consideration from the outset.

While each agency pursues its own specific mandate, they all work together within the overarching framework of the Aga Khan Development Network so that their different pursuits can interact and reinforce one another. Their common goal is to help poor communities achieve a level of self-reliance whereby they are able to plan their own livelihoods and help those even more needy than themselves.



“Development is sustainable only if the beneficiaries become, in a gradual manner, the masters of the process. This means that initiatives cannot be contemplated exclusively in terms of economics, but rather as an integrated program that encompasses social and cultural dimensions as well. Education and skills training, health and public services, conservation of cultural heritage, infrastructure development, urban planning and rehabilitation, rural development, water and energy management, environmental control, and even policy and legislative development, are among the various aspects that must be taken into account.”

— His Highness the Aga Khan, speaking at the Prince Claus Fund's Conference on Culture and Development, Amsterdam September 7, 2002.

Picture above:
The Aga Khan (center) speaking with dignitaries in Timbuktu, Mali, in 2003.



The Humayun's Tomb - Sundar Nursery - Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti Urban Renewal Project, in the heart of Delhi, India, combines a cultural heritage project with socio-economic initiatives. The objective of the project is to improve the quality of life for people in the area while creating an important new green space for the people of Delhi and beyond.