



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

A Strong Foundation in Unprecedented Times

AGA KHAN FOUNDATION USA
ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Welcome

No one could have **fully prepared** for the events of 2020.

Dear friends,

2020 was a difficult year, both for the communities we serve and for many of us here in the US. Our decades of work to build a strong foundation in health, education, and economic inclusion helped many endure these unprecedented times. But communities also needed urgent help to weather what was more than a health crisis, but an education, gender, and economic crisis as well.

Worldwide, school closures affected hundreds of millions of students, and the number of severely hungry people was estimated to double to 270 million. Women handled the majority of unexpected and unpaid caregiving duties, and gender-based violence increased because of the isolation of distancing measures.

Our decades of work to **build a strong foundation** in health, education, and economic inclusion **helped many endure** these **unprecedented times**.

As an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) worked to help meet both the immediate and long-term needs arising from the pandemic. AKDN developed a COVID-19 response framework to guide our coordinated response across three priority pillars.

← Projects like the 2019 expansion of the Gilgit Medical Center in Pakistan helped ensure AKDN's ability to provide a robust response to the pandemic.

AKDN/CHRISTOPHER WILTON-STEER





Our COVID-19 response
has three pillars:

1. Slow and stop the spread
of COVID-19 and prevent
outbreaks

2. Provide optimized care
for all, especially the
critically ill

3. Minimize the impact
on vulnerable populations,
communities, social services,
and the economy

In this year's report, you will find stories of how AKF responded within each of these pillars, including how our programs provided care to remote communities in Tajikistan (p. 6), supported Kenyan organizations meeting local needs (p. 10), and helped farmers sustain food security in the Kyrgyz Republic (p. 14).

As AKF and the AKDN began an urgent and comprehensive response to meet the needs created by the coronavirus, many of our supporters wanted to help. We created the Global Pandemic Relief Fund and were heartened by the generous support of American donors even during such a time of uncertainty here at home.

Our volunteers and donors in the US also came together to support AKF's ongoing programs through the Virtual Voyage (p. 18), even as COVID-19 prevented us from hosting in-person events for the first time.

It's clear that the work of the Aga Khan Foundation is needed now more than ever. There is a long road ahead of us, especially as we now look to address the prolonged needs stemming from the pandemic. Thank you for your continued partnership as we persevere through difficult times and strengthen the foundation for a brighter future for us all.



Sherina Ebrahim
NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIR



Zahid Rahimtoola
NATIONAL COMMITTEE
VICE CHAIR

It's clear that the work of the
Aga Khan Foundation is
needed now more than ever.

← 103-year-old Mr. Aziz Abdul Alim survived COVID-19 with care from an Emergency Response Center launched by Aga Khan Health Services in Upper Chitral, Pakistan. His inspiring story and the work of the Aga Khan Development Network was covered by news organizations worldwide.

VISIT [AKFUSA.ORG/OUR-STORIES/103-YO-SURVIVES-COVID19](https://www.akfusa.org/our-stories/103-yo-survives-covid19) TO WATCH A VIDEO ABOUT MR. ALIM'S EXPERIENCE AND SEE NPR'S COVERAGE OF HIS STORY.

Contents

- 
- 6 Answering the Call**
Supporting Tajikistan's COVID-19 Response
 - 10 Equipped to Respond**
Building Organizational Sustainability in Kenya
 - 14 Sowing the Seeds**
Strengthening Food Security in the Kyrgyz Republic
 - 18 Around the World with AKF**
Fundraising Goes Digital with the Virtual Voyage
 - 21 Financials**

← Көп жаша! roughly translates to "Live Long!" in Kyrgyz, and is the name of a campaign supported by the Aga Khan Foundation and USAID's Local Impact program in the Kyrgyz Republic. Using traditional and social media, the campaign promotes best practices for both physical and mental health during the pandemic.

SEE MORE AT THE КӨП ЖАША! INSTAGRAM
[INSTAGRAM.COM/KOPJASHA](https://www.instagram.com/kopjasha)

Answering the Call



SUPPORTING TAJIKISTAN'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

In April 2020, Tajikistan diagnosed its first cases of COVID-19. As news of these cases spread across the country, many people were concerned because so little was known then about the coronavirus.

This caused a wave of medical appointments in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBO), even by those not exhibiting any symptoms. This sudden influx of patients and lack of appropriate diagnostic capabilities at the start of the pandemic strained the health system in the area before medical facilities were able to get the upgrades and training needed to respond to the pandemic.

At the same time, people with COVID-19 symptoms living in this remote and mountainous area had limited accessibility to health centers because of difficult terrain and poor roads.

As the people of GBO grew increasingly worried about their health, their finances, and their future, Thrive Tajikistan stepped in to assist by supporting a virtual helpline staffed by the Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS).

Thrive Tajikistan, a partnership between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and AKF, has been working to promote socio-economic development in Tajikistan since 2018, including improving access to healthcare and health financing.

As people grew increasingly
worried about their health,
Thrive Tajikistan stepped in
to assist by supporting a
virtual helpline.

The helpline was created in cooperation with Tajikistan's Ministry of Health and Social Protection and Poliklinika, a governmental health center in Khorog. Based at the Aga Khan Medical Center, Khorog (AKMC,K), the call center served as a bridge between the public and medical care.

People could call the helpline with questions, and AKHS public health staff would suggest the best course of action. Calls ranged from giving medical advice on self-isolation for symptomatic patients to following up with patients, reducing the burden on health facilities and ensuring that people received the care they needed.

“We...talked to **every individual** based on [their] concerns. If we found out that a **person or a family needed a doctor**, we would send family **doctors to their house** to check their condition.”

Dr. Mamadshoeva, a public health staff →
member at AKHS.

PHOTO VIA DR. MAMADSHOEVA



“We received all kinds of calls from the whole region and talked to every individual based on [their] concerns,” said Dr. Mamadshoeva, a public health staff member at AKHS. “If we found out that a person or a family needed a doctor, we would send family doctors to their house to check their condition.”

Dr. Mamadshoeva and her colleagues at AKHS managed the helpline center 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from May through June 2020. In June, medical centers in GBAO were no longer overburdened by the initial panic about COVID-19, and the helpline operations shifted to Poliklinika and AKMC,K staff to provide continued support to the community.

The helpline played a crucial role in providing mental health support to both community members and healthcare professionals.

The **helpline played a crucial role in providing mental health support** to both community members and healthcare professionals.

“There was an older woman who called us every single day, just to talk and have us calm her down,” Dr. Mamadshoeva remembers. “So, we talked to her and helped her to manage her feelings and fears every day. Thankfully, she managed not to get sick, and we were able to support her mental health throughout the months.”

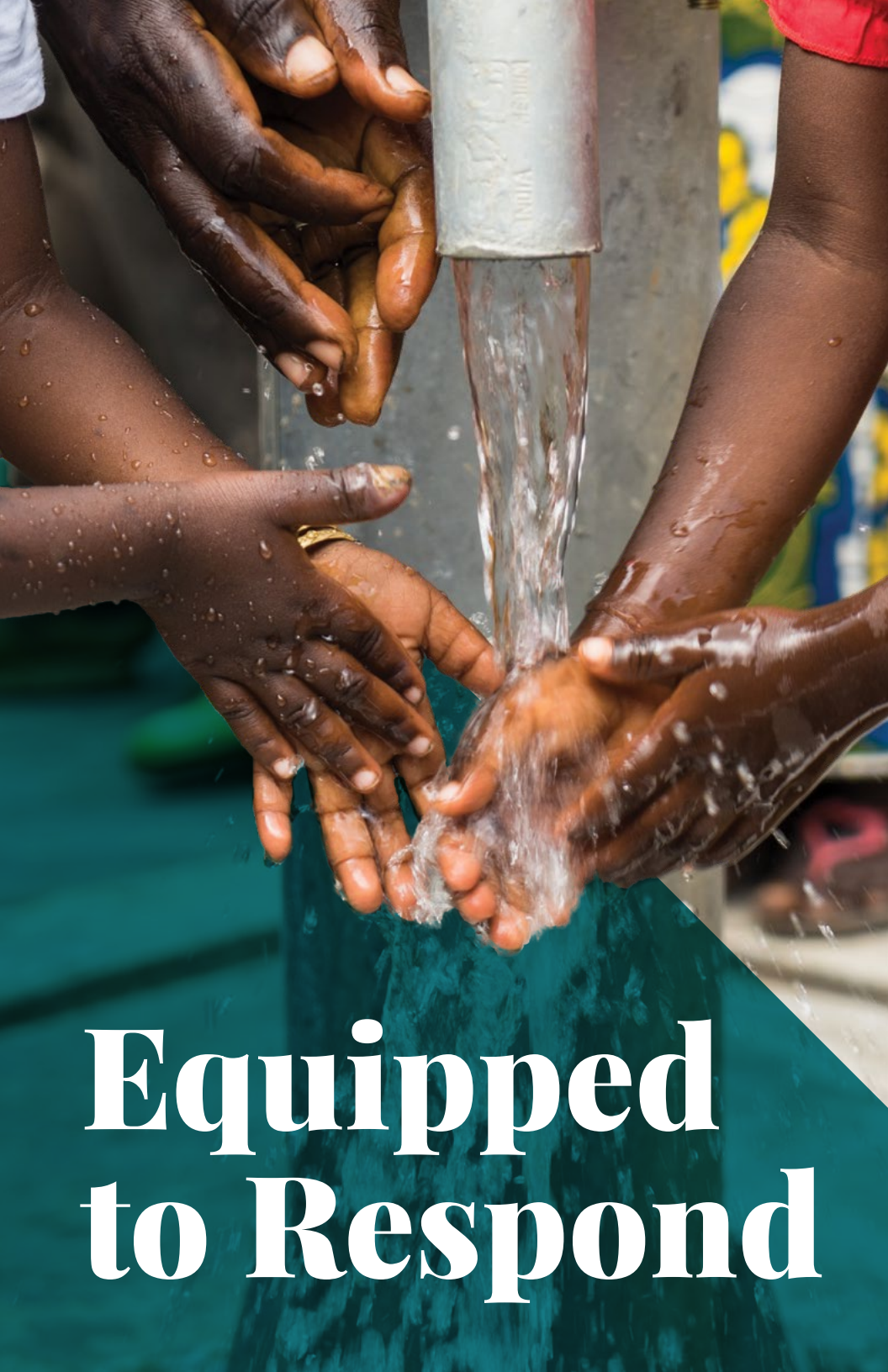
A similar center was launched in the Khatlon region to support community members through April 2021, and information about how to reach the call centers was shared through social media, SMS messages, and local television channels.

Thrive Tajikistan and AKHS also launched a mobile health (mHealth) initiative with Tcell, one of the biggest telecommunications companies in the country, to reach 1,672 community members in Khatlon and GBAO with text messages on COVID-19, nutrition, and sanitation. Tcell is owned and operated by the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development.

Thrive Tajikistan's work to help community members weather the pandemic builds on the program's ongoing work in health.

Since Thrive Tajikistan launched in 2018, it has worked with AKHS to form 56 community-based health financing (CBHF) schemes in Khatlon and GBAO and support 218 existing CBHF schemes in GBAO. Through these schemes, community members can access healthcare with a lower financial burden by contributing money to a fund throughout the year and making loans to other members in need.

The CBHF schemes were critical during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to their usual range of services, schemes also helped community members access diagnostic services, treatment, and transportation. These schemes were used to buy personal protective equipment, antiseptics, and food for COVID-19 patients. ♦



Equipped to Respond

BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY IN KENYA

2020 was a busy year for Uasin Gishu County Youth Bunge Forum (UGCYB), a community-based organization in Kenya's Uasin Gishu County.

Youth *bunges*, meaning "parliament" in Swahili, serve as a way for youth to address issues like unemployment. UGCYB works to support youth employment opportunities and community engagement, and, this past year, it has been actively involved in helping mitigate the spread and effects of COVID-19 in its county.

Elijah Koech, the president of UGCYB, shared, "We have visited more than 50 villages around the county, raising awareness on COVID-19, debunking myths, and setting up handwashing stations."

"We have visited more than
50 villages around the county,
raising **awareness** on COVID-19,
debunking myths, and
setting up **handwashing stations**."

To meet community needs during the pandemic, the UGCYB team called upon skills developed through the Yetu Initiative's bootcamp in 2019.

The Yetu Initiative, a partnership between AKF and USAID, has hosted semi-annual bootcamps to build the capacity of local organizations to raise Kenyan resources for Kenyan needs. Through these bootcamps, the Yetu Initiative offers practical training, coaching, mentoring, and peer learning to help participating organizations successfully launch local fundraising campaigns.

According to Elijah, the bootcamp helped UGCYB rethink and refocus its energy on the long-term sustainability of the organization."

With its new fundraising strategy, **UGCYB mobilized** over \$5,000 US (500,000 Kenyan shillings). It also relied on its partnership strategy to help **meet needs during the pandemic.**

"During the Yetu bootcamp, two key lessons for us were the importance of developing a local resource mobilization strategy and undertaking donor mapping," he said.

During the bootcamp, the team went back to the drawing board and crafted a fundraising strategy targeting high-net-worth individuals in the county and establishing partnerships with corporations and the county government.

With its new fundraising strategy, UGCYB mobilized over \$5,000 US (500,000 Kenyan shillings). It also relied on its partnership strategy to help meet needs during the pandemic.

"We currently have partnered with several stakeholders, including the county government, Rivatex [a textile company in Kenya co-owned by the government and a private firm], and political leadership in the distribution of masks to vulnerable members of the community," Elijah said.



← Using skills learned through the Yetu Initiative bootcamp, Uasin Gishu County Youth Bunge Forum established partnerships with the private and public sectors, which helped them distribute more than 20,000 masks to vulnerable community members.

With these partnerships, UGCYB distributed more than 20,000 masks in low-income areas of its county, including informal settlements.

After the bootcamp, UGCYB did a second fundraising campaign in partnership with Uasin Gishu Civil Society Organization Networks to supplement government efforts to provide sanitary pads to girls. This campaign raised over \$6,000 US (600,000 Kenyan shillings) to give sanitary pads to more than 500 girls and host talks on menstrual health.

Participating in the Yetu Initiative's bootcamp equipped UGCYB to meet the needs of Kenya during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, the Yetu Initiative's bootcamps went virtual, reaching a wider audience across several Kenyan counties. Thirty-two civil society organizations began the four-month training in September 2020 to strengthen their organizational sustainability. Many of the organizations enhanced their capacity to fundraise so that they could respond to the needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Yetu Initiative's Project Director, Irene Gathinji, underscored the Initiative's dedication to supporting Kenyan organizations at the opening webinar, saying, "At Yetu, we have committed to walk this journey with you." ♦

"At Yetu, we have **committed** to **walk this journey with you.**"

Sowing the Seeds



STRENGTHENING FOOD SECURITY IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Kanat and Gulmira Adybaev live near Osh, Kyrgyz Republic, with their two children. Like many people living in their village of Jylkeldi, they make their living by farming vegetables, including tomatoes, eggplants, potatoes, and carrots.

As young farmers, Kanat and Gulmira want to grow organic food to sell in the market. They also dream of seeing their children grow up with access to quality education.

As **young farmers**, Kanat and Gulmira want to **grow organic food** to sell in the market. They also dream of seeing their **children grow up** with access to **quality education**.

Farmers across the Kyrgyz Republic, including Kanat and Gulmira, were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting lockdowns. Seeds were unavailable at the market because of the closed borders, which prevented almost 25% of farmers from starting the planting season on time. In the southern region of the Kyrgyz Republic, where Kanat and Gulmira live, the delay affected crops like fruit, vegetables, and grains.

When COVID-19 began affecting food supplies and access in the Kyrgyz Republic, Local Impact, a new partnership between AKF and USAID, worked with officials in the region to respond to the crisis.

AKF collaborated with local representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic's Ministry of Labor and Social Development (MLSD) on a vulnerability mapping tool, which helped village leaders identify households that needed the most help. Working together, AKF and MLSD distributed food supplies and seeds provided by Local Impact to vulnerable families.

Since many farmers were not able to plant grains during the spring planting season because of a lack of available seeds in March 2020, AKF supplied winter wheat seeds to help them recover their farming production and increase the food available to the community.

Kanat and Gulmira's family was among the 874 households in their region to receive 167 kilograms of winter wheat seeds. AKF also connected the farmers to an agronomist, who shared information with farmers about planting techniques and yield optimization.

“We are expecting a **good harvest** for **wheat** in **early spring**.”

Kanat Adybaev →



“We are expecting a good harvest for wheat in early spring,” Kanat shared.

Kanat estimates that he and his family will harvest a minimum of four to five metric tons of wheat in May 2021. He is planning to sell three tons of wheat for \$1,000 US (75,000 Kyrgyzstani soms), and keep the rest to feed his family.



← Farmers Kanat and Gulmira Adybaev with their children.

With the income from the sale of the wheat, Kanat and Gulmira can invest in their children's education, buy vegetable seeds for the summer harvest, and rent additional land to increase their planting area. By growing wheat in the winter, they and other farmers in the region are also strengthening the food supply in the Kyrgyz Republic.

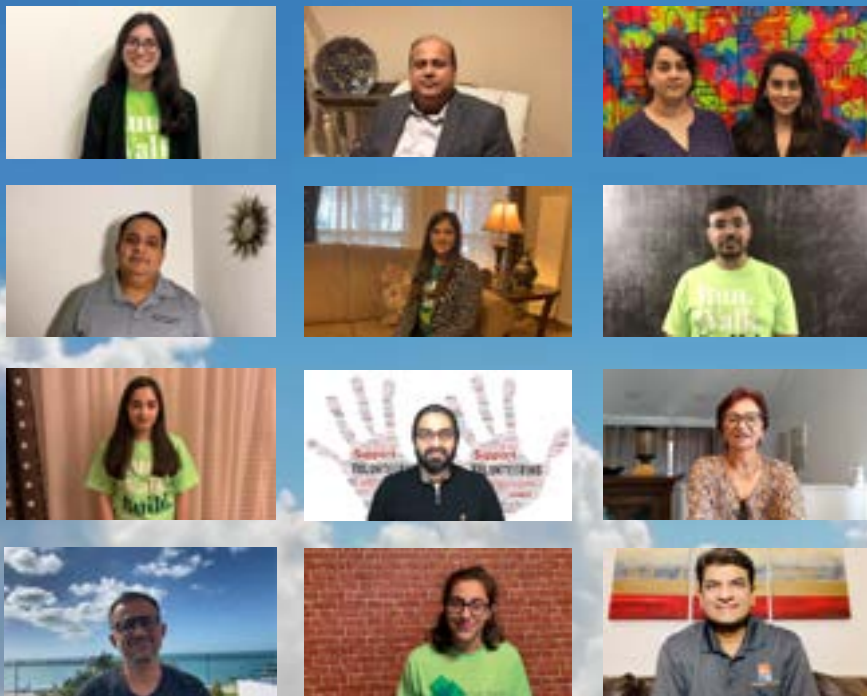
In addition to preserving livelihoods and food security during the COVID-19 pandemic, Local Impact worked with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to raise public awareness of how to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. This included creating a national media campaign to share information about COVID-19, and equipping Village Health Committees with Internet connectivity to keep communities informed of emerging coronavirus guidelines. Through Local Impact, AKF also helped train doctors and caregivers on how to support emotional and physical well-being for children and youth during the pandemic. ♦

By **growing wheat** in the winter, they and other **farmers in the region** are also **strengthening the food supply** in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Around the World with AKF

↓ A small sample of the volunteers across North America who shared messages of support for AKF during the Homecoming Celebration at the end of the Voyage.

EXPERIENCE THE VOYAGE AGAIN AT [VIRTUALVOYAGE.AKFUSA.ORG](https://virtualvoyage.akfusa.org)!



FUNDRAISING GOES DIGITAL WITH THE VIRTUAL VOYAGE

In the fall of 2020, AKF USA launched the first-ever Virtual Voyage: Around the World with AKF. This digital journey allowed AKF donors to explore the impact of their support in AKF partner communities, while staying connected to the AKF community.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced AKF USA to cancel in-person events for the first time in our history. Despite the pandemic's effects in the United States, AKF supporters were eager to find a safe way to gather and raise funds to support AKF's work in Asia and Africa.

Sunny Taj, a long-time volunteer from Houston, Texas, explained, "In the US, we were battling toilet paper shortages, but in the countries AKF works in, they needed clean water. Even a little bit from us goes a long way for these communities."

"It was nice to see **familiar faces**. And it was great to see how big the **AKF family** is in both the U.S. and Canada. That's the beauty of being involved with AKF. **I'm part of something that gives me an opportunity to give back globally.**"

AKF USA teamed up with AKF Canada to develop the Virtual Voyage as a way to take North American supporters on a digital trip around the world. During November and December 2020, Voyage participants had a chance to hear from AKF and Aga Khan Development Network staff in Kenya, India, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan about how communities were affected by COVID-19, and how the AKDN was responding to meet needs arising from the pandemic.

Each country stop also included a feature story about AKF's work, from mobile clinics bringing medical care to rural communities in Kenya to making sure that women and marginalized groups have clean water and sanitation access in India.

Working together with more than 150 volunteers across the United States, AKF USA's Virtual Voyage campaign connected with over 4,500 donors and 48 corporate sponsors. In Houston and Dallas, volunteers recorded segments at local radio stations to share AKF's mission and invite the community to join the Virtual Voyage.

The **Virtual Voyage** campaign raised more than **\$6.5 million** in the U.S. in support of **AKF's mission** to improve the **quality of life** across **Asia and Africa**.

On December 6, the Virtual Voyage concluded with the Homecoming Celebration, a virtual event that gathered together supporters across North America to reflect on the Voyage, see more stories of AKF's work, and celebrate our collective impact. Sunny and his fellow AKF volunteers also collected videos of supporters sharing greetings to play during the Homecoming.

"It was nice to see familiar faces," Sunny said. "And it was great to see how big the AKF family is in both the U.S. and Canada."

The Virtual Voyage campaign raised more than \$6.5 million in the U.S. in support of AKF's mission to improve the quality of life across Asia and Africa.

"That's the beauty of being involved with AKF," Sunny shared. "I'm part of something that gives me an opportunity to give back globally." ♦

Financials

The Aga Khan Foundation USA's overall FY 2020 financial performance continued to be strong. Operating expenses are funded by generous support from His Highness the Aga Khan, sponsorship income, and recoveries from federal and other institutional grants. No donations from individuals, foundations, or corporations are used for operating expenses.

The financial results reflected here are derived from the AKF USA audited consolidated financial statements.

Nazlin Pepermintwala
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, FINANCE

AKF USA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code.

AKF USA's financial statements are audited by BDO USA, LLP, which is available for review at AKF USA's office or AKF USA's website.



AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND DECEMBER 31, 2019

Dollars in Thousands

ASSETS	2020	2019
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 24,782	\$ 38,360
Notes receivable	15,224	15,741
Investments	181,848	146,326
Donor agency receivables and other current assets	1,098	1,096
Receivables from affiliates	4,401	3,635
Contributions receivable, net	131,463	183,495
FIXED ASSETS		
Property held for charitable purposes	140,125	129,964
Less accumulated depreciation	(26,000)	(24,406)
Fixed assets, net	114,126	105,558
TOTAL ASSETS	\$472,942	\$494,212

LIABILITIES	2020	2019
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,419	\$ 3,201
Payable to affiliates	5,294	3,472
Refundable Advances	815	1,361
TOTAL LIABILITIES	8,527	8,034
NET ASSETS	464,415	486,178
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$472,942	\$494,212

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND DECEMBER 31, 2019

Dollars in Thousands

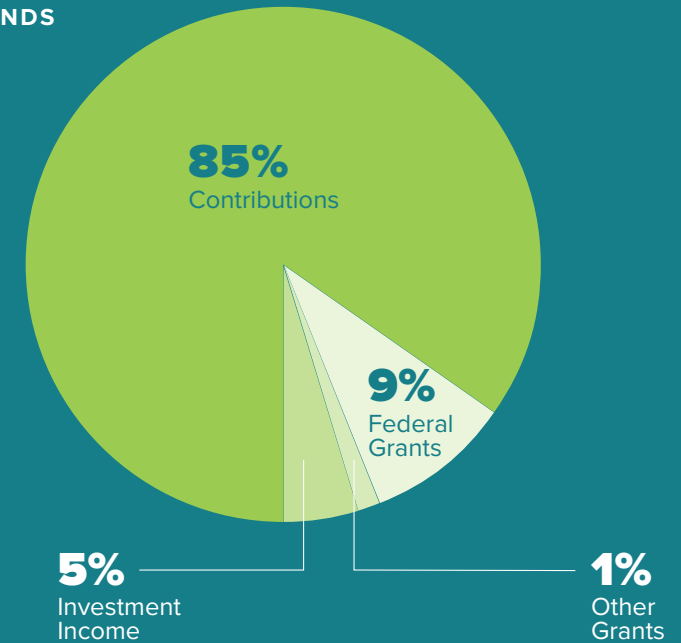
REVENUES	2020	2019
Contributions	\$ 43,977	\$166,516*
Federal grants	4,841	4,437
Other grants	626	525
Investment income	2,413	3,464
TOTAL REVENUES	51,857	174,942

EXPENSES	2020	2019
International Programs	73,473	77,412
Community Centers Development (U.S.)	2,031	2,682
Management and General**	(3,095)	3,696
Fundraising	1,211	2,757
TOTAL EXPENSES	73,620	86,547
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(21,763)	88,395
Net assets at beginning of year	486,178	397,783
Net assets at end of year	\$464,415	\$486,178

* In 2019, AKF USA's revenue was significantly higher due to pledges for a major capital campaign.

** In 2020, AKF USA's Management and General Expenses include a negative amount of \$3.855m for the provision for doubtful pledges. During the year, overall outstanding pledge balances declined as these were fulfilled by the donors, resulting in the reversal of the previously recorded provision for doubtful pledges. As a result, there was a negative expense recorded in the Financial Statements.

SOURCES OF FUNDS



2020 USES OF FUNDS



Learn more about our work in
Africa and Asia by visiting
our website **www.akfusa.org**



Find us at **facebook.com/akfusa**
Follow us on Twitter **[@AKF_USA](https://twitter.com/AKF_USA)** and **[@AKF_Global](https://twitter.com/AKF_Global)**
Enjoy our Instagram **[@akdn](https://www.instagram.com/akdn)**

Illustrations by Media Guru courtesy of ***Кел жаша!***
Learn more about this initiative on page 5.



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

The Aga Khan Foundation USA is a non-denominational, non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.