



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION
An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN, JANUARY 27, 2016. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) approved an investment of \$1 million to the [First MicroFinance Bank of Tajikistan \(FMFB-T\)](#), which will be matched by a \$1 million investment from the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). This adds to a recent investment of \$1.2 million mobilized from the KfW Development Bank. Together, these funds will help catalyze the growth of FMFB’s small and medium enterprise and microfinance loan portfolios, and operations around the country, helping to create jobs and promote intra- and international trade.

This investment is the first-ever co-investment by USAID and AKF in a social enterprise, and the first investment made under the USAID-AKF Global Development Alliance (the “alliance”) entitled [Economic and Social Connections: a Multi-Input Area Development Financing Facility for Tajikistan](#) (ESCoMIAD). The Alliance focuses development resources on major sectors that influence quality of life: economic growth through enterprise development; household financial security; governance and civil society; health; and education.

ESCoMIAD promotes sustained improvements in the quality of life for people living along the Tajik border with Afghanistan. Of the \$12.1 million that the partners are contributing to the alliance, \$5 million will ultimately be invested in private enterprises. A portion of the returns generated by the investments – including 100 percent of the returns on USAID’s contribution – will form the foundation of a trust fund-type mechanism that is dedicated to supporting social development activities along the Tajik-Afghan border for decades to come.

About Aga Khan Foundation

The Aga Khan Foundation partners with communities, nonprofits, businesses, governments and local leaders to make long-term investments, build permanent institutions and cultivate an active civil society to break the cycle of poverty and improve the quality of life for people across Africa and Asia. Driven by our belief in our shared humanity, we work for the common good of all citizens, regardless of gender, origin or religion. We believe in harnessing the best from people of all walks of life to build better futures together. The Foundation reaches millions of people annually in 16 countries. The Foundation is a member of the [Aga Khan Development Network](#), one of the world’s leading poverty solutions networks, established by His Highness the Aga Khan. The Aga Khan Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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About the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID is the leading American government agency building social and economic prosperity together with the people of Central Asia. Our work promotes regional cooperation and broad-based prosperity by expanding diverse and competitive trade and markets, enhancing regional cooperation on shared energy and water resources, and fostering more effective and inclusive governance institutions that serve the public good.

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