



**AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK TRAINING BOOSTS AFRICA'S SUPPORT  
FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HIV AND AIDS**

**NAIROBI, KENYA, APRIL 7, 2014** – Children affected by HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa will have a chance for a better start in life and a more promising future because of the educational initiative of the [Aga Khan Development Network](#) (AKDN), in partnership with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. This new partnership, a joint venture between the two organizations, will train community leaders to help improve the odds for young children affected by HIV and AIDS. The first in a series of training courses was launched today in Nairobi, Kenya for the inaugural cohort of 25 participants.

The one-week [Science of Early Child Development](#) course will train partners and grantees of the [Conrad N. Hilton Foundation](#) working in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia. This first short course is being offered by the Institute for Human Development at the [Aga Khan University](#).

Young children affected by HIV and AIDS face extra obstacles to their development. They often do not receive consistent care, protection and opportunities for early learning, which leads to marked increases in malnutrition, morbidity, and mortality. This neglect inhibits healthy psychosocial and cognitive development. Yet it is still possible for these children to survive and thrive with programs that support them and their families.

The goal is to equip professionals in non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, and government institutions with high-quality skills, and to build institutional capacity that will improve the prospects for vulnerable young children affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa. Over the next three years, several short courses will take place in Kenya, Tanzania, and Mozambique in English, Kiswahili, and Portuguese. These will be complemented by a 13-week online certificate course offered annually. Developed with Red River College in Canada and the [Aga Khan Foundation](#) in Geneva, these courses comprise readings, video clips, websites and review activities linking current research to implications for practice on the ground.

The training is funded through a \$1.5 million Hilton Foundation grant for the AKDN's Advancing Institutions and Knowledge for Improved Early Human Development in Africa project. The [Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.](#) is providing \$245,000, in addition to \$30,000 from Aga Khan University.

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*An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network*

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### **About the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world's disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The Foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in six priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance abuse, helping children affected by HIV and AIDS, supporting transition-age youth in foster care, and extending Conrad Hilton's support for the work of Catholic Sisters. In addition, following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$1.5 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a nonprofit organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. From its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1 billion in grants, distributing \$92 million in the U.S. and around the world in 2013. The Foundation's current assets are approximately \$2.4 billion. For more information, please visit [www.hiltonfoundation.org](http://www.hiltonfoundation.org).

### **About Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.**

[AKF USA](http://www.akfusa.org), established in 1981, is a private, non-denominational, not-for-profit international development organization committed to alleviating poverty, hunger, illiteracy and poor health. AKF USA works to address the root causes of poverty by supporting and sharing innovative solutions in the areas of health, education, rural development, civil society, and the environment. AKF USA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code. AKF USA is part of the Aga Khan Development Network ([www.akdn.org](http://www.akdn.org)), a network of private, non-denominational, development agencies around the world, established by His Highness the Aga Khan to empower communities and individuals, often in disadvantaged circumstances, improve living conditions and opportunities. The Network's agencies work for the common good of all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin or religion and its underlying impulse is the ethic of compassion for the vulnerable in society.

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