

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE COCA-COLA FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO AGA KHAN FOUNDATION FOR YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND WATER STEWARDSHIP

Grant Aims to Foster the Socio-Economic Development of Youth in Kyrgyzstan & Afghanistan

September 5, 2012— The Coca-Cola Foundation—the global philanthropic arm of The Coca-Cola Company—granted US\$200,000 to the Aga Khan Foundation USA, to foster the social and economic development of youth in Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan. With an additional US\$50,000 contribution from The Coca-Cola Company, the grants will leverage *The Project for Economic Development and Education Opportunities for Youth in Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan* by equipping more than 12,000 students, young entrepreneurs, teachers and farmers with entrepreneurial skills and water management practices.

This project will be implemented by two agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network: the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and the University of Central Asia (UCA). The initiative will encourage social entrepreneurship among youth, augment agricultural productivity, and increase access to educational opportunities.

“Promoting economic growth through entrepreneurship development is a core priority for UCA, with a central emphasis on endeavors that create social value to the communities where our learners come from,” said Dr. Bodhan Krawchenko, Director General of the University of Central Asia.

Dr. Mirza Jahani, the CEO of the Aga Khan Foundation USA added, “We are delighted to have Coca-Cola join us to inspire young entrepreneurs in Asia. This partnership brings fresh energy to improving lives and livelihoods.”

Through a nationwide awareness-raising campaign in Kyrgyzstan, the Aga Khan Foundation and its partner, the University of Central Asia, will encourage youth to submit innovative social entrepreneurship ideas to address an issue in their community. Already, more than 200 applications have been received, and 25 finalists received training in Bishkek to develop their project ideas. The Aga Khan Foundation will now award the top 10 projects with small seed grants.

In addition, the project will create access to and improve the quality of more than 1,600 hectares of arable land by rehabilitating agricultural infrastructure and enhancing the management of water resources in remote villages of Kara-Tala and Kyzyl-Jyldyz in Naryn oblast, Kyrgyzstan.

In Afghanistan, the project will support professional development for 15 teachers of English and Information Technology in secondary schools as well as increase access to modern Dari-language textbooks for nearly 6,000 students.

(more)

These activities are expected to raise the well-being and quality of life in communities of Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan. "These grants represent our ongoing investment in the sustainability and the well-being of communities around the world," said Ingrid Saunders Jones, Chairperson of The Coca-Cola Foundation. "Our investment is designed to have real impact, by helping local communities with innovative ways to meet their needs."

The Coca-Cola Company www.thecoca-colacompany.com

The Coca-Cola Company (NYSE: KO) is the world's largest beverage company, refreshing consumers with more than 500 sparkling and still brands. Through the world's largest beverage distribution system, consumers in more than 200 countries enjoy The Coca-Cola Company's beverages at a rate of 1.8 billion servings a day. With an enduring commitment to building thriving communities, the Company is focused on initiatives that reduce environmental footprint, support active healthy living, create a safe, inclusive work environment, and enhance the economic development of the communities where it operates.

The Coca-Cola Foundation www.thecoca-colacompany.com/citizenship/foundation_coke.html

Established in 1984, The Coca-Cola Foundation (TCCF) aims to improve the well-being of communities around the world. In 2011 alone, TCCF awarded more than \$123 million to 286 community organizations in 70 countries to support sustainable community initiatives in water stewardship, community recycling, active healthy living, and education.

The Aga Khan Development Network <http://www.akdn.org>

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is a group of private, international, non-denominational agencies with mandates that include the environment, health, education, architecture, culture, microfinance, rural development, disaster reduction, promotion of private-sector enterprise and the revitalization of historic cities. The AKDN works in 30 countries around the world. Among the 10 agencies of AKDN are the Aga Khan Foundation, and The University of Central Asia.

Aga Khan Foundation <http://www.akdn.org/akf>

Established in 1967, The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) is an international development agency. Aga Khan Foundation seeks sustainable solutions to long-term problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and ill-health, with special emphasis on the needs of rural communities in mountainous, resource-poor areas. Created as a private, non-profit foundation under Swiss law, it has branches and independent affiliates in 19 countries.

The University of Central Asia <http://www.ucentralasia.org/>

Established in 2000, The University of Central Asia (UCA) was founded by the Governments of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and His Highness the Aga Khan, ratified by their respective parliaments, and registered with the United Nations. Its mission is to promote the social and economic development of Central Asia, particularly its mountain societies, while helping the different peoples of the region to preserve and draw upon their rich cultural traditions and heritages as assets for the future.

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