



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

PRESS RELEASE

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AGA KHAN FOUNDATION AND USAID LAUNCH PARTNERSHIP TO STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY IN EAST AFRICA

NAIROBI, KENYA, OCTOBER 10, 2014 – The [Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.](#) (AKF USA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) signed a partnership agreement in Nairobi to support a four-year activity called the Yetu Initiative. Designed to empower Kenyan civil society organizations, the \$6 million program will help Kenyan communities and civil society organizations jointly tackle the country's most pressing challenges.

“Yetu,” which means “ours” in Kiswahili, will build local ownership and support for civil society organizations, enabling them to sustain their advocacy for the Kenyan people over the long-term. The Yetu Initiative is the first country-level project of USAID and AKF USA's [Global Alliance for Community Philanthropy](#). This Alliance, which includes the C.S. Mott Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, provides a global platform to exchange best practices and different approaches on strengthening civil society sustainability. The Yetu Initiative will contribute lessons learned, and provide an opportunity for other countries to learn from Kenya.

The Yetu Initiative will work with Kenyan civil society organizations to strengthen their assets and capacity as well as build community trust. Yetu will also engage communities in fundraising or awareness-raising campaigns; connect civil society organizations with an online capacity-building platform and mentoring opportunities; and, develop online and mobile philanthropy platforms for Kenyans to donate money, time, and skills to support Kenyan civil society organizations.

About Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.

AKF USA is a private, non-denominational, not-for-profit international organization committed to alleviating poverty by addressing its root causes. A tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, AKF USA is part of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) (www.akdn.org), a network of private, non-denominational, development agencies established by His Highness the Aga Khan. The Network works for the common good of all citizens, regardless of gender, origin or religion. AKDN has been supporting economic, social and cultural development in East Africa for over 100 years.

About the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID is the U.S. Government agency responsible for administering civilian foreign assistance.

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