



## AGA KHAN FOUNDATION U.S.A.

*An agency of the Aga Khan Development Network*

# Highlights of 2009 Programs

In 2009, Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) secured almost \$13 million worth of new funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Ford Foundation, Microsoft Corporation, International Youth Foundation and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation contributing to AKF USA's current portfolio of nearly \$60 million. The Foundation's programs address poverty alleviation, hunger, illiteracy and poor health through community-based initiatives in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Pakistan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Uganda.



## GREEN SOLUTIONS TO HEALTH AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Internationally recognized by the World Bank and the World Habitat Award, the Building and Construction Improvement Program (BACIP) tackles social and economic problems in Pakistan with environmentally friendly solutions. With a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, BACIP has introduced 60 different household improvements and technologies to the people in the Northern Areas and Chitral, establishing a sustainable market between local entrepreneurial manufacturers and users. These affordable products, which include fuel-efficient stoves, energy-efficient housing insulation, and water warming facilities among others, are improving air quality, health, and the livelihoods of women and children while conserving energy and saving trees. The program is benefiting over 15,000 households in Pakistan.



## SEISMIC PREPARATIONS FOR SCHOOLS IN TAJIKISTAN

The devastating South Asia earthquake in 2005 demonstrated the need for disaster risk reduction to the world. The Aga Khan Development Network's emphasis on disaster preparedness programs launched the Network to the forefront of the effort to prevent such tragedy from reoccurring. Through the Education, Dairy and Nutrition Program 3, AKF USA improved the safety of schools in earthquake-prone areas of Tajikistan. In 12 Tajik schools, the Foundation is replacing unsteady beams, refurbishing faulty foundations, and educating students, teachers and community leaders on earthquake safety and preparation. The program aims to disseminate information to the widest possible audience, securing hundreds of lives in the face of future disasters.



## IMPROVING GRASSROOTS PARTICIPATION FOR WOMEN IN PAKISTAN

Women's interests are underrepresented in Pakistan's local development initiatives and activities. Supported with a grant from the U.S. Department of State, AKF and the NGO Resource Center are working with women leaders of civil society organizations and institutions that represent the interests of women in Pakistan. The program trains women to better advocate for their needs, gain skills in organizational management and sensitizes men to female leadership. The program will train 350 representatives by 2011 in advocacy, communications and management to help them play a more active role in projects that improve the quality of life for women and their communities.

“I wholeheartedly welcome the principle of partnerships. Civil society institutions in developing nations must have expert assistance if they are to be a bulwark for democratic processes and are to play a role in helping people improve their living conditions.”

—HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN



### EDUCATING CHILDREN IN EAST AFRICA

The Education for Marginalized Children in Kenya (EMACK) program takes a holistic approach to ensure quality education in Kenyan classrooms. It involves community members and parents in school improvement. EMACK promotes inclusion for special needs students and a better curriculum for all students. The Kenyan school system was burdened by overcrowding, lack of resources and inadequate teacher training until EMACK’s initiation in 2004. Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the program is increasing parent involvement, building educational resources, training teachers, and making education accessible to the most vulnerable children in society. To date, the program has benefited children in over 800 government schools and Early Childhood Development centers.



### MIDWIVES SAVE LIVES IN PAKISTAN

The Chitral Child Survival Program in Pakistan, supported with a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development, addresses the alarmingly high levels of maternal and infant mortality in Chitral district. In a region where cultural practices and limited mobility cause women to deliver their children at home, the project is training a cadre of community midwives to reach about 200,000 individuals. A family’s access to qualified midwives eliminates the need to travel to a facility, reduces costs for the family, and brings the much-needed skilled care to mothers and their newborns within their own communities.



### PREPARING FOR NATURAL DISASTER IN AFGHANISTAN

When natural disaster strikes in the mountainous and sparsely populated Badakhshan and Baghlan regions of northern Afghanistan, many residents are unprepared to immediately cope with the challenges and unable to access local aid. AKF USA is partnering with FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance to enable community members to become more self-reliant and better able to respond to earthquakes and avalanches – occurring quite frequently in these remote rural areas. The program assists community members in mapping out safe havens and evacuation routes, constructing low-cost mudflow channels and retention walls to mitigate the impact of disasters, training school children on safety techniques and providing basic first aid training. The disaster preparedness program reaches 35,000 people and another 87,000 in the second phase beginning in 2010.

Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. leverages every dollar received through matching grants from leading donor agencies, including the U.S. government, to create a multiplier effect that stretches resources and amplifies the impact of every donation.

Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A., established in 1981, is a private, nondenominational, not-for-profit international organization committed to the struggle against hunger, disease and illiteracy, primarily in Africa and Asia. The Foundation 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.

The Foundation is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of private development agencies founded by His Highness the Aga Khan, with mandates ranging from health and education to architecture, culture, microfinance, rural development, disaster reduction, the promotion of private-sector enterprise and the revitalization of historic cities. 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. [www.akdn.org](http://www.akdn.org)

