



Partnerships *InAction*

Be the Solution to End Global Poverty



Painting by Linda Montgomery, oil on canvas, 1997

Planting Our Future

Our 2008 theme, “Planting Our Future,” spotlights the extraordinary success, expansion, and impact of rural support programs pioneered by the Aga Khan Foundation. It embraces the time-tested principle of helping people to help themselves. Aga Khan Rural Support Programme exemplifies the power of partnerships in planting hope and opportunity through grassroots community participation.

Since its inception in 1981, Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) has focused on planting hope in the lives of people in the developing world in the areas of health, education, rural development, civil society, and the environment.

The story of Aga Khan Foundation’s rural support programs brings to light the power of partnerships and reflects the Foundation’s enduring commitment to community participation and grassroots democracy. Initiated in northern Pakistan in 1982, the program has since expanded to nine other countries.

PLANTING SEEDS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY ROOTED IN COMMUNITIES

Over a quarter century ago, AKF began an ambitious experiment in the remote and extremely poor region of northern Pakistan. For centuries the economy was mainly dependent on the barter system.

Poverty was widespread with average income at only \$150 per year. Only one person in ten could read. Health care was regressive, with one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world.

To reverse the deplorable trends, the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP) organized small, subsistence farmers and communities, living in the harsh mountain regions, into democratic village institutions where men and women plan the future of their communities to improve their quality of life. Beyond planting better crops, the program seeks to plant better ideas, grounded in hope and courage.

To date, over 4,300 village and women organizations have been formed in northern Pakistan to take the lead and solve problems collectively. The village organizations are grassroots decision-making bodies, giving people greater voice and choice in deciding their own futures.

GROWTH THROUGH THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

AKRSP highlights the power of partnerships for achieving greater self-reliance. Partnerships between AKRSP and village organizations have empowered communities through participation, decision-

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Today, **2.5 million people** have benefited directly from the Foundation's rural support programs worldwide, with indirect beneficiaries reaching close to **12 million** in over **8,400 village organizations**.



Village organizations take the lead to solve problems democratically and collectively.

making, training and capacity building. Villagers themselves identify and prioritize activities that will provide a stream of benefits to the majority of community members.

AKRSP serves as a catalyst to help organize the communities around sustainable economic activities that help increase incomes and generate tangible benefits. Village organizations are inclusive and broad-based and women are actively involved, including in leadership positions. As a rule, at least 80 percent of a village's families are represented in the village organization. This standard helps bridge any demographic fissures and conflicts that may exist along the lines of ethnicity or religion and ensures that a village organization is not dominated by village elites.



Female farmers in the Hunza Valley of Northern Pakistan have learned improved farming techniques from AKRSP training.

THE RIPPLE EFFECT

AKRSP has gained international recognition and acknowledgement as the Foundation's flagship program. Nine other rural support programs in Pakistan operated by other development organizations were inspired by an approach borne out of the efforts of poverty-stricken communities in the isolated mountains of northern Pakistan. Many development organizations working with poor communities around the world now use the AKRSP approach.

The program's community-led approach in Pakistan has been so successful that AKF adapted it to other countries including Afghanistan, India, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Syria and Tajikistan. Today, 2.5 million people have benefited directly from the Foundation's rural support programs worldwide, with indirect beneficiaries reaching close to 12 million in over 8,400 village organizations.

THE BLOSSOMING OF ACHIEVEMENTS

Communities in northern Pakistan have made huge strides to overcome the challenges of limited incomes, poor health care, inadequate education, low agricultural output and barriers to markets. Since the early 1980s:

- Incomes have more than tripled.
- 2.5 million people have benefited.
- 2,200 infrastructure projects have been constructed: irrigation channels, mini-hydro power plants, bridges and roads that open up greater opportunities for commerce and agricultural productivity.
- AKRSP's credit and savings initiative has generated savings of more than \$9 million and has provided micro-loans to more than 100,000 households since 1982.
- Women's status has advanced through improved educational opportunities and participation in local organizations.
- Infant mortality rate has been reduced to 35 per 1,000 from 160-250 per 1,000 live births per year.
- Farmers turned 120,000 acres of barren land into productive pastures, expanding cultivated land area by over one third.
- Over 4 million fruit trees were planted and 1,500 private forest nurseries established.



After civil war in Tajikistan, AKF's agricultural reform program brought new land into production with the construction of irrigation channels and improved productivity.

Visit www.PartnershipsInAction.org to learn how you can get involved and make a difference.

Partnerships*InAction*

2007 Highlights

PARTNERSHIP WALK

In 2007, 27,500 Walkers in five cities raised \$2 million to bring a spark of hope to vulnerable families in Africa and Asia. The 2007 Walks celebrated AKF USA's 25 years of "Innovative Solutions to Create Hope and Opportunity." A record number of **Ambassador 1000s** showed their enthusiastic support at Partnership Walk 2007, collectively raising over \$300,000. **Partnerships Teams** went the extra mile, proudly showing their support as well as raising over \$166,000.

ATLANTA

Piedmont Park • Saturday, November 10

Over 5,000 people took part in the Atlanta Partnership Walk including hundreds of students from local schools and universities, such as Emory School of Nursing, Georgia Institute of Technology and Oxford College. Through obstacle courses and creative interactive games, visitors to the Global Village in Action discovered how AKF's milk feeding program encourages Afghan parents to send their girls to school. They learned how microcredit is a powerful way to help the poor lift themselves out of poverty. Interactive games showed progress in East Africa with sustainable health programs and with the building of safer homes with seismic-resistant construction in Pakistan.

CHICAGO

Millennium Park • Sunday, October 14

3,000 people including 77 teams from corporations, universities, schools and community groups came together at Millennium Park in downtown Chicago to enjoy a day of learning and fun. Among other fine performances, the ever popular Jesse White Tumbling team electrified the crowd. Hand Prints, a colorful display of children's expressions, reflected support for the Walk by many metro area schools.

DALLAS

City Hall Plaza • Sunday, October 14

In Dallas, 6,000 people demonstrated their support including teams from Electronic Data Systems, Accenture, American Airlines, Prodea and University of Texas at Dallas. Walkers enjoyed interactive and educational activities including the Silk Road exhibit, microfinance maze, chai-khanna (tea house), Aga Khan Development Network gallery and a global marketplace. The SHOES exhibit— Students Helping Others Empathize Selflessly — encouraged visitors to "step into the shoes of another" and featured compelling stories of AKF beneficiaries. Stages presented the rich and diverse music, dance and cultural performances of Africa and Asia.

HOUSTON

Sam Houston Park, Downtown • Saturday, November 10

A record 10,000 people, including 67 teams joined in solidarity to celebrate the Walk. Distinguished guests Texas Secretary of State Phil Wilson, U.S. Congressional Representatives Sheila Jackson Lee and Al Green, and Sugar Land Mayor David Wallace enthusiastically acknowledged the significance of AKF's work. On the Walk route along Allen Parkway, participants enjoyed exhibits depicting projects in Pakistan, India and Central Asia intermixed with cultural performances and interactive games. Walkers learned how the Foundation's projects promote safe motherhood, girls education, hydropower, water & sanitation programs, microfinance and improved farming practices.

U.S. Senators, Congressional representatives as well as numerous state officials, mayors, city council members, and civic and business leaders came to demonstrate their support for the work of the Foundation and AKDN at Partnership events. Serving as masters of ceremony, media celebrities enthusiastically engaged the crowds in riveting stage programs.

Partnerships*InAction* events give Americans an opportunity to actively take part in advancing human dignity and peace around the globe through volunteerism, awareness-raising and contributions. Events range from Partnership Walk to Partnership Golf to global education activities, involving young and old in a compassionate effort to reduce hunger, disease, illiteracy and poverty. Partnerships*InAction* unite Americans as global citizens with communities in Africa and Asia to build bridges of hope, reaching across boundaries of race, religion, creed, age and gender.



“It is amazing to watch very young children and teenagers teach others about the necessity of aiding people who are desperately in need. They are not sitting around waiting on the politicians to authorize funding or figure out a way to intervene in some of the world’s disastrous situations. They are actively making a difference.”

BOB RAY SANDERS, FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM

LOS ANGELES

Memorial Coliseum • Sunday, October 14

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa addressed 3,500 people, congratulating the Foundation on its ongoing impact and welcoming participants to join in a commitment that improves conditions for humanity. Through interactive and educational displays showcasing projects from Kenya, India, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and the USA, L.A.’s Village in Action spotlighted AKF’s projects that encourage self-reliance. Visitors enjoyed cultural stages with food and performances, live broadcast by KISS FM, entertainment by the Lakers cheerleaders, chai khanna (tea house), games, and a global marketplace.

PARTNERSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENTS



Enthusied golfer taking a swing at ending global poverty.

2007 marked the launch of Partnership Golf tournaments which was inaugurated in 8 major cities, including Atlanta, Birmingham, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Minneapolis, Los Angeles and San Antonio, raising \$350,000 with over 1000 golfers and sponsors, who took a swing to

end global poverty. Partnership Golf offers Americans an opportunity to create broader awareness about the role that community-based international development projects play in promoting peace and global security, while enjoying a day out on the green with friends and colleagues.

PARTNERSHIP DAY



Volunteer engaged in orienting visitors.

Hoover, Alabama • October 28

Over 1,500 Hoover-Birmingham area residents gathered in a spirit of thinking globally and acting locally to raise \$77,000 in the fight against global poverty. The Honorable Mayor Petelos of Hoover cited

Partnership Day 2007 in his presentation in the U.K. at the LivCom Award for Livable Communities. Participants enjoyed a variety of cultural and educational activities throughout the day organized by participating schools and organizations, including the Children’s Dance Foundation, the Alabama Academy of Irish Dance and Nathifa Dance Company.

PARTNERSHIP VILLAGE

Sugar Land, Texas • October 14



Village in Action depicting a child survival program in India.

Mayor David Wallace of Sugar Land, Texas welcomed Prince Hussain Aga Khan and his wife, Princess Khaliya, as guests of honor, acknowledging the instrumental contributions of Aga Khan Foundation. He presented Prince Hussain with a key to the city of Sugar Land. Partnership Village

brought together over 7,000 people including families, friends, and media for a day of learning, activities, entertainment and culturally diverse performances.

PARTNERSHIP HIKE

San Francisco, California • November 4



San Francisco hikers climb new heights.

Over 200 individuals came together alongside the picturesque view of Golden Gate Bridge at Crissy Field, San Francisco, to climb new heights to be part of the solution to end global poverty. Hikers enjoyed a refreshing session of yoga and healthy snacks to

prepare for the hike. They were tested on their knowledge of the Foundation’s work through a trivia game where participants had the opportunity to win prizes, including the Aga Khan Award for Architecture book.

For 2008 calendar of events, please visit www.PartnershipsInAction.org

A World of Thanks

Our achievements in 2007 would not have been possible without the dedication, energy, and creativity of our enthusiastic volunteers. We salute our volunteers and applaud their invaluable contributions in advancing the work of AKF USA and the Aga Khan Development Network.



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