



International Geneva

Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK | AKDN

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), founded in Geneva in 1967 by the Aga Khan, is a group of private, non-denominational, international development agencies focusing on various development challenges mainly in the poorest parts of Asia and East Africa. The three main branches of work are social development, economic development and culture. Some programmes, such as those with a specific research, education and cultural focus, span both the developed and developing worlds. While each agency pursues its own mandate, all of them work together within the overarching framework of the Network, and their different pursuits interact and reinforce one another.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- health and education
- rural development, infrastructure and industrial development
- civil society strengthening
- environment and human habitat
- gender equality
- cultural heritage and preservation
- humanitarian assistance, disaster prevention and reduction
- microfinance, financial inclusion and economic development
- entrepreneurship and public-private partnerships

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS), the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and the Aga Khan University (AKU) are the three AKDN agencies addressing and supporting activities in health. Together, the three agencies provide quality health care to five million people annually and work closely on planning, training and resource development. The priority regions for health-related work of AKDN are East Africa and South and Central Asia, where AKDN maintains hundreds of hospitals and primary health centres and trains health workforce. The AKDN takes a broad, long-

range approach to health that addresses some of the chronic health issues in poor communities. It delivers services directly by operating one of the largest non-profit, private healthcare systems in the developing world, working to transform health care systems by training thousands of nurses, midwives and doctors. It also operates community health projects, often in conjunction with rural development programmes.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

The chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network is the Aga Khan. All of the agencies are registered in Switzerland as non-profit institutions apart from three exceptions: the University of Central Asia, which was formed by international treaty; the Aga Khan University, which is registered in Pakistan; and the individual project companies of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, which are registered in the countries in which they operate. The AKDN works in over 30 countries around the world. It employs approximately 80,000 people, the majority of whom are based in developing countries.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

The AKDN's annual budget for non-profit development activities is approximately US\$ 925 million. It is funded by governments, foundations and donations by private individuals.

PUBLICATIONS

All AKDN publications, including annual reports, monographs, project summaries, brochures, books and videos can be viewed at: <http://www.akdn.org/press-centre/publications>.

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