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Development Partners

Government of Afghanistan
Government of France
La Chaine de L'Espoir
Enfants Afghans

ly, AKU has 10 teaching sites, including facilities in Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and the UK, as well as Afghanistan, where it is delivering medical training. AKU's contributions to nursing alone have been significant, leading to a marked improvement in nursing education and patient care in Pakistan, Afghanistan, East Africa and Syria.

It has also launched training programmes that cover the spectrum of qualitative indicators, with a special focus on creating "multiplier effects" through the professional development of medical and teaching personnel. These programmes have been replicated in rapidly expanding programmes in East Africa, where over 600 students are pursuing nursing degrees and diplomas and Postgraduate Medical Education programmes including residencies in medicine, surgery, radiology, pathology, and anaesthesiology. Programmes will soon start in obstetrics-gynaecology and paediatrics. A Family Medicine residency is in place in Dar es Salaam. Similar programmes have started in Central Asia.

The AKU's nursing programme in Kabul will graduate 89 nurses in April 2006, the first class to graduate under the new

national curriculum, which AKU helped to revise and implement.

The FMIC's association with the Aga Khan University links it with other health-related programmes of the Aga Khan Development Network, including projects in nutrition, water and sanitation, and education. It also provides a strong link to the global resources of the Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS), one of the largest private non-profit health services networks in the developing world, with hospitals in Pakistan, India, Tajikistan, Kenya and Tanzania, as well as Afghanistan.

AKHS operates 240 facilities, ranging from basic health centres to tertiary care hospitals, in South Asia, Central Asia and East Africa. In 2005, it treated nearly 2.4 million outpatients, admitted over 100,000 inpatients, and operated community health programmes for 1.5 million people.

In Afghanistan, AKHS operates a range of non-profit health initiatives, including 119 Health Posts, each with two Community Health Workers, as well as 17 Basic Health Centres, five Community Health Centres and one hospital (in Bamyan).

For further information

Aga Khan Development Network
House 297, Street 17
Wazir Akbar Khan Road
Kabul, Afghanistan
Tel: +93 79 300 082
E-mail: info@akdn-afg.org

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is a group of private development agencies working to empower communities and individuals, often in disadvantaged circumstances, to improve living conditions and opportunities, especially in Africa and Asia. Its agencies work in over 30 countries for the common good of all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin or religion. Its underlying impulse is the ethic of compassion for the vulnerable in society.

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AFGHANISTAN



A Medical Centre of Excellence in Kabul

Health care statistics for Afghanistan paint a grim picture. One child in four does not reach the age of five. In some districts, there is one doctor for 50,000 people compared to one for 303 in France and one for 356 in the U. S. A. Some large districts do not even have one medical doctor. More than 90 per cent of the private pharmaceutical outlets surveyed had only five key essential medicines in stock.

As the statistics suggest, the entire Afghan health care infrastructure needs to be rebuilt, from top to bottom. The Aga Khan Development Network has been assisting in the rebuilding process through its private, non-profit health programmes, which include training for Community Health Workers, the construction and rehabilitation of Basic Health Centres, and a third tier of Comprehensive Health Centres that offer basic health care, including diagnosis, treatment, referral services, and emergency obstetrics care. A fourth tier of

provincial referral hospitals provides secondary care and specialist services, including obstetrics and gynaecology, surgery, paediatrics and general medicine. AKDN health programmes have reached over 360,000 people.

For some time, it has been clear that a fifth tier was needed – a tertiary medical centre of excellence that would be an important referral centre for provincial hospitals and that would, over the long term, provide standards of care comparable to that of the best medical institutions in the region. At the same time, it would have non-profit status and provide for subsidised health care for poor patients.

Public-Private Partnership

The foundations of such an institution have been laid by a public-private partnership between the Government of Afghanistan, the Government of France and the French NGO, *La Chaine de*

L'Espoir/Enfants Afghans. The collaboration has led to the creation of a private, non-profit hospital, the French Medical Institute for Children (FMIC) in Kabul. The Aga Khan Development Network has been asked to join the partnership to manage the hospital and supervise its growth.

French Medical Institute for Children

Completed in 2005, the FMIC offers inpatient and outpatient services, paediatric medicine and surgery, cardiology, and orthopaedics. The Institute is one of the few facilities of its kind in Afghanistan to offer screening and diagnosis in a range of radiology services. Equipped to international standards, the hospital provides state-of-the-art medical and surgical techniques. Its laboratory, affiliated with the Aga Khan University (AKU) in Karachi, is developing expertise in microbiology, haematology, serology and biochemistry services. In addition, the FMIC's physical plant is well-designed



To ensure that health services are accessible to all Afghans, the FMIC has instituted a Welfare Support Programme that provides subsidies to poor patients who could not otherwise afford high quality health services.



About The Aga Khan University

Barely 25 years old, the Aga Khan University has already had a wide impact, particularly in the health sciences and education. Currently, AKU has 10 teaching sites, in Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and the UK, as well as Afghanistan, where it is delivering medical training. AKU's contributions to nursing alone have been significant, leading to a marked improvement in nursing education and patient care in Pakistan, Afghanistan, East Africa and Syria. It has also launched training programmes that cover the spectrum of qualitative indicators, with a special focus on creating "multiplier effects" through the professional development of medical and teaching personnel. These programmes have been replicated in rapidly expanding programmes in East Africa, where over 600 students are pursuing nursing degrees and diplomas and Postgraduate Medical Education programmes including residencies in medicine, surgery, radiology, pathology, and anaesthesiology. Programmes will soon start in obstetrics-gynaecology and paediatrics. A Family Medicine residency is in place in Dar es Salaam. Similar programmes have started in Central Asia.

Cover Photo:

The new buildings of the French Medical Institute for children (FMIC) rise in contrast to other buildings which await reconstruction.

and built to appropriate seismic codes in an area known for seismic activity.

To ensure that health services are accessible to all Afghans, the FMIC has instituted a Welfare Support Programme that subsidises health services for poorer patients. The partners will contribute to the realisation of these services.

The AKU's University Hospital has been asked to manage the FMIC's 110-bed facility. The University Hospital is the principal clinical training site for the AKU's Faculty of Health Sciences, which is composed of a medical college and school of nursing. The Hospital, in Karachi, is well known throughout the region for the high standards of its staff and facilities and its patient welfare system.

In keeping with the Muslim ethic that requires the more fortunate to help the poor and sick, AKU's patient welfare system, which is similar to that of FMIC, assists patients who are unable to pay for treatments, through subsidised care. About 75 percent of all patients treated at AKU's University Hospital in Karachi are from low- to middle-income areas, many availing themselves of the patient welfare system. Over US\$ 4 million in assistance has been awarded annually in recent years.

Phase One: A New Standard in Health Care

The FMIC will offer health care of the highest standard in the country and on par with the best medical institutions in the region. In its initial phase, it will provide paediatric surgical care, includ-

ing general and orthopaedic surgery. Its 110 beds include 16 in the intensive care unit. There are also eight clinic and examination rooms for outpatients. The hospital is equipped with excellent diagnostic and treatment technology, including a state-of-the art CT Scan, general radiology and ultrasound. It also features a well-equipped laboratory and operating theatres.

AKU's University Hospital is providing key hospital management staff. In initial stages, the hospital staff will consist of both Afghan and expatriate personnel. As training programmes are completed, more Afghans will assume roles in the operations of the hospital. Afghan surgeons will be trained in France and at AKU's University Hospital in Karachi.

The French Government will provide core expatriate medical staff in general paediatrics, paediatric general surgery, anaesthesia, radiology, and pathology. Through short-term rotational missions, *La Chaine de L'Espoir* will provide surgeons, nurses and technicians from France and elsewhere in Europe as well as North America.

One of the immediate aims of the hospital is to contribute to the Millennium Development Goal of reducing child mortality. Heart disease and other conditions among Afghan children can now be addressed through surgery.

Phase Two: Future Expansion

Reflecting the overwhelming needs of the country, in the longer term the partners plan to expand the hospital to

include a variety of new services. The hospital will grow to 250 or more beds and will expand its range of services to include the delivery of care to adults. Land has been reserved for the future expansion of the facility. The FMIC would remain as an institute within the larger hospital.

New services will eventually include maternal care, obstetrics and neonatology, cardiology, neuroscience, oncology and other services yet to be defined. As the programme's scope is expanded to include new services, such as obstetrics and gynaecological care, the hospital will make important contributions to the goal of improving the overall health of Afghans.

From the outset the hospital will be an important referral and training centre for nursing, paramedical staff and eventually physicians. On-site training provided by both *La Chaine de L'Espoir* and AKU will include training for Afghan physicians, nurses and technicians in surgical specialisations, as well as anaesthesia, radiology, pathology, endoscopy, and intensive care.

Through these training programmes and by setting standards for the quality of health care, the hospital hopes to raise standards at other institutions in the country, thereby raising the general standard of health care.

As it does so, it will also contribute to the revitalisation of civil society in the country by training leaders in the medical profession and working with gov-

ernment agencies to rebuild the health infrastructure.

International Linkages

The FMIC will benefit from an extraordinary set of national and international linkages, including those with the Afghan and French governments, *La Chaine de L'Espoir* and agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network.

Through these and other linkages, it will draw on the expertise of the Faculty of Medicine at Kabul University, the Aga Khan University in Karachi, and the Universities of Paris, Lyon, Toulouse and Caen in France.

La Chaine de L'Espoir, a humanitarian organisation founded in 1988 by Alain Deloche, is active in more than 20 countries, primarily Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. It works to address health care inequalities that affect the lives of infants and provide necessary surgical care and education to disadvantaged children. *Enfants Afghans*, an NGO created by *La Chaine de L'Espoir*, Dr. Eric Cheysson, Bactriane, Muriel Robin and Marine Jacquemin, was set up to realise a modern hospital in Afghanistan.

The Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi, which will operate the FMIC, has also been charged with supervising the hospital's gradual expansion into a full-service health care and medical teaching facility. Barely 25 years old, the Aga Khan University has already had a wide impact, particularly in the health sciences and education. Current-

About Aga Khan Health Services

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