Press release

AKDN Portugal partners with Oeiras City Council to support Lusophone Africa in wake of COVID-19 pandemic

The Aga Khan Development Network today partnered with the Oeiras Municipal Council to provide medical and individual protection equipment to Guinea-Bissau, in support to the country’s response to the coronavirus pandemic. The contribution is the first of a series of five in-kind contributions to Lusophone Africa.

In a joint initiative envisaging cooperation with African Portuguese-speaking Countries (PALOP), the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and the Oeiras Municipal Council, contributed 2 ventilators, 50,000 surgical masks, 50,000 pairs of gloves, 2,000 reusable masks and 12 infrared thermometers to Guinea-Bissau.

The material will be delivered to the Guinean health authorities in an effort to support the Guinean National Health Institute and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in their response towards the growing number of COVID-19 cases in the country.

The contribution was made to the Ambassador of Guinea-Bissau in Lisbon. Mr. Hélder Vaz, by the Diplomatic Representative of the Ismaili Imamat, Nazim Ahmad, and the Vice-President of the Oeiras Municipal Council, Mr. Francisco Rocha Gonçalves, at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat.

This is the first of a series of in-kind contributions that will be made to several Lusophone countries in Africa, namely Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde and Sao Tomé and Principe, for which AKDN has been joining efforts with other Portuguese stakeholders, including the national and local government, the Portuguese Cooperation Agency and other civil society organisations.

This initiative responds to the health crisis caused by COVID-19, by addressing concerns about the access to medical treatment and Personal Protection Equipment, which are scarce in these developing countries.