AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

Syria

FACTS AT A GLANCE

AKF ESTABLISHED: 2003

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS: Salamieh District of Hama Governorate

PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS: Development of rural communities through interventions in agriculture and livestock, health and early childhood development

STAFF: 69

AN AGENCY OF THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) programmes in Syria normally include activities in rural development, health and early childhood development in Salamieh District. However, since September 2013, activities have been largely reduced to humanitarian aid in response to the current crisis. AKDN distributed over 2,000 metric tonnes of food in Salamieh with the help of 250 AKF-trained volunteers. AKF provided cash assistance to over 7,200 households. In response to the drinking water shortage, AKF installed more than 300 water storage tanks in over 60 schools, primary health facilities, administrative buildings, public gardens and community centres, benefiting more than 300,000 people. AKF trained over 600 health workers and over 850 volunteers in first aid/risk reduction, early warning and response for disease outbreaks, emergency health operations, child nutrition and emergency deliveries. It also conducted awareness sessions on maternal, neonatal and basic health for over 600 mothers and reached nearly 2,300 mothers through community activities. Newborn starter kits with resources from the local market were prepared for 1,000 vulnerable new mothers giving birth at Salamieh Hospital. Along with the kits, new mothers received midwifery counselling and follow-up home visits by AKF-trained community health workers. The AKDN ECD programme has attempted to provide the needed psychosocial support to children and their parents. AKF has also supported schools with required safety and maintenance works and school supplies, such that children and teachers continue to have access to learning and teaching tools and facilities. More than 19,400 schoolchildren have benefited from these activities.

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) activities in Syria have largely been reduced to assisting with emergency aid, but in the past AKDN programmes had spanned six provinces (Aleppo, Damascus, Hama, Lattakia, Sweida and Tartous), serving both rural and urban populations. Priority areas included rural economic development, employment and enterprise development, enhancing the quality of services, protecting cultural heritage and developing sustainable tourism.

Cover photo: AKDN has distributed over 2,000 metric tonnes of food in Salamieh.