In July 2011, the Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi inaugurated the first comprehensive, purpose-built Heart and Cancer Centre in sub-Saharan Africa. It is equipped with specialized cardiac operating theatres, intensive care units and radiation therapy equipment and provides advanced diagnostic, rehabilitative and therapeutic care services.

Key Programme Development Partners

Government of Kenya
Government of Tanzania
Government of Uganda
Government of Zanzibar

African Development Bank
Agence Française de Développement
Barclays Bank/ABSA Capital
Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)
Comic Relief (UK)
Creative Associates International Inc.
DEG/WT Bank/GIZ
European Commission
European Investment Bank
Ford Foundation
Foundation for Civil Society
German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GIZ)
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ),
Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria
International Finance Corporation
Johnson & Johnson
Kenya Shell Limited
Lions Club
Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO)
Norwegian Fund (Norfund)
Proctor & Gamble
Rotary Club
Standard Chartered Bank
UK Department for International Development
UN Development Programme
US Agency for International Development
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
World Bank Group

Operations include English and Kiswahili national newspapers, a regional weekly, and radio and television stations spread across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. A leader across East Africa, the Nation Media Group’s market share dominance is underpinned by state-of-the-art printing technology, investment in professional development and a highly subscribed Internet presence through its English-language publications. Its vision is to be the Media of Africa for Africa.

2.4 million restoration of Forodhani Park in Zanzibar’s Historic Stone Town was completed by the Trust. The restoration of Forodhani Park is part of a larger seafront rehabilitation programme encompassing: construction of the seawall; underground infrastructure including water, storm and sewer lines; and the creation of a pedestrian promenade, including planting, street lighting and street furniture along the sea side.

Culture

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) is dedicated to revitalizing culture and improving the overall quality of life. The Trust has been active in Zanzibar since 1989, successfully completing the restoration of the Old Dispensary and the old Customs House, as well as the rehabilitation of Kellele Square. Eleven buildings in Stone Town – many of them abandoned, underused or on the point of collapse – were restored as part of a programme to demonstrate the building and restoration techniques needed to preserve the World Heritage Site. In 2009, the US$ 2.4 million restoration of Forodhani Park in Zanzibar’s Historic Stone Town was completed by the Trust. The restoration of Forodhani Park is part of a larger seafront rehabilitation programme encompassing: construction of the seawall; underground infrastructure including water, storm and sewer lines; and the creation of a pedestrian promenade, including planting, street lighting and street furniture along the sea side.

"I propose to discuss with you how cultural heritage can itself be a ‘trampoline’ for social and economic development, in the same way that agriculture, water resources, power supplies or transportation systems have traditionally been perceived.

Even in settings of abject poverty, cultural legacies, though once dormant, can become powerful catalysts for change."

– Remarks by His Highness the Aga Khan speaking at the UNESCO Conference on Culture and Development in Hangzhou, China, 15 May 2013.

Social, Cultural and Economic Programmes of the Aga Khan Development Network

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) has been supporting human development in East Africa for over 100 years. During this time, its activities in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda have grown significantly. More recently, new programmatic activities have started in Burundi.

Through its various agencies, AKDN is committed to improving the living conditions and opportunities for people in some of the poorest parts of the developing world. AKDN agencies conduct their programmes without regard to the faith, origin or gender of the people they serve. Their programmes are also characterised by a long-term commitment to the peoples and countries of the region and strong local and international partnerships.

The Network is committed to the building of enabling environments. Legal, fiscal and regulatory policies foster human development across government, private sector and civil society organisations. Formal agreements have been signed with the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. In July 2012 the AKDN entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the East African Community to strengthen and broaden cooperation in the areas of economic, social and cultural development throughout East Africa.

Social Development

The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), a social development agency of the Network, has been active in East Africa since 1974. Beginning in Kenya, it expanded its activities to Tanzania in 1991 and Uganda in 1994. AKF seeks sustainable solutions to long-term problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and ill health, with a special emphasis on the needs of rural communities in resource-poor areas. The Foundation implements its initiatives in the following four sectors: Rural Development, Education, Health and Civil Society.

AKF’s Rural Support Programme supports farming communities in Southern Tanzania and Kenya’s Coastal region to improve and sustain their yields. Through the Community-Based Savings Group programme, enhanced access to microfinance has seen over 100,000 farmers save a total of US$ 2.2 million. Another 41,000 farmers have doubled their rice and sesame yields while strengthening their conservation agriculture skills. Working in 192 villages in the region, AKF has facilitated improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene for 30,000 children, developed 46 kilometres of piped water and helped develop more than 120 dams and small farm reservoirs for productive use.

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www.akdn.org
AKF has been making significant contribution to the Early Childhood Development (ECD) sector in the region for three decades. It has pioneered the provision of high quality, culturally relevant and holistic early childhood development in East Africa. The programme focuses on transforming the quality of life of young children and their families, building strong institutions, leaders and professionals, and contributing to networks, research and policy. Through its Madrasa Early Childhood Programme, over 200 community-based pre-schools have been established and 520 public pre-schools supported, benefitting over 80,000 children and 9,000 pre-school teachers in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. AKF is also giving increasing attention towards supporting children under the age of three, focusing on better parenting and caregiver interventions.

In the education sector, AKF aims to enable children to access education, stay in school and attain improved learning outcomes in primary education. The programme supports 1,295 primary schools, benefitting over 320,000 children and reaching 35 percent of primary schoolchildren in 10 targeted districts in Kenya, 44 percent in Southern Tanzania (three districts) and 35 percent in West Nile Uganda (three districts).

AKF’s health programmes have resulted in over 1,480 scholarships for nursing students since 2001, the training of 1,442 health workers in 2012-2013, as well as a Public-Private Partnership with 40 public health facilities across 16 districts in Kenya and Tanzania. AKF also supports the AKDN civil society programme to strengthen the visibility, quality, accountability and integrity of civil society organisations and foster productive collaboration with governments.

The Aga Khan Education Services (AKES) currently operates 19 schools in East Africa that provide quality pre-school, primary, secondary, and higher secondary education services to more than 9,000 students in the region. Many were established in the 1950s and 1960s (the first school in Zanzibar opening in 1905). In all three countries, AKES operates as a not-for-profit agency and the services it provides are generally subsidised.

The Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa, Kenya opened in 2003 and is the first of an integrated network of 18 residential schools to be located in countries across Africa, South and Central Asia, and the Middle East, offering an international standard of education. The Postgraduate Medical Programme is designed to develop physicians’ competencies as generalists and specialists for practice in Africa.

The Aga Khan University (AKU) operates as a regional university and occupies a central role in developing skilled professionals, nurturing in them a sense of social responsibility and ethical commitment to serve their communities and the East African region. Over the next 15 years, AKU plans to invest US$1.5 billion in higher education and health services in East Africa.

The Advanced Nursing Studies programme offers unique opportunities for nurses to obtain higher professional qualifications without leaving their workplace for extended periods. The Postgraduate Medical Programme is designed to develop physicians’ competencies as generalists and specialists for practice in Africa.

The Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi is an ISO-certified teaching hospital that serves as the principal site for clinical training and research. As part of a regional initiative, Aga Khan Health Services (AKHS) and AKU have established a series of outreach health centres across East Africa in an effort to further strengthen the regional health system.

Economic Development

The Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) is an international development agency dedicated to promoting private initiative and building economically sound enterprises in the developing world. AKFED seeks to create profitable, sustainable enterprises through long-term investments. Profits generated by the Fund are reinvested in other development initiatives.

Financial Services: From humble beginnings in 1937, Jubilee Insurance has become the largest multi-line insurer in East Africa, handling both long-term and short-term insurance. Nearly 200,000 clients, Jubilee Insurance is also the largest provider of medical insurance across East Africa. Jubilee Insurance is the only ISO-certified insurance group listed on all three East African stock exchanges. Jubilee Insurance Company provides insurance services in Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Established over 60 years ago, Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) has grown into a fully fledged commercial banking group in East Africa with over 80 retail branches in Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. DTB is listed on the Nairobi Stock Exchange and has over 12,000 shareholders worldwide.

The Tourism Promotion Services (TPS) promotes tourism by building, rehabilitating and managing hotels, resorts and lodges that contribute to economic growth in an environmentally and culturally sensitive manner. TPS’s approach to sustainable tourism is based on sensitivity to the natural environment and the traditions and cultures of local people. Serena Hotels operate a portfolio of 24 hotels, luxury camps, safari lodges and resorts located in Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zanzibar with plans for future development in Burundi. TPS Eastern Africa is listed on the Nairobi Stock Exchange.

Medical Services: The Nation Media Group, founded in 1960, has its origins in Kenya’s Taifa Leo and Nation newspapers, which were set up to provide independent voices during the years just preceding the country’s independence.

Bujagali Hydropower Project has been registered as a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), making it the largest project ever registered in a Least Developed Country. Bujagali will yield an average of 860,000 Carbon Dioxide Emission Reductions (CERs) annually, putting it at the forefront of clean energy efforts.