The programmes of the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat have won a number of awards, including: 2015 Times of India Social Impact Award (India); 2012 Zayed Energy Prize (Abu Dhabi); 2011 Ashden Award (UK); 2009 Dubai International Award for Best Practices; 2009 Partnership for Clean Indoor Air Global Leadership Award (Uganda); 2009 and 2010 National Energy Globe Award (Czech Republic); 2006 Sitara-e-Eisaar (for earthquake relief in Pakistan); 2005 ALCAN Prize for Sustainability (Canada); and 2006 World Habitat Award (UK).

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AKDN Habitat

Natural disasters often take a heavier toll on poorer communities. In addition to the loss of life, an annual depletion of assets leaves them in a perpetual cycle of poverty. Now rapid climatic changes are increasing the regularity and intensity of natural disasters – and the costs to these communities.

To address the increasing threat posed by climate change, a new agency, the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH), brings together a number of activities focused on preparing for both sudden and slow-onset disasters. AKAH works to ensure that poor people live in physical settings that are as safe as possible from the effects of natural disasters; that residents who do live in high-risk areas are able to cope with disasters in terms of preparedness and response; and that these settings provide access to social and financial services that lead to greater opportunities and a better quality of life. Initially, priority areas for AKAH will include Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and India.

In collaboration with its partners, the AKDN:

1 million
Plants 1 million trees in Asia and Africa each year

1.3 million
Provides 1.3 million people with clean water and sanitation each year

Disaster Preparedness
By installing early warning systems, moving homes and schools to higher ground, stockpiling essential goods and training emergency response teams at the village level, the AKDN reinforces the resiliency of communities living in hazard-prone regions.

Fuel-efficient Products
The AKDN has developed 70+ fuel-efficient products that have benefited 240,000 people in the north of Pakistan. The products cut energy costs and reduce diseases, deforestation pressures and workloads of women and children.

Humanitarian Relief
When flash flooding washed away 100+ villages in Pakistan – disrupting access to roads and causing damage to property, crops, livestock and clean water supplies – over 700 FOCUS-trained volunteers responded to the emergency.

Climate Adaptation
The AKDN’s rural support programmes put water conservation and natural resource management at the heart of their work. In India, 4,000+ drinking water sources and 10,000+ roof rainwater harvesting structures have been built or rehabilitated.

Seismic Resistance
In regions prone to earthquakes and avalanches, the AKDN provides training to master masons on seismic-resistant construction. They pass along this knowledge to other local masons, helping their communities to build resilience against such hazards.