The French Development Agency and AKDN engage in a US$58 million partnership to provide equitable access to an international standard of education in Mozambique

Gouvieux, France, 27 September 2016 – His Highness the Aga Khan, Chairman of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) and Rémy Rioux, Director-General of the French Development Agency (AFD), today presided over the signing of a loan agreement for US$25 million to finance the construction of the Aga Khan Academy Maputo.

The agreement will expand provision of high quality education to develop future leaders and train teachers, supporting economic and social development in Mozambique. It will provide opportunities for talented girls and boys to access primary and secondary education, regardless of their socio-economic background. A unique talent identification system, as well as student scholarships, allows the Aga Khan Academy to offer a large number of students from lower income families the opportunity to access quality education.

This loan, coupled with an investment of US$33 million by the AKDN, will enable the construction of the campus for the Aga Khan Academy Maputo, together with state-of-the-art infrastructure, facilities and equipment. In parallel, the construction of apartments for faculty and for rent will help support over $60 million of financial aid to be disbursed over the next 20 years.

The student body of more than 750 girls and boys from kindergarten to grade 12 will benefit from facilities that will include classrooms, science laboratories, libraries, lecture and work-study rooms for teacher professional development, administration offices, students’ residences, dining and kitchen facilities, an amphitheatre, and sport and arts facilities. The campus will also be equipped with advanced IT infrastructure.

“This project responds to AFD’s objectives for development in the education sector through pilot projects that aim for academic excellence, social inclusion and strategic partnerships with France. For AFD, this is the first financing agreement in the field of education with AKDN,” commented Laurence Breton-Moyet, Executive Director in Charge of Operations, who signed the agreement on behalf of AFD. “This project will lead the way to greater collaboration between the two organisations in education related projects, representing a new dimension to the partnership agreement signed between France and the AKDN on 9 December 2008. The Aga Khan Academies are very innovative; these schools are focused on educating future public, private and civil society leaders who can support the development of a democratic, tolerant and pluralistic society,” she went on to explain.
A strong component of the Academy’s programme is its emphasis on the professional development of teachers from Mozambique and the region. Also under the agreement, the Aga Khan Academy Maputo will provide support to the national education system through training activities targeting teachers, school leaders, parents and professionals within the Ministry of Education. In addition, students will be bi-lingual or tri-lingual (English, Portuguese and French).

Mhamud Charania, Chairman of the Aga Khan Education Services, Mozambique, signed the agreement on behalf of the AKDN.

“AFD’s participation in this project confirms our belief in the value of investing significant resources in educating students with exceptional intellectual ability to the highest levels of achievement,” said Salim Bhatia, Director of Academies. “It is our intention to offer a distinctive, relevant and internationally validated education where girls and boys develop a strong sense of civic duty and capability to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of their societies,” he added.

The AFD, as France’s main agency for development, has developed a fruitful relationship with the AKDN on a number of projects. The two organisations have worked together for almost 20 years. Proparco (an affiliate of AFD focusing on the private sector) has mainly financed economic development projects (especially in the infrastructure, tourism and banking sectors), and AFD has focused on social development projects in the areas of health, education and financial inclusion.

Grégory Clemente, Director-General of Proparco, has equally committed to continue to develop projects with the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, in the energy sector in Africa and Asia, in tourism and in the financial sector.

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About the Aga Khan Development Network: The Network is active in 30 countries and employs approximately 80,000 people. Its non-denominational agencies are responsible for areas ranging from health and education to rural development, architecture, culture and economic sustainability. AKDN’s education programmes cover a wide spectrum ranging from early childhood education, primary and secondary schools, and vocational studies for youth and adults, to undergraduate and post-graduate university degrees, and continuing professional development. Today these initiatives benefit over 2 million students annually.

www.akdn.org

About the Aga Khan Academies: The Aga Khan Academy Maputo joins two sister schools in Mombasa, Kenya and Hyderabad, India as part of an integrated network of Academies being established by His Highness the Aga Khan across 14 countries. When complete, this multi-country learning community will include 14,000 students and 2000 teachers, and graduate 1400 students annually from all sectors of society. In addition to offering a high standard of primary and secondary education, each Academy provides professional development for educators from government and other not-for-profit schools to help improve educational standards.
The Aga Khan Academy Maputo is currently supporting 16 schools though training for head teachers, teachers, school committees and parents. The Academy has been operating at the primary level since 2013 and will expand to include a secondary school and a residential programme on a purpose-built campus. The educational offering is based on the highly regarded International Baccalaureate series of programmes. [www.agakhanacademies.org](http://www.agakhanacademies.org)

**About the French Development Agency (AFD):** As a public financial institution, the French Development Agency (AFD) implements the policy defined by the French government. It works to fight poverty and promote sustainable development. Present on four continents through a network of 75 offices, AFD finances and supports projects that improve the living conditions of people, promote economic growth and protect the planet. In 2015, AFD committed € 8.3 billion to finance projects in developing countries and in favor of the overseas territories. [www.afd.fr](http://www.afd.fr)

**About Proparco:** Subsidiary of the French Development Agency (AFD) dedicated to the private sector, Proparco has worked for almost 40 years to promote sustainable development in the economic, social and environmental areas. Through loans, equity or guarantees, Proparco participates in financing and supporting businesses and financial institutions in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. It focuses on key areas of development: infrastructure with a focus on renewable energy, agribusiness, financial institutions, health, education ... Proparco's interventions are aimed at strengthening the contribution of private actors to the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs), adopted by the international community in 2015. To this end, Proparco finances companies whose business are involved in the creation of jobs and fair incomes, provision of essential goods and services, and the fight against climate change. [www.proparco.fr](http://www.proparco.fr)