Aga Khan Development Network | 2021

2021
year at a glance

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Organic Farming

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Sea Level Rise

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Reducing Disaster Risk

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Managing Waste

Environment & Climate: a greener footprint

When the pandemic forced much of the world into lockdown, the halt on transportation and industry caused a drop in global emissions. But for the planet and many people in it, this brief pause in "business as usual" made little difference.

In fact, the AKDN has worked for many years to help communities adapt to harsh existing conditions. Now, as the world faces threats posed by climate change, every AKDN agency is redoubling its efforts to reduce emissions and pollution.

Left: Cairo, Egypt, 1999. His Highness the Aga Khan inspecting excavations at the *Azhar Park* site with landscaping engineers.

Right: *Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan*, 1987. His Highness the Aga Khan walking through an orchard, part of the *Aga Khan Rural Support Programme*.

Photo Credit: AKDN / Gary Otte.

January 2021

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JANUARY

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"… Humankind must take responsibility for shaping and reshaping our earthly environment, employing Allah's gifts of time and talent as good stewards of His Creation."

– HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

Speaking at the 2010 Aga Khan Award for Architecture Ceremony.
Doha, Qatar, 24 November 2010

January
organic farming

Organic farmers have considerable potential for mitigating climate change. Their crops emit much lower nitrogen levels because they cut out synthetic fertilizers and pesticides – which, by the way, require significant amounts of energy to manufacture.

Other practices put carbon back into the soil, which means less of it in the atmosphere. At the Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad, a group of service-learning students brought climate-friendly farming onto campus and planted 300 different varieties of organic vegetables and flowers.

This initiative has been funded and operated independently by the Aga Khan Academy Hyderabad.

For more information, please visit: www.akdn.org/project/academy-students-hyderabad-try-their-hands-organic-farming and watch the video Service Learning at the Aga Khan Academies.

In Hyderabad, India, the Aga Khan Academy's organic farming project helps teach students how to become good stewards of the earth.

Photo Credit: AKDN / Tara Menon.

February 2021

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FEBRUARY

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"Everywhere in the world today, people are searching for ways to reduce the threat of global warming both by limiting greenhouse gas emissions and by fighting the blight of deforestation. The key to both efforts is to move away from plant and fossil fuels, and to depend instead on renewable energy sources."

– HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

Speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Bujagali hydro-power project. Jinja, Uganda, 21 August 2007

February
mini hydropower

In the mountainous regions of northern Pakistan, villages are often far removed from any centralised power grid.

A solution for clean and reliable energy, started by the Aga Khan Foundation, involves digging a narrow channel along a hillside to divert water into a pipe.

The pressure of the water flow turns a turbine, producing up to 100kw of power. Over 180 micro-hydel units have been built and are supplying clean hydroelectricity to 54% of the population of Chitral, Pakistan.

Partners who have supported the programme or institution shown in the photo: Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, Swiss Development Cooperation, Government of Pakistan, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.akdn.org/project/mobilising-new-economic-drivers
and watch the video ***The Aga Khan Development Network in Pakistan****.*

A science student working with her teacher at Aga Khan Higher Secondary School, Gahkuch. With reliable power, there are fewer school closures and more opportunities for learning.

Photo Credit: AKDN / Kamran Beyg.

March 2021

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MARCH

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"The best architecture teaches us to engage with Nature respectfully..."

– HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

Speaking at the Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2016 Ceremony.
Al-Ain, UAE, 6 November 2016

March
sea level rise

Global warming is causing sea levels to rise. Some coastal cities and nations will disappear in the future, and the rest will need to adapt.

In Dhaka, Bangladesh, retired school teacher Razia Alam purchased a riverside plot to establish a school for underprivileged children. To avoid having the school submerged in monsoon water for a third of the year, she called upon architect, Saif Ul Haque, for a solution. Their amphibious “floating school” won the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2019.

*The **Aga Khan Award for Architecture** is funded internally and operated independently.*

*For more information, please visit: **https://www.akdn.org/architecture/project/arcadia-education-project** and watch the video **2019 Award Recipient - Arcadia Education Project**.*

The Arcadia Education Project in South Kanarchor, Bangladesh is operational during both dry and monsoon seasons.

Photo Credit: AKTC / Sandro di Carlo Darsa.

April 2021

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APRIL

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"For our faith constantly reminds us … as good stewards of God's creation, to leave the world in a better condition than we found it."

– HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

Speaking at the Presentation of the Gold Medal by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Ottawa, Canada, 27 November 2013

April
a climate-friendly hospital

Health care in the remote mountains of Afghanistan can be a challenge, particularly in a region off the electric grid. With over half of its power supplied by solar panels and the rest supplemented by generators, Bamyan Provincial Hospital is assured of uninterrupted power that supports a wide range of services. It also lowers dependence on diesel.

The Hospital's building is based on a construction technology called "rammed earth", which provides insulation that is not only highly energy-efficient, but also structurally safe and seismic-resistant.

Partners who have supported the programme or institution shown in the photo: Government of Afghanistan, Global Affairs Canada, Agence Française de Développement.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.akdn.org/publication/new-hospital-bamyan *and watch the video* ***A New Hospital for Bamyan****.*

Solar power helps this remote hospital run on cleaner sources of energy.

Photo Credit: AKTC / Kiana Hayeri.

May 2021

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MAY

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"…It is amazing, and deeply humbling to see what a difference the built environment can make, in enhancing the everyday moments of everyday life."

– HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

Speaking at the Award Ceremony for the 12th Cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture. Lisbon, Portugal, 6 September 2013

May
a cooler campus

Karachi is hot and dry nearly all year. At the Aga Khan University, the architecture responds to this climate by using indigenous principles of environmental control.

"Weeping" plaster keeps buildings cooler. Jaali (perforated screens), windows open to the north, as well as wind tunnels, facilitate natural ventilation. Lush planting and water courtyards also temper the severe heat and create a space for biodiversity. These measures maintain pleasant temperatures while reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Partners who have supported the programme or institution shown in the photo: Donations from Noor Residence (Noor Mohammed E. Mewawalla, Pakistan); Arman Rupani Residence (Amirali Rupani, USA); Karimi Residence (Mansoorali Jiwa Karimi, USA). Architectural partners including Payette and FNMH - Farouk Noormohammed Mukhtar Hussain.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.akdn.org/our-agencies/aga-khan-university *and watch the video* ***Aga Khan University****.*

The architecture of the AKU women's residences provides natural ventilation to temper the severe heat in Karachi.

Photo Credit: AKU / Kohi Marri.

June 2021

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JUNE

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“…A central part of the garden tradition is the high calling of human stewardship, our responsibility to honour, to protect, and to share the gifts of the natural world.”

– HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

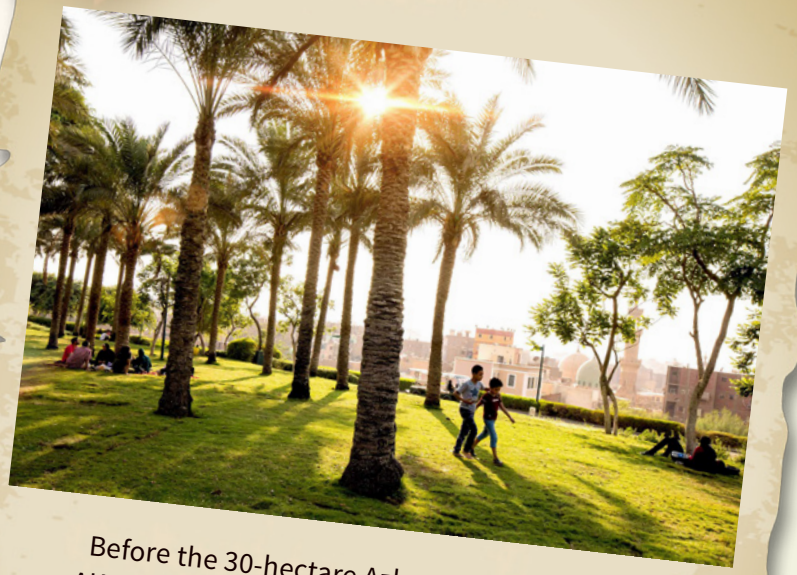
Speaking at the Inauguration of the Aga Khan Garden. Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, 16 October 2018

www.akdn.org/what-we-do/environment-and-climate
Home | Year at a glance

June environmental stewardship

The AKDN's work benefits millions of people in the developing world through its built institutions: schools and universities, hospitals and clinics, parks and gardens, microfinance banks and hydropower plants, to name a few.

To ensure that its facilities operate "climate-smart" over the long term, the Network is rolling out "Green Building Guidelines" to oversee new designs, new construction projects and current refurbishments – which shows that good stewardship of the earth is an integral part of its ethical framework.



Before the 30-hectare Azhar Park was built by AKTC, the people of Cairo had less than a metre of green space per person.

Photo Credit: AKTC / Christian Richters.

Partners who have supported the programme or institution shown in the photo: Egyptian-Swiss Development Fund, Ford Foundation, Global Affairs Canada, Governorate of Cairo, Swiss Development Fund, World Monument Fund.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.akdn.org/project/parks-sound-mind *and watch the video* ***Close to Home: Al-Khimyah****.*

July 2021

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JULY

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"We feel deeply that environmental goals and development goals must be part of a Complementary Agenda – we can serve one set of goals only if we also serve the other."

– HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

Speaking at the foundation stone-laying ceremony of the Bujagali hydro-power project. Jinja, Uganda, 21 August 2007

July climate-friendly energy

The West Nile Rural Electrification Company hydropower station provides electricity 24 hours a day in a northern part of Uganda.

This has contributed to a dramatic transformation in the region, where there are clear signs of socio-economic change, as well as improvements in security and regional stability.

Hydropower is a climate-friendly energy source, so West Nile communities are not only benefiting from thriving industries and better social services, but also a cleaner environment.

Partners who have supported the programme or institution shown in the photo: Government of Uganda, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau.

*For more information, please visit: **https://www.akdn.org/publication/generating-hope-brighter-future** and watch the videos **WENRECo: Improving the quality of life** and **AKDN's impact in Uganda**.*

Reliable electricity has led to growth in the region's industry, such as metal working, and has created opportunities for apprenticeships and training for formerly unemployed youth.

Photo Credit: AKDN / Lucas Cuervo Moura.

August 2021

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AUGUST

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"Technological changes have revolutionised our lives in communication and travel, industry and agriculture, medicine and education. Natural changes – including Global Warming – also present central challenges."

– HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

Speaking at the Aga Khan Award for Architecture 2016 Ceremony.
Al-Ain, UAE, 6 November 2016

August
better nutrition

Droughts and climate-related disasters result in lower crop yields, and high levels of carbon emissions reduce the nutritional value of foods.

In Tajikistan, where malnutrition is widespread and a quarter of all children under five years are stunted, the University of Central Asia has begun working with farmers to introduce sweet potato value chains that can help improve nutrition for all.

Heat and drought-tolerant sweet potatoes are particularly rich in vitamins and beta-carotene.

Partners who have supported the programme or institution shown in the photo: International Potato Centre (CIP), Tajik Institute of Botany, Plant Physiology and Genetics.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.akdn.org/project/reducing-malnutrition-and-supporting-food-security-tajikistan and watch the video The University of Central Asia.

In Tajikistan, adding sweet potato to children's diets is helping to curb the rate of malnutrition.

Photo Credit: UCA / Azamat Azarov.

September 2021

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SEPTEMBER

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"Each generation is, thus, ethic bound to leave behind a wholesome, sustainable social and physical environment."

– **FROM THE AKDN ETHICAL FRAMEWORK**

Prepared for the Aga Khan Development Network byThe Institute of Ismaili Studies London.

September
greener tourism

An off-grid solar plant allows Kilaguni Serena Safari Lodge in Tsavo West Park – Kenya's first fully solar powered hotel – to reduce its carbon footprint to such a degree that it is equivalent to planting tens of thousands of trees over a decade.

The hotel chain is committed to making all its properties environmentally friendly. Over the last 18 years, it has planted nearly 7 million trees and removed 2.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the environment in East Africa.

Partners who have supported the programme or institution shown in the photo: Mettle Solar OFGEN Limited.

For more information, please visit:
https://www.serenahotels.com/en/sustainability.html *and watch the video* ***Serena caring for the environment****.*

The solar power plant has greatly reduced the carbon footprint of Kilaguni Serena Safari Lodge.

Photo Credit: AKDN / Lucas Cuervo Moura.

October 2021

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OCTOBER

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"Used alertly and intelligently, new technologies can help us cope with bewildering environmental challenges."

– HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

Speaking at the 2010 Aga Khan Award for Architecture Ceremony. Doha, Qatar, 24 November 2010

October
reducing disaster risk

In some of the most rugged, high-altitude valleys in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and northern Pakistan, the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) has successfully deployed drones to map and monitor geo-hazards and risks, including the size, condition and movement of glaciers and glacial lakes.

As the frequency of disasters increases because of climate change, these technologies will help AKAH identify the level of risk for these communities and undertake interventions that will make the villages more resilient.

Partners who have supported the programme or institution shown in the photo: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, United States Agency for International Development, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (formerly Department for International Development), United Nations Children's Fund, Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defence.

For more information, please visit: https://www.akdn.org/project/drone-tech-makes-communities-more-resilient-natural-disasters and watch the video The Aga Khan Agency for Habitat: Planning for Opportunity.

Children walking home in Barsem, Tajikistan. A nearby lake caused a mudflow in 2015, triggered by high temperatures and rapid snow and glacier melt. AKAH helped the community recover with new housing, water systems and other infrastructure.

Photo Credit: AKDN / Christopher Wilton-Steer.

November 2021

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NOVEMBER

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"Neither environmental protection nor economic development can be long sustained unless both objectives are prioritized."

– HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN

Speaking at the Presentation ceremony of the 2007 Aga Khan Award for Architecture. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 4 September 2007

November corporate responsibility

Based in Nairobi, Allpack Industries Ltd. is the first industrial company of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development to run on solar power.

Moving towards solar energy has resulted in a reduction of carbon emissions by 90,750 tonnes per year. Employees of the company have also joined with students at St Augustine Mlolongo High School to plant trees on campus that provide the students with shade while highlighting the importance of environmental stewardship.

Industrial Promotion Services (IPS) has been key in managing this project, which has been funded internally by Allpack Industries Ltd.

For more information, please visit:
https://ipskenya.com/ and watch the video Green Energy for Industry.

An aerial view of Allpack Industries Ltd. shows the factory's rooftop solar panels.

Photo Credit: AKDN / Lucas Cuervo Moura.

December 2021

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DECEMBER

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"Each generation of people are described as both 'viceroys and successors in the earth', stewards over its resources for the benefit of all living beings."

– FROM THE AKDN ETHICAL FRAMEWORK

Prepared for the Aga Khan Development Network by The Institute of Ismaili Studies London.

December
managing waste

In clinics and hospitals across developing countries, medical waste is often poorly managed and unnecessarily burned, adding to pollution, wasting energy – and creating hazards for health workers and communities.

In Pakistan and Tanzania, the Aga Khan Health Services has installed high quality incinerators managed by trained personnel. Waste is carefully sorted to ensure that a minimum is burnt. Additional capacity in incinerators is offered to other health facilities to safely dispose of their waste, alongside training in better waste management.

Partners who have supported the programme or institution shown in the photo: Agence Française de Développement, Government of Tanzania (Ministry of Health).

For more information, please visit:
https://www.akdn.org/press-release/aga-khan-health-services-launches-critical-hospital-expansion-mission-advance-delivery
and watch the video ***Supporting Health Care in East Africa for Over 90 Years****.*

In addition to providing quality clinical care, the Aga Khan Hospital Dar es Salaam is investing in environmental considerations, including a more climate-friendly treatment of clinical waste.

Photo Credit: AKDN / Amie Konteh.

THE IMAMAT
AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development
Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance
Aga Khan Foundation
Aga Khan University
University of Central Asia
Aga Khan Trust for Culture
Tourism Promotion Services
Industrial Promotion Services
Financial Services
Media Services
Aga Khan Education Services
Aga Khan Health Services
Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
Aga Khan Academies
Aga Khan Award for Architecture
Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme
Aga Khan Music Programme
Aga Khan Museum
Education Programme

The Aga Khan Development Network is a group of private, nondenominational, international development agencies created by His Highness the Aga Khan, the 49th hereditary Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims.

The agencies of the Network have complementary mandates, working to improve the welfare and prospects of people in countries of the developing world, particularly in Asia and Africa. In the countries in which they operate, the agencies address problems experienced by all citizens, irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender or religion. While each agency pursues its own mandate, all of them work together within the overarching framework of the Network so that their different pursuits can interact and reinforce one another. Their common goal is to improve the quality of life.

The AKDN has agreements with several countries, including: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada, Cote d'Ivoire, France, Germany, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mali, Mozambique, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Russia, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda and the United Kingdom. Individual agencies also work closely with local, state and national governments and international bodies such as the United Nations, the European Commission, the World Bank and others.

Cover Art: A detail of The Court of Kayumars, folio from the Shahnameh (Book of Kings) of Shah Tahmasp, attributed to Sultan Muhammad, Iran, Tabriz, ca. 1524–25. Image courtesy of the Aga Khan Museum, AKM165.

Support the akdn

Partnerships

Typically, when the AKDN refines its development approach in a given area, it looks to partners to help expand the scale. A significant portion of the funding for AKDN activities therefore comes from national governments, multilateral institutions and private sector partners.

For more information, visit: ***www.akdn.org/partners***

Individuals

Individuals can support the AKDN. For more information, visit: ***www.akdn.org/support***

Join the conversation

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Resource Mobilisation

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