

The Coastal Rural Support Programme has enabled 41,000 farmers to double their rice and sesame yields in Southern Tanzania. Once dry, sesame seeds from this harvest will be crushed and used to make oil, which can be sold thereby raising rural incomes.



Programme Development Partners

Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)
Dubai Cares
European Commission
Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT)
Flora Foundation
Johnson & Johnson
Lions Club
United Kingdom Department for International Development (DfID)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

The Coastal Rural Support Programme in Tanzania or CRSP(T) seeks to enhance food security and the incomes of people living in Lindi and Mtwara by strengthening the production of both staple foods and cash crops in the two regions. CRSP(T) supports multiple economic activities that improve agricultural production by mainly enhancing productivity and educating farmers on better marketing practices. Its key focus has been on the rice and sesame value chains, as well as increasing access to financial services through Community Based Savings Groups (CBSGs). These savings groups allow households to pool their funds and take small loans. As of 2014, a total of 54,000 smallholder farmers had doubled their rice and sesame yields while strengthening their conservation agriculture skills. The CSBG initiative has seen more than 120,000 people save a total of US\$ 2.2 million as at the end of 2013.

Civil Society

The existence of a robust civil society that effectively advances the public good is a critical factor for effective

development. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are important to all the sectors in which AKF works. They facilitate health awareness campaigns, help teachers and school leaders access training programmes, carry out advocacy work and assist poor rural people create savings programmes.

To maximise the impact of its work, AKF catalyses engagement between government, civil society and the private sector. This integrated approach facilitates progress towards the achievement of a more civil society.

AKF's civil society programme seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of CSOs through an independent certification body called *Viwango*, which strengthens the visibility, quality, governance and integrity of CSOs with support from AKF.

In addition to enhancing the credibility of CSOs, AKF also enhances their capacity to sustain their programmes through local philanthropy and other innovative means by supporting the *East African Association of Grantmakers (EAAG)*.

EAST AFRICA



Aga Khan Foundation Activities in East Africa

The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) is a private, not-for-profit, non denominational international development agency that works to improve the quality of life of communities in remote and resource poor areas. AKF is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of international development agencies, institutions and programmes that work primarily in the poorest parts of Africa and Asia. The Foundation implements its programmes without regard to the faith, origin or gender of the people it serves.

In East Africa, AKF works with partners to improve the quality of life by promoting and developing innovative solutions to the challenges of development in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Reflecting the complex and multifaceted nature of development, AKF's programmes in the region encompass education, health,

early childhood development, rural development and the strengthening of civil society.

Education

AKF and its institutional predecessors have supported education in East Africa for over a century. Building on this historical presence in the region and working closely with the Ministries of Education in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, the Foundation aims to enable more children to access education, stay in school longer and attain improved learning outcomes. AKF complements government efforts and contributes to policy dialogue by implementing innovative programmes that apply the latest research and practice to developing country settings.

AKF pursues these goals through its *School Improvement Programme (SIP)*, a multi-faceted approach that strengthens education systems at

different levels. This model ensures that teachers adopt effective teaching and learning methods and reflective practices, schools offer attractive and supportive learning environments, and parents and the wider community are actively involved in the various aspects of school life.

Over the past few years, AKF has integrated the Reading to Learn (RtL) and Reading for Children (RfC) approaches within the SIP model.

RtL is a systematic and balanced approach to the teaching of literacy and numeracy, which seeks to rapidly enhance learning outcomes for children. RfC aims at fostering a culture of reading among children and their families and strengthening the abilities of parents and educators to support their children's learning and development by providing access to children's books in schools and communities.

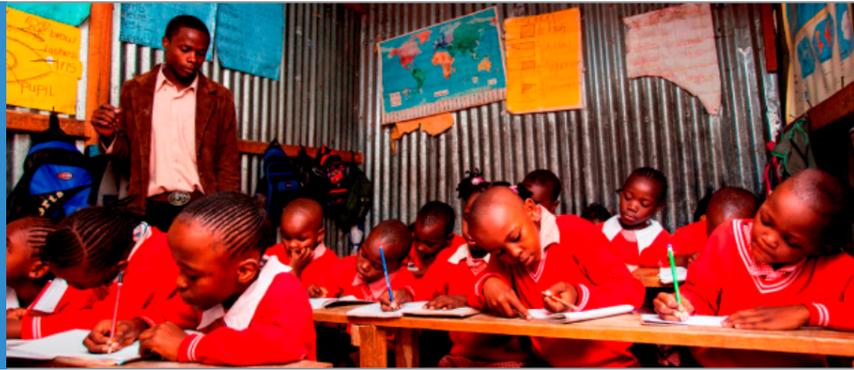
The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) is a group of private development agencies working to empower communities and individuals, often in disadvantaged circumstances, to improve living conditions and opportunities, especially in Africa and Asia. Its agencies work in over 30 countries for the common good of all citizens, regardless of their gender, origin or religion. Its underlying impulse is the ethic of compassion for the vulnerable in society.

© AKDN, January 2014. Information contained in this brief can be reproduced with acknowledgement to AKDN.

Photo credits: AKDN / Lucas Moura



AKF's School Improvement Programme (SIP) works to strengthen education systems by combining effective teaching methods and supportive learning environments. It reaches 320,000 children, including these pupils at the Mukuru slum in Nairobi, Kenya.



AKF's educational programmes support 1,300 primary schools across East Africa, benefiting over 320,000 children in Southern Tanzania, the West Nile region of Uganda, as well as the Coastal, Nairobi and North Eastern regions of Kenya.

The Foundation has also supported the establishment of over 200 community libraries across East Africa to help foster a culture of reading.

Early Childhood Development

Scientific research has shown that the first years of life represent the period of the most rapid growth of the mental and socio-emotional capacities of a child. It is a critical period that determines the child's future survival and growth. Investing in these early years is a key step towards developing children into confident and creative learners, and ultimately into responsible members of the society.

Early Childhood Development (ECD) is an important priority area for AKF in East Africa. AKF's ECD programme focuses on igniting the child's potential for lifelong adaptability, innovation and communication skills, in addition to developing their problem-solving capacity and imparting in them the values of responsible citizenship and respect for diversity.

Cover Photo: The Kasubi Modern Islamic Nursery School in Kampala, Uganda, is one of 960 preschools supported by AKF's Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme in East Africa. The programme benefits 75,000 children below the age of five across the region.

Through the *Madrassa Early Childhood Programme* (MECP) in partnership with the East African Governments and other partners, AKF promotes access to quality pre-primary education, as well as school readiness and transition initiatives. MECP has in the last three decades established community-based preschools and supported preschools attached to primary schools in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. In 2013, the programme supported over 960 community and public preschools, benefiting 75,000 children (48 percent of them girls). Transition rates into primary school at the proper age in community based preschools supported by MECP have risen from 8 percent to 75 percent in Kenya, and from 2 percent to 96 percent in Uganda as of 2013.

AKF also supports children aged below five by enhancing health awareness and supporting maternal and child health by improving the capacity of health facilities, as well as by creating linkages between these health facilities and communities. In 2013, the programme reached over 55,000 mothers and children aged below five. It has in recent years given increasing attention towards incorporating stimulation, care and nutrition into ECD programmes for children under the age of three.

Health

AKF's health programmes seek to strengthen community resilience by addressing the leading causes of death and disease among women and children aged below five. The Foundation's health programmes are part of a broader AKDN effort to contribute to health systems

development in East Africa. Through effective Public-Private Partnerships in line with the respective health policies and strategic plans of the Governments of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, AKF and its sister AKDN agencies provide high quality health services (primary to tertiary) that seek to ensure a continuum of care and set quality standards in the region. Human resource development at different levels builds the core of AKDN's contribution to health system development in East Africa, while technological innovations such as the use of e-health (telemedicine) and mHealth (mobile health) platforms help reach out to lower income groups and the marginalised.

AKDN has also developed a network of community health workers who provide health promotion and disease prevention education, thus improving the health behaviours of communities.

While the wider AKDN effort emphasises health promotion, disease prevention, human resource development and the provision of technical assistance to help national governments strengthen their healthcare systems, AKF's programmes place critical focus on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH), which remains a pressing public health issue in East Africa. AKF provides a continuum of care that ensures effective health care throughout the lifecycle – all the way from pre-pregnancy through pregnancy, childbirth and the early days and years of a child's life, as well as spatially – across the home, the community, the health centre and the hospital.

The *Joining Hands Initiative* is a key AKF-supported health initiative in East Africa. Implemented in Tanzania, it targets over 750,000 individuals (92 percent of them women) across 15 districts in the Dodoma, Iringa, Mbeya, Morogoro and Mwanza regions, providing direct health service delivery, sensitisation, capacity building and the use of eHealth and mHealth technologies. Its mHealth initiative has registered over 4,000 women, enabling them access information on healthy pregnancy and early childhood care using their mobile phones. The clinical excellence component of the project aims to improve and establish quality assurance processes that ensure the provision of high quality health care.

Another AKF-supported initiative, the Aga Khan University's *Advanced Nursing Studies Programme*, addresses the shortage and poor distribution of trained health personnel across East Africa. The programme seeks to increase the number and quality of health professionals by helping nurses upgrade their credentials while remaining in service. Over 1,980 scholarships have been awarded to nursing students in the decade between 2002 and 2013. Faculty have also been developed to apply best practice pedagogies and the University maintains an active alumni network that takes part in research and knowledge sharing activities.

Among other successes, these AKF-supported health initiatives have enabled the training of over 1,400 health workers and the establishment

of Public-Private Partnerships with 40 public health facilities. The management and leadership of 20 health facilities has also been strengthened in Southern Tanzania, reaching 4,800 homes in the region. In 2013, two government health facilities achieved ISO 9001 Certification, a first for a government health facility in Tanzania.

Rural Development

AKF works with government and private sector partners to increase agricultural productivity and incomes in isolated rural communities. The Foundation's rural development programmes typically link elements such as increased agricultural productivity, savings and credit, human skills development, infrastructure development and the management of natural resources.

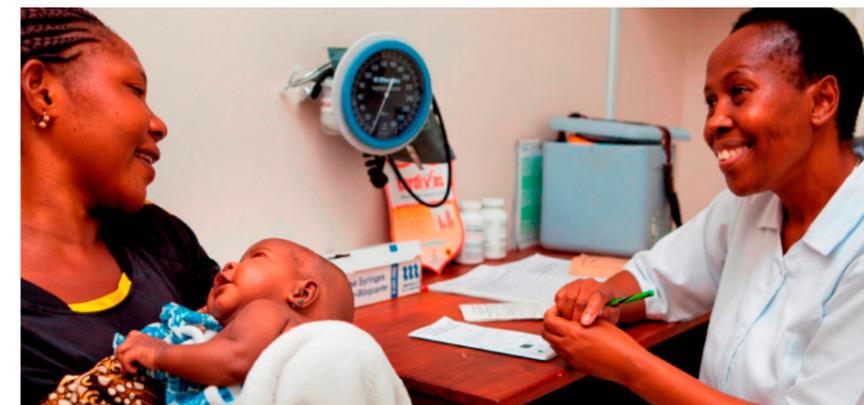
In East Africa, AKF's Coastal Rural Support Programme has raised incomes for coastal communities in Southern Tanzania and the semi-arid rural areas of Kenya's Coastal Region.

The programme was first inaugurated in 1997 in Kaloleni, Kilifi and Kinango, three of Kenya's poorest and most drought-prone districts. Located in the country's Coastal Region, the three districts face harsh climatic conditions, are geographical remote and generally have low access to government services. Many residents lack access to clean drinking water, infrastructure is poor and there is limited access to education and health care. The Coastal Rural Support Programme in Kenya or CRSP(K), grew over a 15-year period from working

with four village organisations to 195 village organisations with over 230,000 members. It helped build 121 dams and small farm reservoirs that provide access to water for domestic and productive use in the target communities, helping many households increase their agricultural production and income. CRSP(K) helped improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene in 50 schools for 30,000 children. It also developed 47 kilometres of piped water for 24,000 community members, encouraged each household to establish a kitchen garden for improved nutrition and helped mitigate the widespread degradation of water bodies by growing over 250,000 trees.

As part of its sustainability strategy, CRSP(K) has developed a cadre of resource persons to perpetuate its work beyond the programme lifetime, in this way ensuring that the experience, skills and knowledge developed remain embedded within the community.

Since 2009, AKF has increasingly trained its focus on the Lindi and Mtwara regions of Southern Tanzania. Like the Coastal Region of Kenya, Lindi and Mtwara have historically been characterised by poverty, partly due to market barriers that have prevented smallholders from capitalising on potential market opportunities. These include low access to farm inputs like fertiliser and seeds; low adoption of good agricultural practices due to scant access to extension officers; high post-harvest losses due to inadequate storage, pests and crop diseases; and limited access to finance.



The Aga Khan Health Centre in Mwanza, Tanzania, is one of 36 medical centres through which AKF works to reduce child and maternal mortality in Tanzania, reaching 750,000 people in 15 districts. Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) forms the core of AKF's health programming in East Africa.