

BANGLADESH



AKDN's Education Efforts

Because education has often been seen as a key to development, several agencies of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) have been involved in education in Bangladesh, including the Aga Khan Education Services (AKES) and the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF). New investments in education, including a new Aga Khan Academy, will build on these earlier efforts.

The Aga Khan School in Dhaka, an institution of the **Aga Khan Education Services**, is part of an international network of 240 schools (consisting of some 507 units at the pre-primary, primary, secondary and higher secondary levels) in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Kenya, the Kyrgyz Republic, Uganda, Tanzania and Tajikistan. The School offers a caring and nurturing educational environment which provides each student with opportunities to develop artistically, emotionally, intellectually, morally, physically and socially to his or her fullest potential. It strives to create a

harmonious balance between academic demands, sporting and cultural activities and community life. The School challenges its pupils to be intellectually inquisitive and socially conscious. The School believes that while what students know is important, the true measure of a student's education is the ability to analyse what they do not know.

The School operates across three sites in Uttara. It is a recognised IB World School, providing a strong IB Primary Years Programme curriculum from Playgroup to Grade 5. Students in Grades 6-8 study under the IB Middle Years Programme philosophy and framework, before moving onto the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) at IGCSE and AS/A levels.

Other AKDN education programmes in the country include the **Aga Khan Foundation's** programme for Early Childhood Development (ECD), which has improved local capacity to deliver quality ECD services to hard-to-reach

families, including those living in tea gardens, *haor* (flood-prone) areas, urban slums and disaster-prone areas. AKF and its partners have implemented parenting programmes and established pre-schools, early learning centres and daycare centres for working families. Over five years, the programme has reached nearly 29,000 beneficiaries. In addition, the programme also provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education in the area of pre-primary education.

In addition to ECD, the Foundation also implemented a project with the Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh from 2009 to 2011, to provide training on governance and financial management to 1,800 staff and board members from 560 small grassroots NGOs from across the country.

The **Aga Khan Academy**, to be located in Bashundara, Dhaka, aims to develop future leaders with the skills and knowledge to support positive

The Aga Khan School in Dhaka, an institution of the Aga Khan Education Services, is part of an international network of 240 schools (consisting of some 507 units at the pre-primary, primary, secondary and higher secondary levels) across eight countries.



Development Partners

Canadian Department for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD, formerly CIDA)

development in their societies. The Academies recruit exceptional young people from all backgrounds and provide them with the highest international standard of education. Admission is means-blind and based on merit. Financial aid is available to ensure access for accepted students regardless of financial circumstances. When complete, the network of Academies will form a global learning community of 18 schools in 14 countries. The first Aga Khan Academy opened in Mombasa, Kenya in 2003, the second in Hyderabad, India in 2011 and the third in Maputo, Mozambique in 2013.

shareholder in the Industrial Promotion and Development Company (IPDC), the first private, non-banking financial institution in Bangladesh established in 1981, in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh. It remains an important catalyst for industrial development in the country. In addition, HBL, majority-owned by AKFED, commenced operations in Bangladesh in 1976. The HBL network now includes seven branches in Bangladesh offering a wide choice of innovative and convenient commercial banking solutions to cater to the demands of its growing customer base in Bangladesh.

For further information

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AKDN and Bangladesh

The AKDN has had a historic presence in Bangladesh, working for over three decades in the areas of early childhood development, pre-tertiary education and financial services.

The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) began its involvement in the country with a long relationship with BRAC, one of Bangladesh's leading NGOs. The relationship emphasised rural development, microfinance and education.

The Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) is a founding

In culture, three Bangladeshi institutions have received the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture, in 1983, 1989 and 2007.

On September 16, 2013, the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the AKDN agreed to intensify cooperation on improving the quality of life of the people of Bangladesh. A Protocol Agreement signed by His Highness the Aga Khan, founder and chairman of the AKDN, and the Foreign Minister, Dr Dipu Moni in the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, established an enhanced framework for collaboration in the areas of social, cultural and economic development.

Cover photo: *The Aga Khan School in Dhaka is a recognised IB World School and operates across three sites in Uttara.*

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.

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Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance



Aga Khan Education Services



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION



Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development



Aga Khan Health Services



Aga Khan Planning and Building Services



AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE



AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



University of Central Asia