



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

Madagascar



FACTS AT A GLANCE

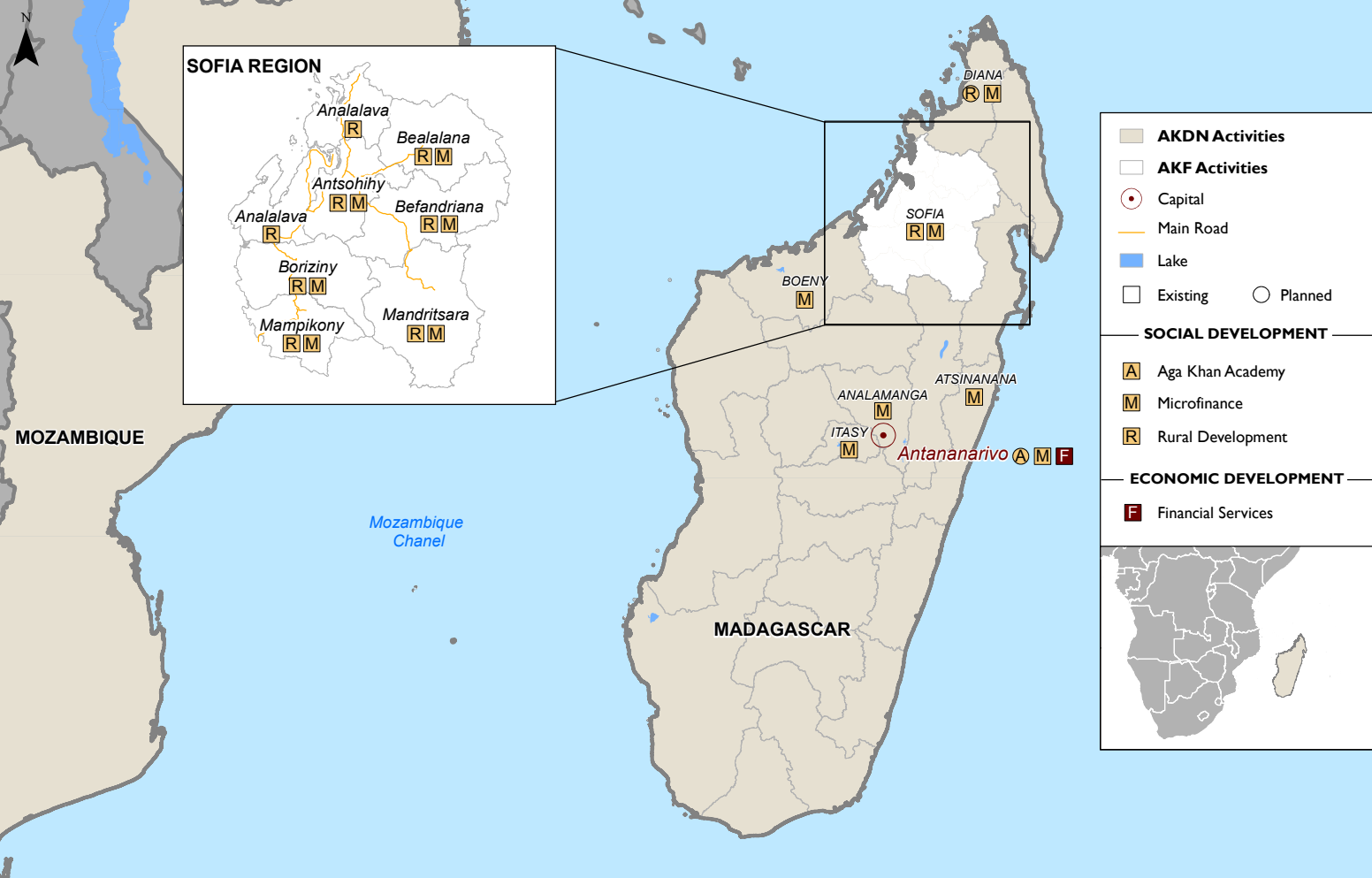
AKF ESTABLISHED: 2006

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS: The north-western region of Sofia

PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS: Development of rural communities through enhanced rice production and increased household access to basic financial services

STAFF: 108

AN AGENCY OF THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK



THE AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (AKF) in Madagascar has been implementing a rural development programme in all seven districts of north-western Madagascar's Sofia Region since 2005. To date, the programme has provided more than 25,000 smallholder farmers with technical support and training on improved rice farming. This support has on average increased rice yields by three times in Sofia. In turn, greater yields have led to more food-sufficient households, with food stock reserves that can be sold within the region, as well as to neighbouring areas. In addition to technical support and training, the programme is focussed on enhancing rice production by promoting market integration of rice producers and facilitating household access to basic financial services. This latter focus complements the work of the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance in the area. In 2010, AKF piloted community-based savings groups in two of Sofia's districts to promote access to basic financial services for the broader community. By 2013, AKF had trained more than 1,050 savings groups with more than 20,580 members (62 percent women).

THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (AKDN) in Madagascar works through an ongoing collaboration between the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) and the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance (AKAM), which operates in both rural and urban contexts in various parts of the country, supporting the AKF rice programme with microfinance services for farmers.

COVER PHOTO: In Madagascar, over 85 percent of the population relies on rice cultivation for their livelihoods. In the north-west, despite poor infrastructure, difficult accessibility and yields below the national average, the Sofia Region managed to produce 12.7 percent of Madagascar's production in 2010, making it the nation's top producing region. Given its strong potential in the face of various challenges, the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) began working in the Sofia Region in 2005, with the aim of doubling rice yields. In programme areas, yields have tripled.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), formerly the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

The Aga Khan Foundation in Madagascar works with the following AKDN agencies and affiliates: the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance (AKAM).

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