



AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat



Building resilience to natural hazards and climate change

www.akdn.org

AKDN Habitat

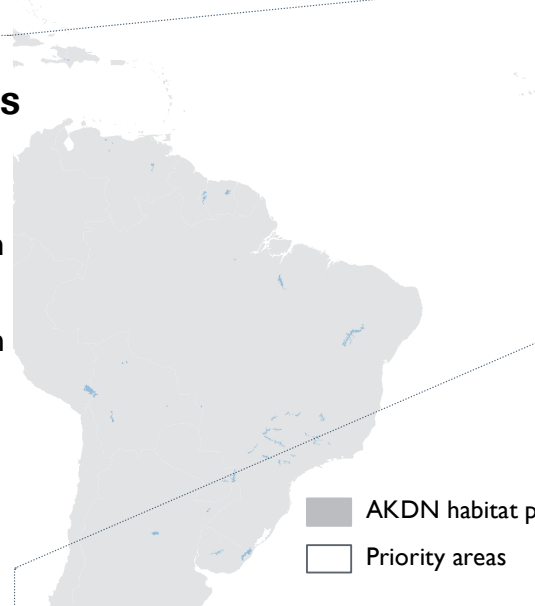
Natural disasters often take a heavy toll on poorer communities. In addition to the loss of life, an annual depletion of assets leaves them in a perpetual cycle of poverty. Now rapid climatic changes are increasing the regularity and intensity of natural disasters – and the costs to these communities.

To address the increasing threat posed by natural hazards and climate change, a new agency, the **Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH)**, brings together a number of activities focussed on preparing for both sudden and slow-onset disasters. AKAH works to ensure that poor people live in physical settings that are as safe as possible from the effects of natural disasters; that residents who do live in high-risk areas are able to cope with disasters in terms of preparedness and response; and that these settings provide access to social and financial services that lead to greater opportunities and a better quality of life. Current priorities for AKAH will include **Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and India.**



Fuel-efficient Products

The AKDN has developed 70+ fuel-efficient products that have benefited 240,000 people in the north of Pakistan. The products **cut energy costs and reduce diseases**, deforestation pressures and workloads of women and children.



In collaboration with its partners
the AKDN :



1 million

Plants 1 million trees
in Asia and Africa
each year



1.3 million

Provides 1.3 million
people with clean water
and sanitation each year



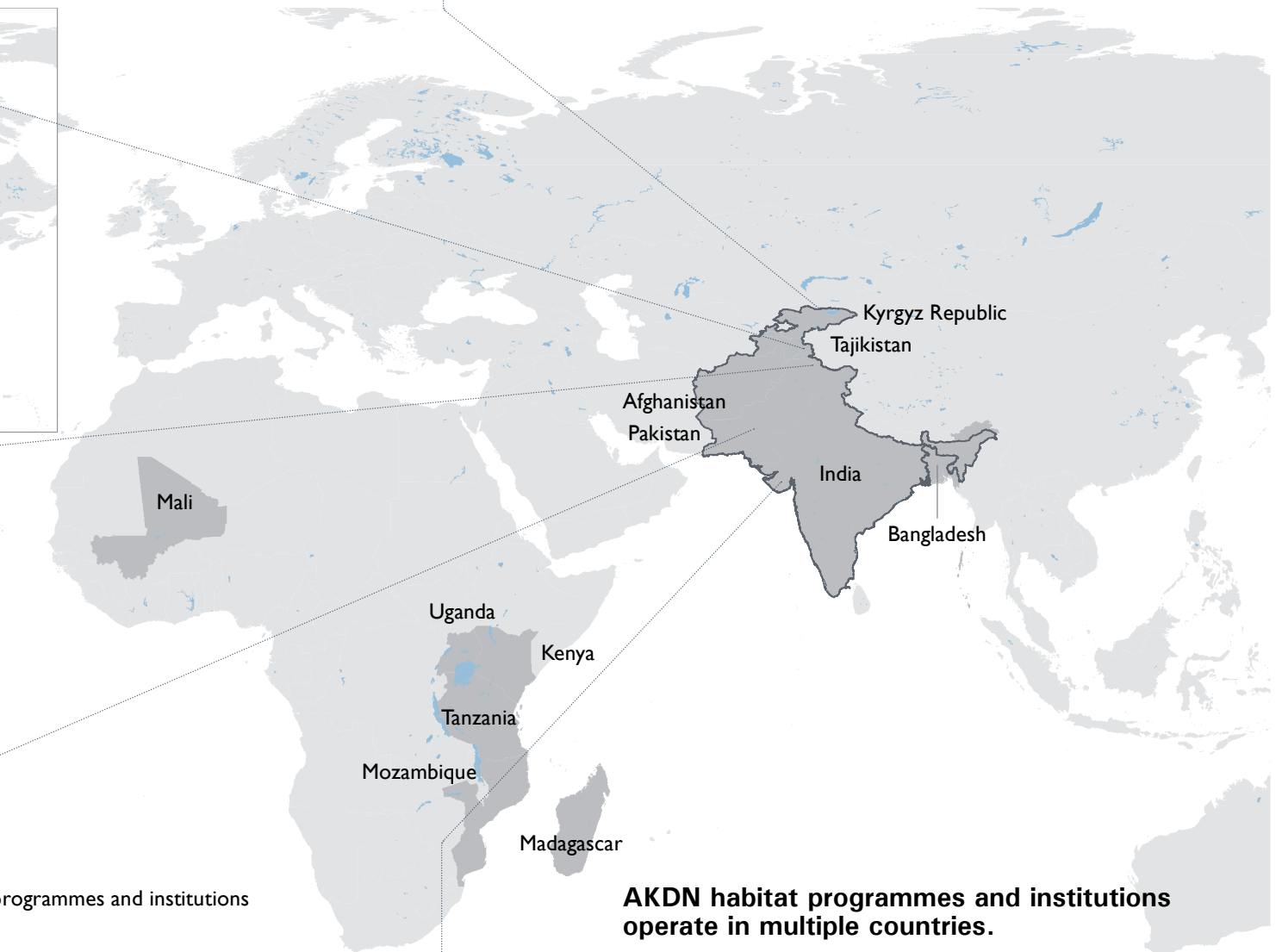
Disaster Preparedness

By installing early warning systems, moving homes and schools to higher ground, stockpiling essential goods and training emergency response teams at the village level, the AKDN reinforces the resiliency of communities living in hazard-prone regions.



Seismic Resistance

In regions prone to earthquakes and avalanches, the AKDN provides training to master masons on seismic-resistant construction. They pass along this knowledge to other local masons, helping their communities to build resilience against such hazards.



programmes and institutions

AKDN habitat programmes and institutions operate in multiple countries.

Humanitarian Relief

When **flash flooding** washed away 100+ villages in Pakistan – disrupting access to roads and causing damage to property, crops, livestock and clean water supplies – over 700 FOCUS-trained volunteers responded to the emergency.



Climate Adaptation

The AKDN's rural support programmes put **water conservation and natural resource management** at the heart of their work. In India, 4,000+ drinking water sources and 10,000+ roof rainwater harvesting structures have been built or rehabilitated.

AGA KHAN AGENCY FOR HABITAT (AKAH)

The programmes of the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat have won a number of awards, including: 2015 Times of India Social Impact Award (India); 2012 Zayed Energy Prize (UAE); 2011 Ashden Award (UK); 2009 Dubai International Award for Best Practices (UAE); 2009 Partnership for Clean Indoor Air Global Leadership Award (Uganda); 2009 and 2010 National Energy Globe Award (Czech Republic); 2006 Sitara-e-Eisaar (for earthquake relief in Pakistan); 2005 ALCAN Prize for Sustainability (Canada); and 2006 World Habitat Award (UK).

Aga Khan Planning and Building Services

Now part of AKAH, **works to improve human habitats**, particularly safe housing design and earthquake-resistant construction, village planning and natural hazard mitigation, water supply and sanitation, and improved indoor living conditions, mainly for rural communities.

Focus Humanitarian Assistance

Extends **humanitarian relief** following natural or man-made disasters. It **also prepares people living in vulnerable communities to mitigate against, respond to and recover from hazards**. In the recovery stage, FOCUS helps communities rebuild so they can function on their own, protect against future hazards and return to normal development activity and progress.

Disaster Risk Management Initiative

Serves as a focal point for the coordination of the AKDN's **risk reduction activities, particularly in Central Asia** – much of which is hazard-prone yet lacks basic standards of structural and non-structural safety and preparedness.

Aga Khan Rural Support Programmes

Some habitat-related activities of the rural support programmes have been transferred to the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat. Established in 1983, these programmes grew out of a need to **better manage scarce natural resources, including water, food, fodder and energy, which had been threatened both by climatic and man-made challenges**. Since then, they have also helped farmers generate alternative sources of income and communities explore biogas projects, windmills and solar energy in response to increasing climatic changes.

Prince Sadruddin Fund for the Environment

Promotes the management and development of sustainable natural resources through education, area development and related research that addresses existing issues in the developing world. The intention is to **assist populations that are most threatened by their natural surroundings, while working to protect fragile ecosystems** that are vulnerable to the effects of poorly planned human activity.

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: akdn.org/partners

Individuals

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

Join the conversation

