



AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Building the Infrastructure of Development



Connecting people to essential goods and services

www.akdn.org

AKDN and Infrastructure

For over 50 years, the AKDN and its predecessors have worked to overcome the obstacles to improving the quality of life. By providing technical expertise and financial means, **it has brought the benefits of public works to poor areas**, including: systems for potable water and irrigation, sanitation systems that improve health, roads and bridges that provide access to markets, energy that lights homes and provides power for industry, and mobile phone networks that have helped restore national telecommunications. These efforts have encompassed the construction of small-scale infrastructure, but they also include bigger projects – such as large-scale power-generating plants and nationwide telecommunications – which are designed to overcome specific impediments to national progress. Today, they are **often vital components of the overall quality of life**.



Telecommunications

To **create modern telecommunications in Afghanistan**, AKDN and its partners set up Roshan, which now has 6.5 million mobile phone subscribers and a network that covers 287 districts in all 34 provinces.



Roads and Bridges

AKDN programmes work to increase the assets of village organisations in poor and remote areas by **helping build thousands of small-scale infrastructure projects**, including roads, bridges, irrigation canals, water management systems, schools and health facilities.



Electricity

The US\$ 900 million Bujagali hydropower plant **provides nearly half of Uganda's electricity**, overcoming a key impediment to economic growth. In Chitral, Pakistan, mini-hydropower plants provide electricity for 50% of the province.

Each year in collaboration with its partners the AKDN :



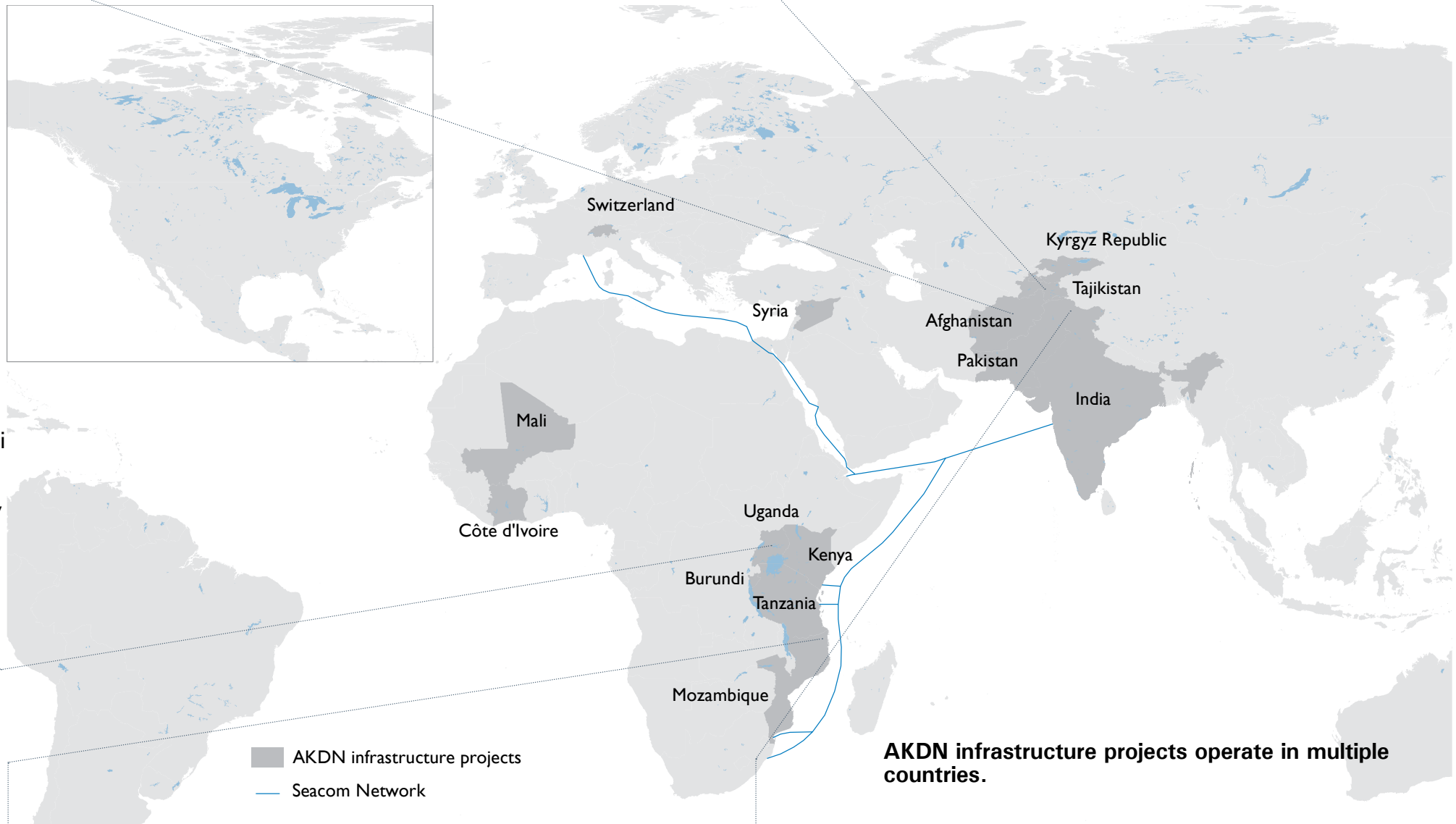
6.5 million

Provides mobile telecommunications services to 6.5 million people in Afghanistan



10 million

Provides electricity to 10 million people who were previously without reliable energy



AKDN infrastructure projects operate in multiple countries.



Bandwidth

To lower the costs and **boost the speeds of internet services in East Africa**, AKDN invested in Seacom, which deployed a subsea fibre optic network connecting South and East Africa to Europe and Southern Asia.



Water and Sanitation

AKDN programmes have constructed latrines and potable water systems **in 250 villages in Pakistan, benefiting over 200,000 people**. According to the World Health Organization, the programme has reduced diarrhoea by 60% in households and by 25% in health clinics.

The main agencies involved in infrastructure development are the Aga Khan Foundation, the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat and the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development.

Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)

AKF rural support programmes have made significant investments in micro, small and medium infrastructure, in collaboration with donor and community partners. Infrastructure investments often complement AKDN's health and education initiatives, through **school and clinic construction** and the **installation of drinking water supply systems**. Huge investments have also been made in **irrigation canals, mini-hydropower plants, roads and bridges**. These investments are intended to unlock the economic potential of isolated communities and regions in which AKF works. Highlights include: Support for more than 3,800 infrastructure projects that benefit nearly 1.2 million people in Pakistan; 5 bridges that connect Tajikistan and Afghanistan; and more than 1,800 infrastructure projects in Afghanistan.

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH)

Brings together a number of **activities focussed on preparing for both sudden and slow-onset disasters**. Building water and sanitation systems, for example, helps mitigate the risk of water-borne disease or other threats increasingly posed by natural disasters and climate change. 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 they are provided access to social and financial services that lead to greater opportunities and a better quality of life. Initially, priority areas include Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and India.

Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED)

AKFED project companies have investments in infrastructure that encompass **power generation, including renewable energy** (Azito Power in Cote d'Ivoire; Tsavo Power in Kenya; Pamir Energy in Tajikistan; and the Bujagali hydropower plant and West Nile electrification project in Uganda), **and telecommunications** (Roshan in Afghanistan; Indigo in Tajikistan; SMART in Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi). Its companies are active in 17 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Mali, Mozambique, Pakistan, Senegal, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Uganda. AKFED also invests in agribusiness, pharmaceuticals, textiles, printing and packaging, and other essential goods in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. In 2015, it employed around 47,000 people and generated revenues of US\$ 4.1 billion (all surpluses reinvested in further development activities).

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

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