



AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

## **An Overview of Rural Support Programmes**



**Improving lives of poor communities**

**[www.akdn.org](http://www.akdn.org)**

# The AKDN in Rural Areas

For over 30 years, the Aga Khan Development Network's (AKDN) model of rural development – aimed at effectively reducing poverty and improving the local economies of targeted geographies – has been adapted and replicated widely. Its main pillars are: **participatory governance**, which allows people to direct their own development; **agricultural assistance**, which works with farmers to improve yields; **non-farm enterprise and employment**, which supplements villagers' farm-based incomes; **natural resource management**, which includes equitable water use and restoration of degraded land; **access to finance**, which helps smooth erratic incomes; and the **creation of infrastructure** that improves the quality of life, such as bridges, drinking water systems and irrigation canals. As the rural development programmes move into their fourth decade, they are also addressing the emerging challenges of rapidly changing demography, climate change and unpredictable geo-political circumstances.



## Agriculture

In the remote and fragile geographies where the AKDN operates, **sustainable management of land, water, soil, plants and animals** is critical to millions of small-scale farmers, whose livelihoods depend on the productivity of their crops.

In collaboration with their partners the Aga Khan Rural Support Programmes have :



8 million

Improved the livelihood of more than 8 million people living in poor, rural areas



\$100 million

Helped 400,000 villagers accumulate more than \$100 million in community savings



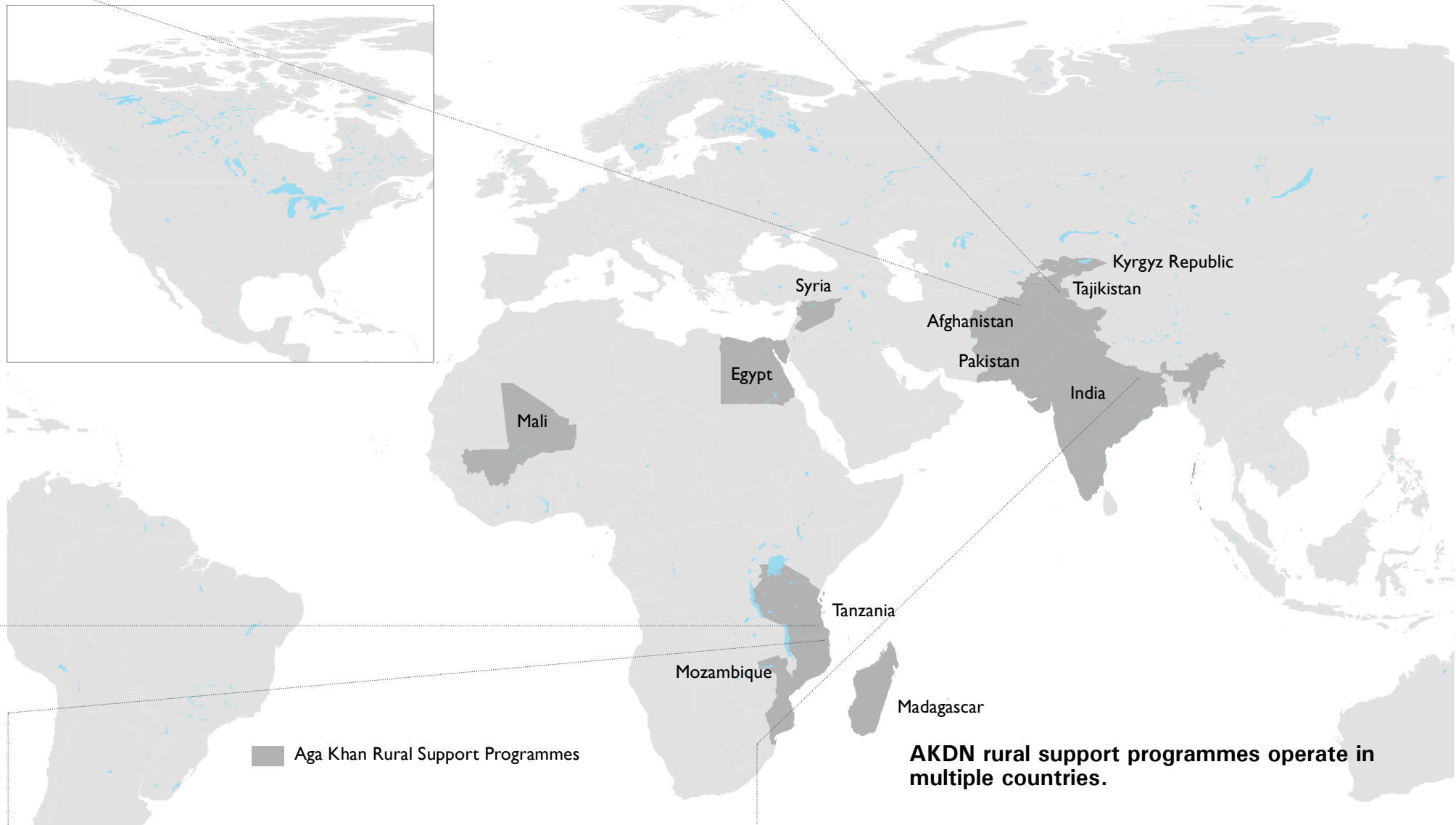
## Local Governance

Creating village organisations through which rural **communities elect their own leaders and shape their own development** – in partnership with local government – has been at the core of the AKDN's work in rural areas for over 30 years.



## Infrastructure

Investments include school and clinic construction and the installation of drinking water supply systems. Irrigation canals, micro-hydro power, roads and bridges also **help unlock the economic potential of isolated regions** where the AKDN works.



AKDN rural support programmes operate in multiple countries.



## Non-farm Enterprise

The focus on farming is complemented by activities aimed at increasing incomes from non-farm enterprise and employment. These activities **currently reach just over half a million people**; and there are plans to extend coverage to over a million by 2017.



## Access to Finance

Community-based Savings Groups help **meet the needs of those too poor or remote to access services from banks or microfinance institutions**. They provide an opportunity to save in frequent, small and varying amounts without costly or time-consuming travel.



|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>Afghanistan</b>     | Assisting 3 million people across 7 central and north-eastern provinces since 2001. Activities focus on human and institutional development, civil society, market development, natural resource management and infrastructure.   |
| <b>India</b>           | Activities since 1985. Programmes focused in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, reaching nearly 1.5 million people with natural resource and water management, alternative crops and sprinkler irrigation.   |
| <b>Kenya</b>           | In Coast Province since 1997. Assisting a target population of 130,000 to increase agricultural production and income.  |
| <b>Kyrgyz Republic</b> | Active since 2003. Reaching 310,000 people living in the mountainous areas of Osh and Naryn oblasts by introducing technologies to increase agricultural and livestock productivity, and establishing community organisations to initiate and manage village projects.      |
| <b>Madagascar</b>      | In Sofia Region since 2005. Working with 47,000 farmers to reduce poverty by improving rice yields, which have increased up to three-fold.  |
| <b>Mali</b>            | Since 2007 working with local communities in the Mopti Region to improve agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods, which in turn leads to better overall health and higher levels of literacy.   |
| <b>Mozambique</b>      | Assisting marginalised populations in Cabo Delgado since 2002. Agricultural projects now reach over 25,000 people in 6 districts.   |
| <b>Pakistan</b>        | The first country programme, operating in Gilgit-Baltistan since 1982. Interventions have helped double farm incomes, plant tens of millions of trees, construct hundreds of bridges and support thousands of infrastructure projects that benefit over 1.2 million people. |
| <b>Syria</b>           | In Salamieh District since 2003. Before the crisis, worked with rural communities on the persistent issue of water shortages, introduced modernised irrigation technology and agricultural diversification.   |
| <b>Tajikistan</b>      | Active in Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast (GBAO) since 1993, initially providing humanitarian relief. Interventions now also cover the Rasht Valley, Sughd and Khatlon, benefiting 1.4 million people.   |
| <b>Tanzania</b>        | Since 2009 operates in two of Tanzania's poorest provinces: Mtwara and Lindi. Works to improve the quality of life for targeted rural communities by training 60,000 farmers on new techniques and technologies to increase rice and sesame crop production.                |

## 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](http://akdn.org/partners)

### Individuals

Individuals can support the AKDN. For more information, visit: [akdn.org/support](http://akdn.org/support)

### Join the conversation

