



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION  
CANADA

**Annual Review**  
2017-2018







Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC) is a non-denominational international development organization and registered charity. AKFC partners with communities, businesses, and governments across Africa and Asia to fulfil its mission to break the cycle of poverty and find innovative solutions to global development challenges—undertaking these efforts in cooperation with Canada and Canadians.

Established in 1980, AKFC is an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network.

Cover photo: Mwatime Ali Mwakulo, Kenya. ©AKFC/Mohamed Altoum  
Inside cover photo: Kyyamidinova Arapkan with her granddaughter, Suranchieva Asiya, Kyrgyz Republic. ©AKFC/Nance Ackerman

# The Power of Partnership

For more than 35 years, **Aga Khan Foundation Canada** (AKFC) has brought the best of Canada to the world to change people's lives for the better.

Our approach to global development and poverty alleviation acknowledges the intertwined nature of people, institutions, and the built and natural environments. This approach depends on partnerships.

We work with partners because we do not have all the answers. Our local partners across Africa and Asia help us anchor our programming in a fine-grained understanding of the complexities on the ground, which allows us to manage risks and support transformative change in some of the toughest environments and among the most vulnerable populations.

We work with partners because we are not in the business of solving short-term problems. Our partnerships allow for greater reach and impact, contribute to global goals, and help ensure that progress is sustainable over time.

We work with longstanding partners like Global Affairs Canada to address shared priorities, such as empowering women and girls to build brighter futures for themselves, their families, and their societies.

We draw strength from an extraordinary network of Canadian partners: volunteers, donors, corporate sponsors, and supporters. You are the key to our success. Your generosity and commitment, through our annual World Partnership Walk and World Partnership Golf campaigns, allow us to mobilize the expertise and resources required to execute on an ambitious portfolio of commitments in Canada and in the developing world.

In this 2017-2018 Annual Review, we celebrate the progress that we have made together towards a more peaceful, prosperous, equal, and pluralist world.

But we cannot be complacent. Uncertainty and instability even in the most remote regions have global effects. All the more reason to remind ourselves of where we came from and our purpose going forward. We hope that this report conveys our optimism for a bright collective future, and that it will inspire you to join us as we work toward our aspirations together.

Thank you.

*Riaz Ahmed*  
*Chair, AKFC National Committee*

*Khalil Z. Shariff*  
*Chief Executive Officer*





# Our work overseas

2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Siltenbegim,  
seed farmer,  
Afghanistan.

©AKFC/NANCE ACKERMAN

Aga Khan Foundation Canada works across Africa and Asia to erect the pillars of strong societies: access to quality health care and education; economic opportunity; food security and nutrition; civic engagement; and gender equality.

We invest in local, permanent institutions like universities and hospitals to drive development for decades to come. Much of this work is undertaken in partnership with Global Affairs Canada.

AKFC is a distinctive partner for Canada because it draws on the unique expertise and resources of the **Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN)**, one of the world's most comprehensive development organizations.

AKDN operates in over 30 countries, often in fragile, remote, or post-conflict regions. AKFC focuses its programs in 15 of those countries, often adopting a regional approach to address development challenges across borders. AKFC also delivers programs in Canada to strengthen understanding, expertise, and support for development.

## Unlocking opportunity for a million people

Ambitious in scale and scope, the **Partnership for Advancing Human Development in Africa and Asia** offered a new, strategic approach to development cooperation between the Government of Canada and AKFC.

The five-year partnership invested \$100 million to address the intertwined roots of poverty that persist in Africa and Asia. Working with nine AKDN agencies, the initiative fostered improvements to health and education systems, community leadership, and gender equality. Interventions promoted innovation and created platforms for Canadians to both gain and contribute expertise on global issues. [To learn more, visit \[akfc.ca/1millionlives\]\(https://akfc.ca/1millionlives\)](https://akfc.ca/1millionlives)

## Empowered women and girls at the heart of inclusive communities

Gender and social barriers disintegrate when women and girls have access to education and health care; control their own finances and future; and participate in making decisions for their households and communities. That's why gender equality underpins AKFC's work.

[Read AKFC's Gender Equality Policy at akfc.ca](#)



**Picturing progress.** There are few job opportunities for youth in this remote, mountainous region of Pakistan. Young women like Nelofar Fatima faced additional barriers due to traditional social and gender norms. Supported by Global Affairs Canada, the **Enhancing Employability and Leadership for Youth** program adopted an innovative approach to overcoming this challenge: introducing women to non-traditional trades, such as carpentry or photography. With a Youth Micro Challenge Award, Nelofar opened the first woman-owned photo studio in the town of Skardu. Today, she employs five other women and specializes in bridal photography.

*Between 2011 and 2017 this program directly benefited 77,680 youth; and indirectly reached approximately 174,355. The number of employed young women rose nearly 30 percent as a result of the program; and 100 percent of women participants reported playing a more active and equal role in household decision-making.*



**Ensuring her voice is heard.** In Mali, too many children are excluded from school for reasons including poverty, conflict, or poor health. For girls and children with disabilities, these barriers can seem insurmountable. With support from Global Affairs Canada, AKFC, Plan International, Save the Children, and World Vision joined forces on the **Project to Improve Access to Quality Education** in Mali, which centered on gender equality and inclusion. For Coumba Dado Djim, excluded from school because she could not speak, the program was transformational: at age 10, she spoke her first words. Thanks to the initiative, her parents,

teachers, and school administrators learned how to create an environment where all children have a chance to realize their full potential.

*Between 2014 and 2017, AKFC-supported programming in the Mopti region reached 160,689 individuals, 50 percent of whom were women and girls. Together, the consortium partners reached over 858,000 women, men, and children with activities, training, and access to inclusive, quality primary and preschool education.*



## Foundations in health

AKFC takes an integrated approach to health care among vulnerable populations. With a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights, our programs educate parents in antenatal and postnatal care, train frontline community health workers, strengthen the quality and delivery of services at every level of the health system, and support the development of infrastructure and facilities capable of providing world-class care.

In 2017-2018, AKFC's health programming extended to Afghanistan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mozambique, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Tanzania, and was undertaken in partnership with **Global Affairs Canada**, **l'Agence Française de Développement**, and Canadian institutions including Toronto's **The Hospital for Sick Children**, the **International Development Research Centre**, and **Grand Challenges Canada**.

AKFC leverages the AKDN's resources and experience – anchored in decades of operating the largest non-profit healthcare system in the developing world – to strengthen the foundations of health for families, communities, countries, and regions.

**Health has a new home.** In northern Afghanistan, poverty, climate, and the distance to a hospital can mean the difference between life and death for a mother in labour. As a result, one in 52 women dies in childbirth. In April 2017, the AKDN inaugurated a new 141-bed hospital in Bamyán Province, where an older facility was struggling to meet the massive demand for care. Canada, France, and AKFC funded the construction of the state-of-the-art facility, which places particular emphasis on services for women and children. [Watch Health has a new home at akfc.ca](http://akfc.ca).

*Global Affairs Canada has been one of the AKDN's long-standing partners... now supporting so much of our work in maternal, newborn, and child health as well as health systems strengthening here in Afghanistan, and in other parts of Central and South Asia.*

— Princess Zahra Aga Khan, remarks at the inauguration of Bamyán Provincial Hospital, April 2017.

Bamyán Provincial  
Hospital, Afghanistan.





©AKFC/ TRACEY EVANS

Central Girls Primary School, Kenya.

## Partners in innovation

AKFC and other AKDN agencies actively promote innovation in the development sector, in collaboration with many Canadian organizations, universities, and research institutes. These partnerships are critical to advancing our collective understanding of what works, where we can improve, and how we can insure the best outcomes for communities in the developing world.

**Award-winning eLearning toolkit fosters literacy and numeracy in Kenya.** The promise of technology in the classroom is tantalizing, especially in countries where textbooks are outdated, in short supply, or simply not available. To address the resource gap, the Centre for the Study of Learning and Performance at Concordia University partnered with Aga Khan Academies to test a free software called the Learning Toolkit+. Teachers in Kenya were equipped with a suite of digital activities and e-books to help elementary school students master the basics of literacy and numeracy skills. Research findings and reports from teachers confirmed that children were not only learning more, but also learning at a faster pace when using the technology. In 2017, Concordia received the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize for outstanding work in Kenya, offering hope that the program will expand to other countries. The study was supported by AKFC, the International Development Research Centre, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and Global Affairs Canada.



# Engaging Canadians

2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS



*Together* exhibition at the Canadian Museum of History, Gatineau, Quebec.

©AKFC

In parallel with our work overseas, AKFC promotes discussion and learning on critical global issues in this country and helps strengthen Canadian expertise and leadership in international development. We undertake this work with and for dozens of institutional partners and tens of thousands of globally minded Canadians across the country, including educators, youth and young professionals, journalists, and Canada's development community.

In 2017-2018, we travelled from Victoria to Charlottetown, from Yellowknife to Regina – and digitally across the country – to engage, inspire, and inform Canadians. AKFC also helped share the best of Canada with the world through its longstanding International Youth Fellowship and Canadian Development Exchange programs.

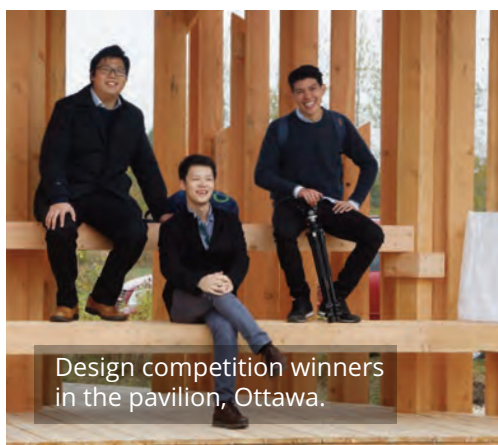
**Taking our story on the road.** *Together: An Exhibition on Global Development* showcased Canada's extraordinary impact in reducing global poverty. Housed in a custom-built transport trailer, this bilingual exhibit featured the efforts of more than 20 Canadian development organizations and traveled to all 10 provinces and one territory, welcoming more than 80,000 visitors between 2015 and 2017. *Together* received the 2017 Canadian Museum Association Award of Outstanding Achievement in Exhibitions – Cultural Heritage. [Watch Together's journey at akfc.ca](http://akfc.ca).



COURTESY OF ALLIE SHIER

**What do you want to be when you grow up?** For 2017-18 International Youth Fellow Allie Shier, this was a familiar question. And while her responses changed over the years, she was raised to believe that she could do anything if she worked hard enough. Through her placement with RangSutra Crafts in India, however, Allie quickly understood that “this question is one that many girls just like me, with ambitions and capabilities, are not afforded the opportunity – or the right – to answer.” Her host organization seeks to change this narrative while honouring rich cultural traditions. [Read Allie's full story at akfc.ca](http://akfc.ca)





Design competition winners in the pavilion, Ottawa.

©AKFC/PATRICK DOYLE

**Design that shelters and unites.** Many AKFC programs overseas work to improve food security and nutrition, and the natural and built environments. As part of the Canada 150 celebration, we partnered with Just Food and Ontario 150 to demonstrate the local connections to these global issues by inviting students from across the country to participate in the “**Growing our Community**” design competition to create a community garden pavilion in Ottawa. Luis Alvarez, Wai Kan Chan, and Di Wang from the McGill University School of Architecture garnered 5,000 votes for their open, dynamic design, which was inaugurated at the October harvest.

**Influence, inspire, innovate.** How should Canadian civil society organizations seize new policy opportunities and tackle corresponding challenges? This question was at the heart of the **2017 Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) conference**, which AKFC hosted with CCIC and the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam. AKFC presented sessions on the role of data in monitoring and evaluation; promoting gender equality in challenging contexts; and the intersection of pluralism and global development.

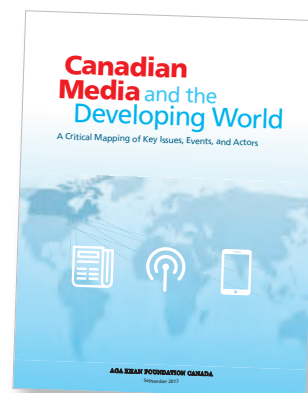


©AKFC/CYNTHIA MUNSTER

2017 CCIC Conference at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imam

**Widening Canada’s window on the world.** Canadians are avid consumers of news, but tight budgets combined with rapid change in the media landscape have reduced the amount of overseas coverage. How is this trend shaping our perceptions of the world?

In 2017, an **AKFC-commissioned report by a Carleton University and Université Laval research team** confirmed that much of the international reporting is focused on wars, terrorism, and disasters – rather than stories of progress and innovation. As our window on complex global issues narrows, the report concludes, we risk losing sight of our potential, as a country and as Canadians, to be agents of change. [Download the report at akfc.ca](#)



The **Fellowship for International Development Reporting** is a joint initiative between AKFC and the Canadian Association of Journalists, designed to foster excellence in international reporting. In 2017-2018, the fellowship enabled *Toronto Star* reporter Jennifer Yang to explore efforts to fight the prenatal scourge of Rh disease in Africa; and independent journalist Frédéric Lavoie to explore issues linked to water management and their impact on the lives of Bangladeshis for *Le Devoir*. [Learn more about the fellowship at akfc.ca](#)





# Local action Global impact

## 2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS

2018 World Partnership Walk, Calgary.

Every year, 40,000 Canadians and Canada's private sector come together to raise funds and awareness for AKFC. Two volunteer-driven initiatives focus these efforts: **World Partnership Walk** and **World Partnership Golf**.

Launched in 1985, **World Partnership Walk** is Canada's largest public movement to fight global poverty, held annually in 10 cities across the country. **World Partnership Golf**, launched in 2000, takes place in eight cities and is Canada's only national golf event dedicated to fighting global poverty.

In 2017 and 2018, AKFC and its dedicated volunteer corps introduced new platforms to inspire Canadians to take action locally and welcomed a special guest to World Partnership Walk in Toronto.

In 2017, AKFC launched the **Fundraise My Way** toolkit to help volunteer fundraisers come up with fun and engaging DIY campaigns. Vancouver teen Yasmin Rajwani took on the Fundraise My Way challenge in 2017, recruited a team across six local schools, and raised an impressive \$12,000 applying henna tattoos.

In 2017, AKFC launched the **Community Walk** toolkit to give every Canadian the chance to host a Walk close to home. Thanks to an enthusiastic group of volunteers, Kingston, Ontario hosted the first community walk – raising awareness and an impressive \$25,000. Building on their success, volunteers held their second community walk in September 2018.



**\$8,523,614**

2018 total funds raised

**36,851**

donations

**\$231.30**

average donation

**6,452**

fundraisers





© AKDN/SALINA KASSAM

Prince Aly Muhammad Aga Khan, the youngest son of His Highness the Aga Khan, was the guest of honour at the 2018 World Partnership Walk in Toronto. He expressed his gratitude to Canada and Canadians for their support to the AKDN and commitment to the alleviation of poverty in some of the most impoverished parts of the world.



© AKFC/PHIL MUSANI

2017 World Partnership Golf, Edmonton.

World Partnership Walk and Golf are made possible thanks to the generous support of Canada's private sector. Our supporters include:



Over the past three decades, Canadians have mobilized \$125 million through these initiatives — donations that go directly to support AKFC's development programs in Africa and Asia. [To learn more, visit worldpartnershipwalk.com](http://worldpartnershipwalk.com) | [worldpartnershipgolf.com](http://worldpartnershipgolf.com)



# Governance

AKFC benefits from a robust governance structure comprised of an international Board of Directors, chaired by His Highness the Aga Khan, and a National Committee. The National Committee functions as the local operating Board in Canada, fulfilling key governance and oversight responsibilities. All National Committee members are Canadian citizens and are appointed by the Board of Directors.

## AKFC National Committee, 2017–2020

Riaz Ahmed (Chair)  
*Group Head and Chief Financial Officer*  
TD Bank Group

Al Meghji (Vice-Chair)  
*Partner*  
Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP

Mahnaz Jan Ali  
*Associate*  
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP

Saifa Koonar  
*President and CEO*  
Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation

Zaylin Lalji  
*Executive*  
Larco Investments

Zainul Mawji  
*President — Home and Small Business Solutions*  
TELUS Broadband Networks

John Stackhouse  
*Senior Vice President*  
RBC

Malik Talib (Ex-Officio)  
*President*  
His Highness Prince Aga Khan Shia Imami  
Ismaili Council for Canada

Tamara Vrooman  
*President and CEO*  
Vancity

## Staff and volunteers

AKFC draws on a diverse, experienced, and passionate team of staff and volunteers across Canada. In September 2017, a group of AKFC staff and volunteers travelled to Kenya to visit Canadian-supported programs and meet our local partners like these community library members.





# AKDN

## Improving quality of life



Al-Azhar Park,  
Cairo, Egypt.

©AGA KHAN TRUST FOR CULTURE/CHRISTIAN RICHTERS

AKDN is a member of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of non-denominational agencies with individual mandates that address the social, economic, and cultural dimensions of development. Each year, AKDN helps improve the quality of life for tens of millions of people in over 30 countries. The Network invests more than \$1 billion annually in programs to alleviate poverty and promote development in Africa and Asia.

To learn more, visit [akdn.org](http://akdn.org)



Employees at  
Frigoken, Kenya.

©AGA KHAN FUND FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
LUCAS CUERVO MOURA





2017 Walrus Talks:  
Africa's Next  
Generation, Ottawa.

**AKFC is headquartered at the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamat on Sussex Drive in Ottawa.**

Established by His Highness the Aga Khan, the Delegation is a secular facility that serves a representational role for the Ismaili Imamat and the AKDN. It is a centre for convening, building relationships, bringing global perspectives to Canada, and sharing knowledge. In December 2018, the Delegation celebrated its 10th anniversary.

AKFC hosts a Visitor Program to provide the public with an opportunity to explore the Delegation through regularly-scheduled tours with volunteer guides. [To learn more, visit akfc.ca](https://www.akfc.ca)

**The Delegation in 2017-2018:**

**7,747**

Visitors

**54**

Events

**30+**

Event partners\*

**3,390**



Event participants

\* Canadian and global institutional partners

**Aga Khan Foundation Canada**

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(613) 237-2532 | 1-800-267-2532  
[akfc.ca](https://www.akfc.ca)

 Aga Khan Foundation Canada

  @akfcanda

Charitable registration number: 10007 2586 RR0001



In Canada we have a partner, a wonderful partner, who works with us not in the easy, comfortable parts of the world, but who works with us where there are challenges.... That is a unique partnership because it's a partnership for people.

— His Highness the Aga Khan, Address at Massey Hall, Toronto, February 28, 2014





AGA KHAN FOUNDATION  
CANADA

[akfc.ca](http://akfc.ca)