





# WHO WE ARE

Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC) is a non-profit international development organization and a registered Canadian charity. AKFC works with Canadians and communities in Africa and Asia to improve quality of life and find lasting solutions to the complex problems causing global poverty. In Canada, AKFC raises funds, builds partnerships with Canadian institutions, and promotes discussion and learning on global issues. We undertake these efforts with the generous support of tens of thousands of individual Canadians and Canada's private sector through World Partnership Walk and World Partnership Golf. Donations through these initiatives go directly to support our programs.

# **AREAS OF FOCUS**







Health & nutrition



Gender equality



**Economic** inclusion



Agriculture & food security



Early childhood development



Civic engagement

## **WORLD PARTNERSHIP GOLF**

World Partnership Golf is Canada's only national golf event dedicated to raising funds and awareness to fight global poverty. This annual tournament inspires Canadians to act locally to fight poverty globally. World Partnership Golf takes place in eight cities across Canada: Calgary, Edmonton, Guelph, London, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver.

Funds raised through World Partnership Golf go directly to support AKFC's programs in Africa and Asia. These initiatives improve health and nutrition, education, economic opportunity, agriculture and food security, and early childhood development. All of this work promotes gender equality, an active civil society, and environmental sustainability – to build strong, resilient communities and local institutions to sustain progress over the long-term.

Since 2000, World Partnership Golf has raised over \$18 million for AKFC's development programs, thanks to hundreds of dedicated volunteers, corporate sponsors, and individual donors across Canada.

# HERE ARE A COUPLE OF OUR IMPACT STORIES



# Micro loan, major impact: Increasing incomes in Pakistan

Tahira runs a beauty parlour in Skardu, northern Pakistan. In this region, many women do not work outside the home, but Tahira is the main breadwinner for her family while her husband is away at university.

Tahira is a member of the local community savings group. The group meets every month to save their earnings in a communal lockbox, tracking how much is contributed by each member. Members can take a loan from the pooled savings, which they pay back with interest. At the end of the cycle, each member withdraws their savings, plus interest earned.

With a loan of 30,000 Pakistani rupees (about \$250), Tahira was able to renovate her beauty parlour. She paid back her loan within three months, and now saves 2,000 rupees per month with the group. She's also training four young women to become beauticians.

Tahira benefitted from a program to improve employment and leadership in northern Pakistan. On average, women who were targeted by the program saw their incomes increase by 10,000 rupees (about \$85) per month. One of her most popular services is threading, a traditional method of hair removal in her region. She says she always carries her thread, scissors, and mirror with her, because she finds work wherever she goes.



# Making his family proud: Saving lives in Kenya

Denis is a maternity nurse and midwife at the Kenyenya hospital in southwestern Kenya. In Kenya, a third of births are not attended by a skilled professional like a doctor or midwife, and 50 percent of women do not have a check-up within two days after delivering.

This contributes to high rates of health complications and even death among women and infants.

Through a program to improve maternal and child health, the Kenyenya hospital has a new operating theatre and can now perform emergency C-sections. Staff at this public hospital, which serves almost 30,000 people, have also been trained on specialized skills in caring for pregnant women and infants. Community outreach programs dispel harmful health myths and encourage families to seek professional care.

The hospital has also made improvements to make its campus more welcoming to women, including a new maternity ward, better privacy for consultations, and upgraded washrooms.

When Denis, his wife, and their two-year-old son gather with extended family in the evenings, Denis says his father asks him in Swahili, "Leo ulisaidia wamama wangapi?" ("How many mothers did you help today?") Denis says, "I could say, 'Maybe I assisted three, I assisted two. I referred one... she got a baby through the Caesarean section.' And my dad will say, 'Oh, so you are my son. I'm proud of you.'"

# **2019 RESULTS**























# HOW A CALL TO VOLUNTEER CHANGED A LIFE

"I really felt like I was embraced, appreciated, and respected by this group of people who I admired."

Nearly a decade after bring diagnosed with psoriatic arthritis, Karen Schilling was approached by her best friend, Farzana Jamal, with an opportunity that would profoundly change her life. She invited Karen to volunteer for World Partnership Golf.

At the time, Karen had been seriously battling the symptoms of her arthritis: "I was, for all intents and purposes, homebound, moving from couch to chair. Functioning was difficult."

Knowing Farzana was counting on her, she accepted the invitation anyway. "I had started a new medication and was getting a little better, but I felt confident that I could help her at least a little bit," says Karen.

The first few days volunteering with the Golf in Toronto were long and fast-paced. "The evening was from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM, and then we got up at the next day at 6:00 AM and we weren't done until 10:00 PM," she says. "It was a big deal, but I loved every minute of it. It was great!"

Karen was initially intimidated by the calibre of volunteers she would be working alongside, though these insecurities quickly fell to the wayside. "They were all just so kind and welcoming," she says. "I really felt like I was embraced, appreciated, and respected by this group of people who I admired."

What started as one friend helping another became the catalyst for Karen to embark on her personal healing journey. "I started feeling better after that day, and it allowed me to prepare myself for the huge changes that I needed to make in order to [become healthy]. For the first time in my life – I'm well."

Not only has Karen's health improved over the course of her volunteering, but her commitment to improving the lives of others has been reconfirmed. "Always keep in mind, why you're doing what you're doing. It's not about you. It's about the greater good."

Karen's is a phenomenal story of transformation, but it is ultimately a story of gratitude. "I've received a lot of blessings because of my volunteering and they are too great to count," she says.

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