

### -VIRTUAL-VOYAGE IMPACT REPORT 2020







AGA KHAN FOUNDATION CANADA

An initiative of:

# OUR 2020 CAMPAIGN



NUMBER OF TEAMS







TOTAL RAISED FROM FUNDRAISERS AND SPONSORS IN 2020



TOTAL RAISED BY THE WORLD PARTNERSHIP WALK SINCE 1985

### As we reflect on our 2020 World Partnership Walk campaign, it is impossible to separate it from the events of the last year.

When the pandemic made it impossible to continue with our springtime Walks for the first time in our campaign's three-decade history, we invited Canadians to join us for the World Partnership Walk Virtual Voyage. Together, we traveled across Africa and Asia from the safety of our homes, to learn how Walk funds have helped to respond to COVID-19 and build global resilience to crises like the one we face today.

Although COVID-19 has complicated all aspects of our lives, we were humbled to find that our supporters' commitment did not waver. Our campaign looked different in 2020, but its spirit was the same. The Walk is about coming together to show our support and raise critical funds for Aga Khan Foundation Canada's ongoing work to reduce poverty in Africa and Asia. It is a movement the world needs now more than ever, and our supporters came through, **raising a remarkable \$5.4 million**. This brings the Walk's total fundraising to more than \$125 million since 1985, supporting more than 180 initiatives in 15 countries.

The success of this year's campaign would not have been possible without our volunteers, fundraisers, sponsors, and donors who did not let the events of the past year discourage them – and instead, joined us to face this global challenge head-on.

To all our supporters, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. As you explore this Impact Report, remember that none of these uplifting stories or achievements would be possible without you.

We wish you and your loved ones health and well-being, and look forward to a time when we can celebrate together in person once again.



Khalil Z. Shariff Chief Executive Officer Aga Khan Foundation Canada



**Fiaz Basaria** National Chair *World Partnership Walk* 

### WHO WE ARE

**Aga Khan Foundation Canada** (AKFC) is an international development organization and registered charity. AKFC partners with Canadians and communities, businesses, and governments across Africa and Asia to promote inclusive development. Since 1980, AKFC has helped millions of women and men to unlock their own potential to build a better life.

An initiative of AKFC, **World Partnership Walk** is a way for Canadians to act locally and have an impact globally. In 2020, we launched our first-ever online-only campaign, the World Partnership Walk Virtual Voyage, which spanned six weeks and thousands of digital kilometres.

### **AREAS OF FOCUS**



### **OUR 2020 JOURNEY**

At the end of the campaign, we gathered for the Homecoming Celebration. With more inspiring stories from the field and uplifting messages from our supporters in both Canada and the United States, we celebrated our collective achievements alongside our event hosts:



Sahra Ahmady



Huse Madhavji

You can relive the full Virtual Voyage and watch the Homecoming Celebration at: virtualvoyage.worldpartnershipwalk.com



David feeds his one-year-old daughter, Florence, at their home in Kisii. Living in a rural community where social norms about masculinity often prevent men from being engaged parents, David is a loving father and supportive husband to his wife, Ruth. He made sure Ruth had the support and professional care she needed during her pregnancy with Florence, thanks to resources provided by their community health volunteer and upgraded facilities at the Kenyenya hospital – both supported by Canadians.

Community campaigns, also supported with Canadian funds, have reached almost 70,000 men in Kenya, to encourage them to play a more active role within their families.



### Supporter spotlight

My son Kayaan, daughter Aaliyah, and I look forward to World Partnership Walk every year. While we didn't get a chance to celebrate in person with friends and family this year, the campaign gave us an opportunity to do more DIYs and involve more people! We were grateful to learn more about AKFC's work through the Virtual Voyage. Each stop on the journey gave us an insight into the work and how every volunteer, ambassador, and donor is helping a great deal. We feel very lucky for the opportunity to fundraise, spread the word, volunteer, and take small steps in eliminating poverty.

#### - Rahim Bhatia

World Partnership Walk fundraiser and volunteer



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Since Olga was seven years old, she dreamed of becoming a nurse like her grandfather. She recently graduated from the Pemba nursing school, with a goal of working to save the lives of women and their newborns. Our investments in the nursing school have helped teachers provide a better education for aspiring nurses – particularly those specializing in maternal and neonatal care. About 100 students graduate from the school each year. "My first day at Pemba Nursing School was... emotional," says Olga. "I had never expected that I would realize that dream to be there studying."

**IOZAV** 



Maria, president of her community health committee, educates her neighbours about COVID-19 prevention, thanks to training supported by AKFC for community health leaders before and during the pandemic.



#### Supporter spotlight

World Partnership Walk has always been close to home for me. When I started at RBC around six years ago, I was thrilled to see that they were supporting the Walk. This year was extremely different due to COVID-19. My colleague Petia and I were able to get our RBC Calgary North Community involved virtually. It was extremely eye-opening to be taken on this journey and see many countries around the world less fortunate than ours going through such hardship amidst this pandemic. No amount is too little and every dollar goes a long way to help someone in need!

- Habiba Tanha, World Partnership Walk team captain



## AFGHANISTAN

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Dr. Hajira was the first female doctor in the province of Badakhshan. When she started working at the Faizabad hospital more than 25 years ago, there were only four beds for women – and they were rarely used, since all the doctors were men. Today, she is the head of the gynecology and obstetrics ward. Thanks to Canadian support, Dr. Hajira and her team treat hundreds of women every year, and are paving the way for Afghanistan's next generation of women working in health care. "I wanted to become a doctor to serve people," she says. "I had no other goal but to save people and help them, especially women."



Using the knowledge she gained from a Canadian-supported business training program, Istoray adapted her tailoring business to sew masks for her community during the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Supporter spotlight

I have been involved with AKFC and the Walk in Montreal since its inception in 1987. Every year, I reach out to my network to fundraise, and they always respond positively to my request. The Virtual Voyage campaign demonstrated the geographical spread and diversity of the Aga Khan Development Network's institutional interventions. It was inspiring to see the tremendous impact of these initiatives on improving the quality of life of marginalized communities.

- Yasmin Nathoo, World Partnership Walk fundraiser and volunteer

## FINAL STOP ON THE JOURNEY **TAJIKISTAN**

Hangoma grew up in Khorog, where she witnessed the vulnerabilities in the region, such as poverty, isolation, and the effects of climate change. After she graduates from the University of Central Asia (UCA), she hopes to help solve these local issues, focusing on the environment. She majors in Earth and Environmental Sciences, studying a curriculum developed with Canadian support. Hangoma's classes pivoted online in 2020, but the university made sure students had the tools they needed to learn remotely, so that no one would fall behind. With campuses in three Central Asian countries, UCA is dedicated to investing in the next generation of the region's leaders, equipping students to undertake the challenges of today and tomorrow.



As a community health promoter, Jamila is an important source of information for her community – particularly for women, who may feel uncomfortable discussing personal health issues with a man.



### Supporter spotlight

Despite the COVID-19 dangers and restrictions disrupting our routines, I was still motivated to fundraise for the Walk. With the global economic fallout of the pandemic severely affecting millions of people in developing countries, the funds generated by the campaign are needed more urgently than ever. Our team, Headquarters Community, worked to fundraise over the internet and telephone, and the local community responded beyond our imagination.

- Zaitoon Shariff, World Partnership Walk fundraiser and volunteer

### **A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

### **TO OUR 2020 CORPORATE SUPPORTERS**

Your support is helping AKFC engage with Canadians and make a responsible investment towards fighting global poverty.

### TRANSFORMATIVE



VISIONARY Destination AUTOGROUP **Evergreen Hotel Group** CHANGEMAKER BMO GROUP OF COMPANIES **KV** Capital OKOTOKS HONDA HIGH RIVER ΤΟΥΟΤΑ YORKDALE TT Honda ΤΟΥΟΤΑ **COUNTRY HILLS** MAYFIELD OAKVILLE OAKVILLE ΤΟΥΟΤΑ ΤΟΥΟΤΑ INFINITI NISSAN LEXUS SOUTH POINTE WOODBINE SOUTH POINTE ΤΟΥΟΤΑ NISSAN





### **IMPACT**



Almas & Abdul Allibhai family foundation





Doulat Enterprises Inc.















SANDPIPER GROUP



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