



AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# Women's Empowerment through Skill Development - Takhar

Project Profile



Takhar, Afghanistan

**DURATION**

**2022-23**

**BUDGET**

**\$249,285** CAD

**REACH**

**1,010 people**



537  
FEMALE



473  
MALE

**PARTNER**

Afghan Women Rehabilitation and Skill Building Association (AWRSA)

**Takhar** PROVINCE



# Women's Empowerment through Skill Development - Takhar

Among the significant barriers to gender equality in Afghanistan today, the inability of women to access education and vocational training, employment, or income-generating opportunities limit their participation in household and community decision-making processes.

This initiative responds to pressing and immediate needs of women around income generation in Takhar province by providing vocational skill-building in high-demand sectors, including handcrafting, tailoring, and pickle-making. This initiative will also conduct training sessions and raise awareness in communities around women and children's health, rights, and empowerment; and support community leaders in designing gender-sensitive community development plans. These interventions will significantly contribute to providing sustainable income for women and their families, improving their household economic condition and food security.

This project is part of the Advancing Gender Equality through Civil Society component of the Foundations for Health and Empowerment (F4HE) program. F4HE aims to improve the health and well-being, and enhance the equitable development and empowerment, of women, girls, their families, and their communities.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT





AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# Women's Empowerment through Skill Development - Bamyan

Project Profile  Bamyan, Afghanistan

## DURATION

**2022-23**

## BUDGET

**\$171,439** CAD

## REACH

**1,489 people**



741  
FEMALE



748  
MALE

## PARTNER

Women Cooperation Organization  
for Development (WCOD)

**Bamyan** PROVINCE



# Women's Empowerment through Skill Development - Bamyan

Women and girls in Afghanistan, particularly in rural areas, today face significant limitations to their activities and mobility. This restricts their ability to generate income and participate in decision-making processes.

This initiative aims to respond to these challenges by equipping women and girls with essential employment and self-development skills, giving them an opportunity to generate income through tailoring, allowing for greater self-reliance and dignity. In particular, this initiative will support the capacity building of young women and girls and give them opportunities to learn vocational, professional, and entrepreneurial skills. Due to the closure of shops in the local markets, female village tailors are in great demand, ensuring a sustainable source of income. This initiative will also conduct training sessions for men and women on topics related to gender equality and equity, as well as support community leaders to design gender-sensitive community development plans.

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT







AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# Promoting Gender-Transformative Local Governance

Project Profile



Uttar Pradesh  
and Bihar, India

**DURATION**

**2022–25**

**BUDGET**

**\$490,000** CAD

**REACH**

**7,240 people**



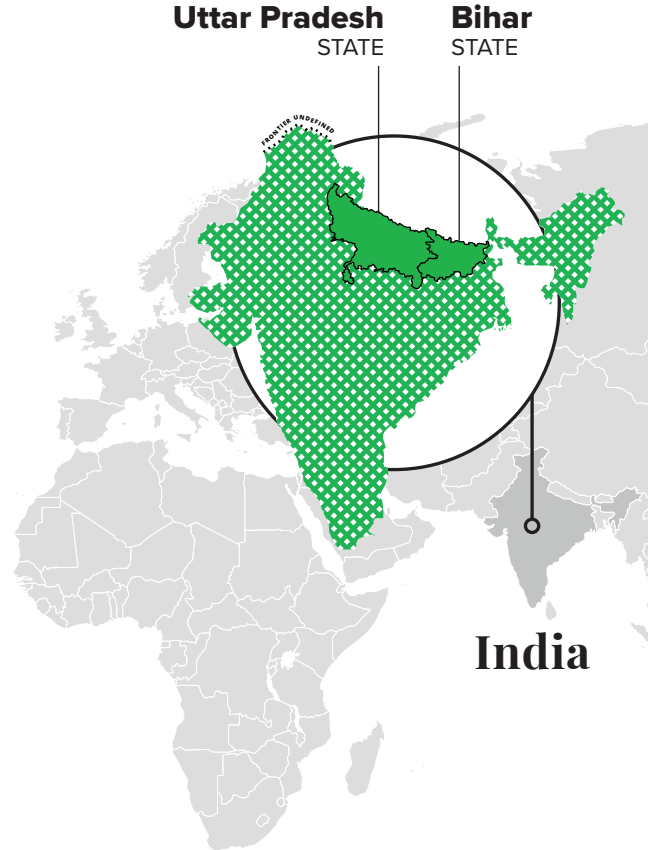
5,843  
FEMALE



1,397  
MALE

**PARTNER**

Jagori



# Promoting Gender-Transformative Local Governance

In India, multiple social and patriarchal norms limit women's participation in electoral and political processes. Women and girls also lack both role models and networks in their communities to encourage and support them to run for elected office.

Working with Jagori, a local women's rights organization, this initiative promotes gender-transformative local self-governance by empowering elected women representatives. It will do so by building their capacity, knowledge, and understanding of governance processes; creating peer support networks; and sensitizing communities, family members, and government officials on the rights of women and girls.

Through these activities, this initiative will help elected women representatives dismantle the barriers to women's participation in electoral and political processes in India. It will also support them to serve as role models in their own communities and help to create linkages with existing systems that address gender-based violence (GBV).

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT





AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# Women's Empowerment through Women's Civic Leadership, Strengthening Community Groups, and Engagement with Men

Project Profile



Madhya Pradesh  
and Gujarat, India

**DURATION**

**2022–25**

**BUDGET**

**\$483,649** CAD

**REACH**

**7,710 people**



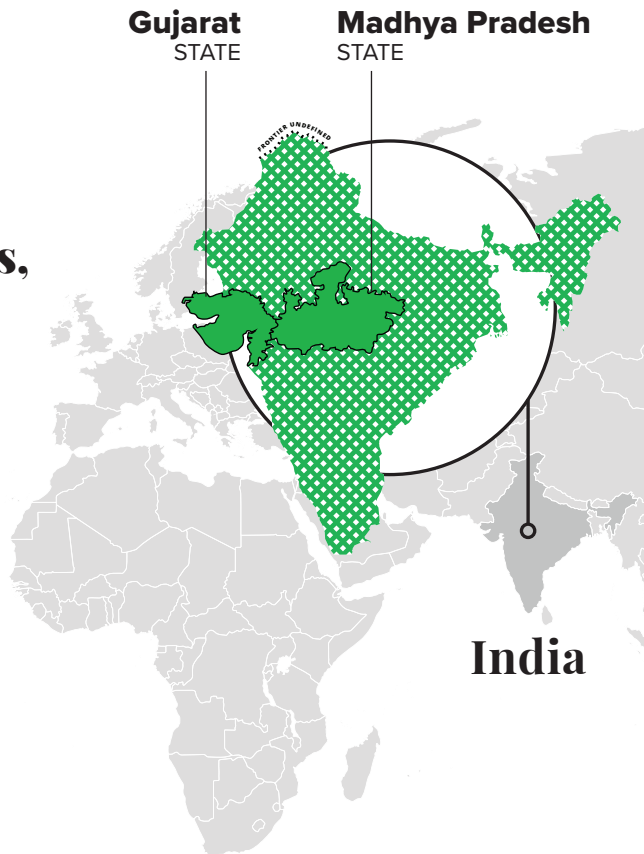
6,210  
FEMALE



1,500  
MALE

**PARTNERS**

Community-Based Women's Groups



# Women's Empowerment through Women's Civic Leadership, Strengthening Community Groups, and Engagement with Men

India ranks among the lowest countries on the Global Gender Gap Index, particularly driven by poor performance against political empowerment indicators. While policies have been put in place to increase the number of women political representatives, persistent gender norms and stereotypes often mean that these appointments are only nominal in nature and the real authority rests with these women's male family members.

This initiative improves women's political empowerment and addresses barriers to women's participation and decision-making through activities including:

**Strengthening women collectives to support women's leadership, focusing on Mahila Sabhas, women's groups, Elected Women Representative (EWR) forums, and self-help groups**

**Building the capacity of female leaders to address issues affecting women in their communities, such as gender-based violence (GBV), dowry, and other social concerns**

**Improving community knowledge of, access to, and use of government processes and systems to reduce gender and social barriers**

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT





AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# eMANcipation - Enhancing Men's Participation in Child Development

Project Profile  Naryn, Kyrgyz Republic

## DURATION

**2022-24**

## BUDGET

**\$483,420** CAD

## REACH

**2,720 people**

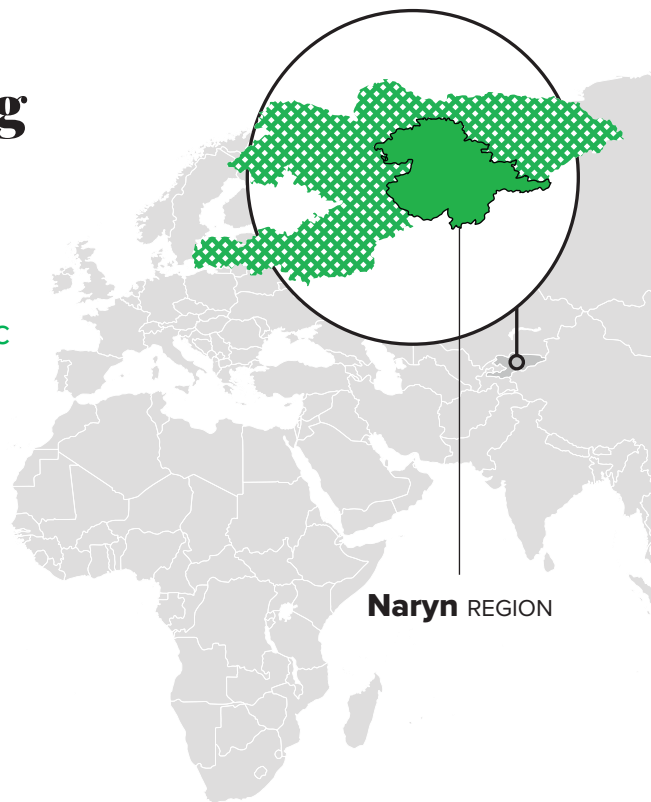
 1,364  
FEMALE

 1,356  
MALE

## PARTNERS

Roza Otunbayeva Initiative (ROI), Association of Village Health Committees in Kyrgyzstan (AVHCK)

## Kyrgyz Republic



# eMANcipation - Enhancing Men's Participation in Child Development

Parents are often children's first and most important teachers, particularly during the early years when a period of rapid brain development occurs. The engagement of adults, especially fathers and mothers, in activities with children, the presence of books and playthings in the home for the child, and the conditions of care are important indicators of a child's capacity to grow, learn, and succeed over their lifespan. However, women traditionally take on a disproportionate share of household and childcare responsibilities, limiting their engagement in community life, employment activities, and self-development opportunities.

This initiative encourages and supports men to take on a greater role in parenting by sharing care responsibilities, with a focus on quality care in the early years and improving child development indicators. It will identify and empower male champions in child development at the household level and connect parents with local government to engage meaningfully on community-driven, long-term strategies that support equal participation in child development.

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT





AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# Strengthening Local Capacity to Address Gender-Based Violence

Project Profile



Chitral, Pakistan

**DURATION**

**2022–24**

**BUDGET**

**\$408,464 CAD**

**REACH**

**7,074 people**



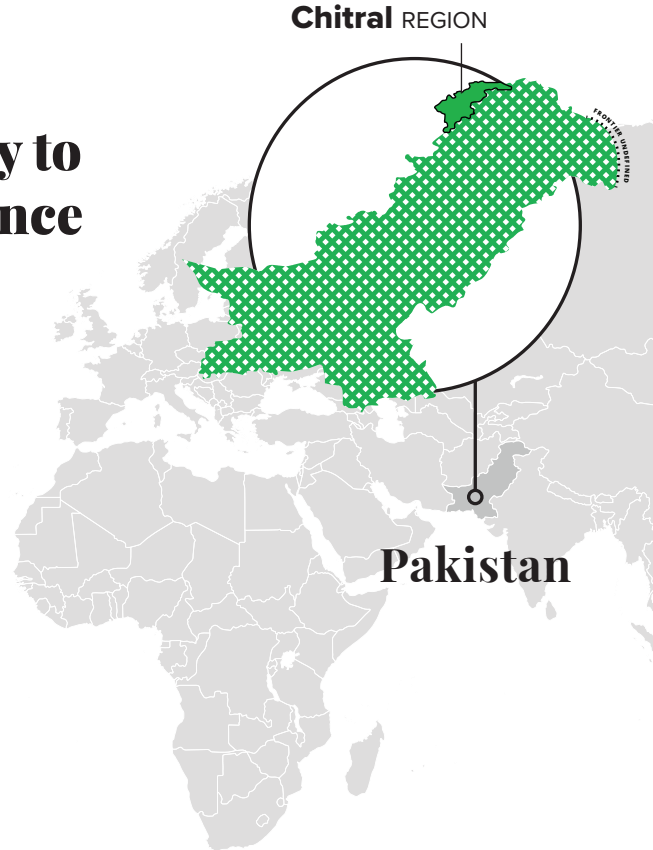
4,910  
FEMALE



2,164  
MALE

**PARTNERS**

Legal Awareness Program for Human Rights (LAPH),  
Sadabahar Hunarmand Woman Community Citizen  
Board (SBHI) Chitral



# Strengthening Local Capacity to Address Gender-Based Violence

Women and girls in Pakistan, particularly those living in remote and rural areas like Chitral, often face significant barriers that prevent them from making decisions about their lives and households. Women and girls may also experience various forms of violence based on their gender, impacting their physical and psychological well-being, and leaving long-term impacts on their lives.

This initiative addresses gender-based violence (GBV) by increasing safeguards to protect women and girls, supporting and empowering survivors of GBV, and educating community members about gender equality issues. This initiative will establish, strengthen, and enhance equitable access to legal aid and government and community support services for GBV survivors, and will build the capacity of local community structures, government institutions, and civil society organizations to identify and respond to gender and other social barriers.

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT







AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# Empowering Communities to Address Gender-Based Violence

Project Profile



Gilgit-Baltistan and  
Chitral, Pakistan

**DURATION**

**2022–24**

**BUDGET**

**\$383,853** CAD

**REACH**

**1,710 people**



999  
FEMALE



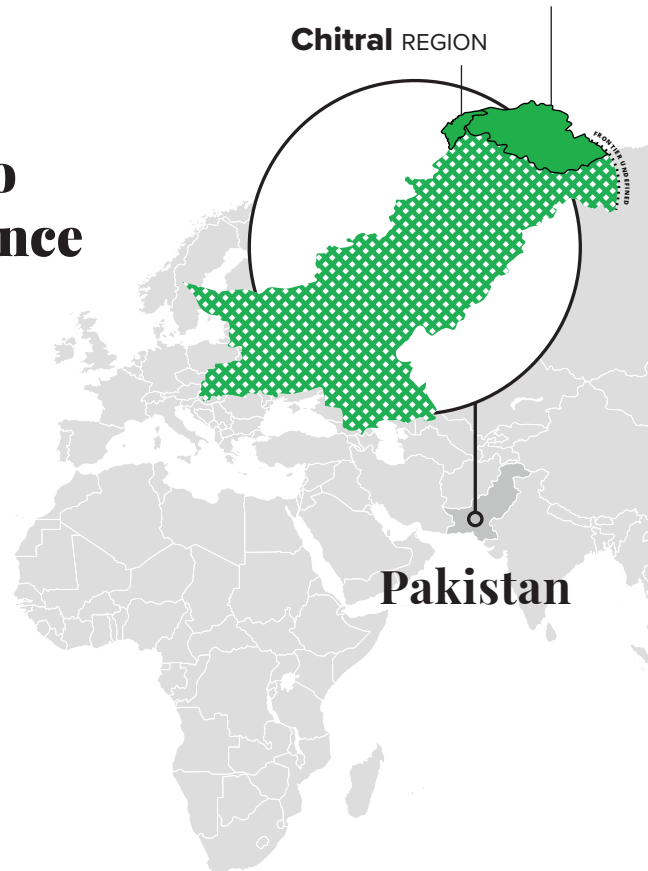
711  
MALE

**PARTNER**

Karakoram Area Development  
Organization (KADO)

**Gilgit-Baltistan** REGION

**Chitral** REGION



# Empowering Communities to Address Gender-Based Violence

Women and girls in Pakistan, particularly those living in remote and rural areas, often face significant barriers that prevent them from making decisions about their lives and households. Women and girls may also experience various forms of violence based on their gender, impacting their physical and psychological well-being, and leaving long-term impacts on their lives. This initiative addresses gender-based violence (GBV) by:

## **Enhancing knowledge of community**

**members:** conducting awareness and sensitization campaigns for children, women, men, local institutions, and public offices on how gender norms influence individual and collective behaviours; supporting men and boys to embrace positive masculinity and promote gender equality

## **Enhancing capacity of local stakeholders and civil society organizations (CSOs):**

working with public and private stakeholders to build capacity on legal rights and enforcement, case handling and investigation of GBV cases

## **Enhancing access and safeguarding:**

establishing special facilitation desks at civil courts for GBV cases, and ensuring timely access to quality services for GBV survivors

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT





AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# Strengthening Gender-Inclusive Programming

Project Profile  Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan

**DURATION**

**2022–24**

**BUDGET**

**\$250,000** CAD

**REACH**

**1,755 people**



975  
FEMALE

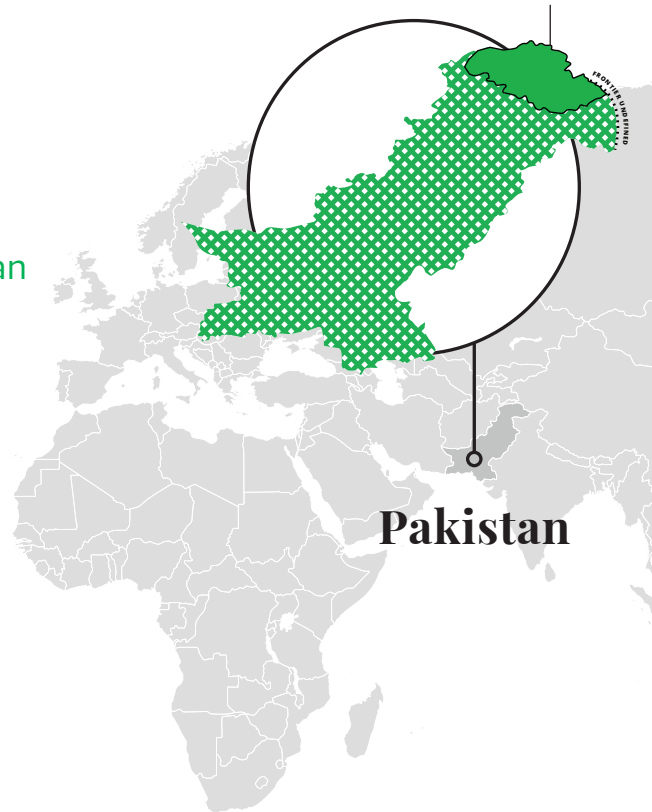


780  
MALE

**PARTNER**

Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy (PCP)

**Gilgit-Baltistan** REGION



# Strengthening Gender-Inclusive Programming

While many local civil society organizations in northern Pakistan are working to advance gender equality and improve the socio-economic status of women, their interventions, outreach, and role in their communities vary greatly.

This action-oriented research initiative aims to generate reliable evidence about the role of existing civil society organizations in advancing gender equality and the socio-economic status of women in Gilgit-Baltistan. By analyzing current challenges and opportunities, it will identify a set of recommendations to strengthen women's economic empowerment programming. To further build capacity within civil society organizations, this initiative will also offer training sessions to raise awareness of gender equality issues, connect peers, support leadership development, and identify opportunities for collaboration between local groups.

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT





AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# Addressing Gender-Based Violence through Promoting Women's Economic and Civic Participation

Project Profile



Khatlon, Tajikistan

**DURATION**

**2022–25**

**BUDGET**

**\$370,000** CAD

**REACH**

**1,741 people**



1,293  
FEMALE

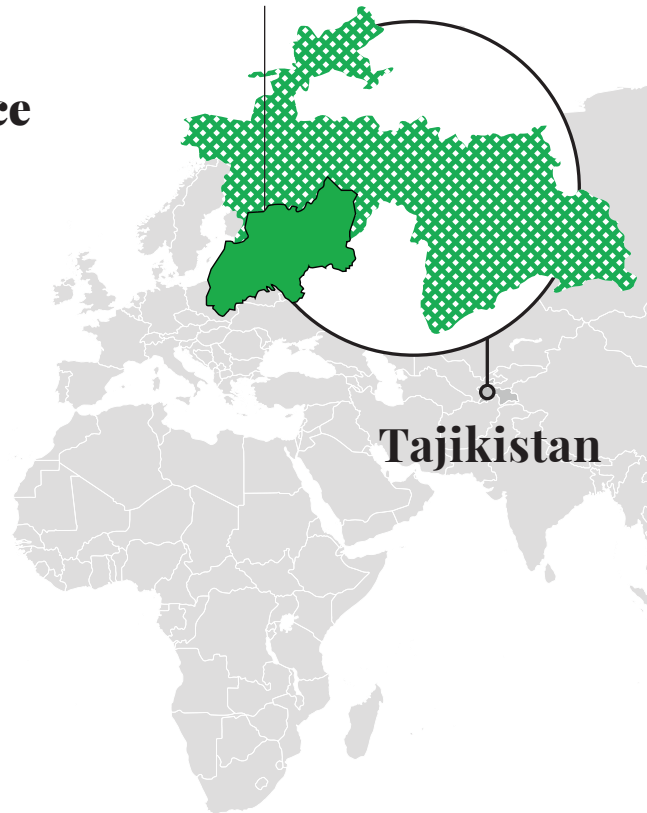


448  
MALE

**PARTNER**

Bonuvoni Panj

**Khatlon** PROVINCE



# Addressing Gender-Based Violence through Promoting Women's Economic and Civic Participation

For women in Tajikistan, particularly those in rural settings, opportunities to generate income are often limited. This often means they are also excluded from decision-making processes and participating in civic life, which contribute to lack of independence, increased vulnerability, and risk of violence, including gender-based violence (GBV).

This initiative aims to create opportunities for women to generate income by supporting vocational training, entrepreneurship, and job creation. Activities such as trainings, information sessions, and awareness campaigns will be provided to encourage community and civic participation. This initiative will also engage local government and leadership in protecting women and girls' rights, strengthening awareness of and responses to GBV, and supporting the participation of women and girls in economic and civic life.

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT





AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# School for the Advancement of Gender Equality (SAGE)

Project Profile



Afghanistan



Kyrgyz Republic



Tajikistan

DURATION

2021–24

BUDGET

\$500,000 CAD

REACH

452 people



326  
FEMALE

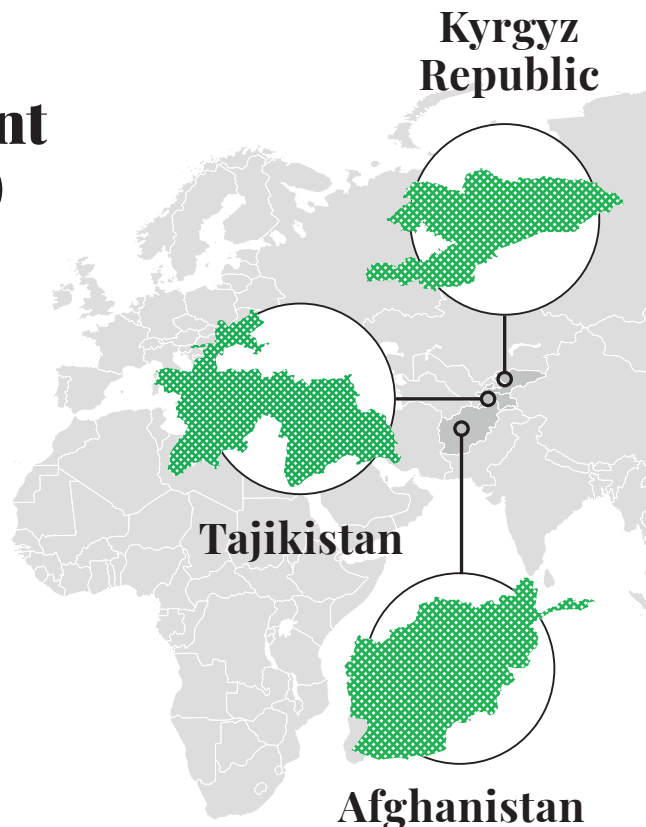


126  
MALE

PARTNER



UNIVERSITY  
OF CENTRAL ASIA



# School for the Advancement of Gender Equality (SAGE)

Established by UCA's Civil Society Initiative, the School for the Advancement of Gender Equality (SAGE) assists women's rights, gender equality, and women-led organizations to strengthen their institutional competencies.

Over a 12-month cycle, SAGE participants will have opportunities to gain knowledge and develop new skills through learning activities including:

**Regional-wide policy advocacy workshops:**

interactive workshops led by experts on effective advocacy campaigns

**Advanced advocacy courses:**

each course will be tailored to specific policy areas and designed to improve ongoing advocacy initiatives or inform future campaigns

**Study tours:** participants

will have the opportunity to see first-hand gender advocacy campaigns, risks, and risk mitigations in specific contexts, cultures, and backgrounds

**Gender advocacy forum:**

this event will feature plenary sessions with representatives from civil society, academia, think tanks, and governments

Gender advocacy grants will also be awarded to women's organizations and gender equality-focused civil society organizations.

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT







AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

## Research, Education, and Policy Analysis for Gender Equality (REPAGE)

Project Profile



Kyrgyz Republic



Tajikistan

DURATION

2022–25

BUDGET

\$1,250,000 CAD

REACH

12,760 people



6,390  
FEMALE



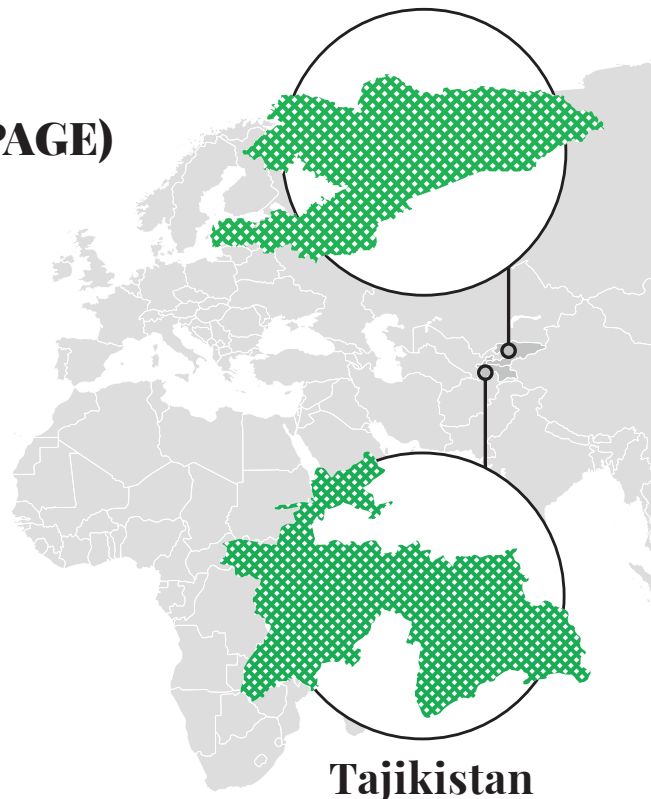
6,370  
MALE

PARTNER



UNIVERSITY  
OF CENTRAL ASIA

Kyrgyz Republic



Tajikistan

# Research, Education, and Policy Analysis for Gender Equality (REPAGE)

Through this initiative, the UCA's Civil Society Initiative (CSI) will lead research on civil society and gender, becoming a regional knowledge hub for Central Asia. Drawing on the expertise of UCA's School of Arts and Sciences, Institute of Public Policy and Administration, Mountain Societies Research Institute, Cultural Heritage and Humanities Unit, Aga Khan Humanities Project, as well as independent researchers, this initiative will take a multidimensional approach to understanding the problems faced by women, particularly rural women, in the region, and the state of civil society and civic participation.

Using data and conclusions from the research components of this initiative, CSI will also develop and deliver a range of training and educational programs that enhance the knowledge base, capacity, skills, and implementation ability of civil society actors. These include:

**A certificate program in gender equity and women's empowerment**

**A certificate program for CSOs in non-profit management**

**Online training courses and resources for regional civil society organizations**

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT





AGA KHAN FOUNDATION

# Women's Leadership Academy (WLA)

Project Profile



Afghanistan



India



Kyrgyz Republic



Pakistan



Tajikistan

DURATION

2021–24

BUDGET

\$550,000 CAD

REACH

90 people



90  
FEMALE



0  
MALE

PARTNER



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



# Women's Leadership Academy (WLA)

The Institute for Human Development (IHD) at the Aga Khan University (AKU) is developing the Women's Leadership Academy (WLA), a mentorship program that aims to enhance women's leadership and decision-making within civil society.

By investing in emerging women leaders, the WLA will support gender equality, inclusive governance, and community transformation at the organizational, community, and country levels. The WLA will be a six-month blended-learning course with five modules and two themes, based on needs assessment surveys conducted with women in the selected countries.

**Unravelling socialization:** understanding gender norms, barriers, and the impact of historical injustices and culture on girls and women as leaders

**Leading oneself and others:** understanding strategies for self-awareness, wellness, and communication and how these skills intersect with leadership

**Leading for impact:** strategic thinking, focused action, and organizing teams for impact

**Life and business skills:** business management, entrepreneurship, and financial management

**Learning to learn:** knowledge building, mentorship, and networking for results

The WLA will also provide networking and mentorship opportunities for women leaders of civil society organizations in Asia.

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## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

