

## **AKDN's Tajikistan-Afghanistan Cross-Border Activities**

As part of a broader regional cooperation agenda, AKDN is creating linkages between communities in the mountainous areas of Southeastern Tajikistan and Afghanistan's Badakhshan province.

Since 2002, the AKDN has built and rehabilitated four bridges over the Pyanj River that now connect the two regions. For Afghans, the bridges have improved food security, emergency medical treatment at Tajik hospitals and better delivery channels for humanitarian aid. Busy cross border markets draw over 1000 traders on a weekly basis.

AKDN's PamirEnergy project, aimed at rehabilitating the electrical infrastructure and expanding hydropower in Tajikistan, opened a cross-border transmission line connecting its grid to one district in Afghanistan in 2008. Afghan beneficiaries of the new cross-border transmission line include some 350 households, a hospital and a main government building.

In Tajikistan, the University of Central Asia has begun offering training courses to employees of Afghan state and civil society organizations. Over 5000 people have graduated from the programme, including 30 Afghans. UCA is also in planning stages for a learning centre on the Afghanistan side of the border.

AKDN is working on teacher training in Tajikistan and with a counterpart institution in Afghanistan to expand cross-border educational exchanges. With the support of AKDN, the Tajik institution has conducted management training, translated teacher guides and Tajik learning resources into Dari, and sent key staff to provide assistance to the Afghan institution.