

The Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) is promoting since many years sustainable mountain development in the Pamir and Hindukush regions of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and bordering Rayons of Kyrgyzstan as well as in the Central Highlands of Afghanistan. The goal of all programs is to improve the quality of life of mountain populations.

A significant institutional asset is AKF's multi-sectoral approach enabling well synchronized interventions of its different agencies and sector teams covering education, health as well as agriculture, enterprise promotion, microfinance and rural infrastructure to increase assets of people and reduce their vulnerability by shocks, trends or seasonality.

All AKF programs are community centered and prioritizing interventions based on participatory community and district development planning.

The AKF is achieving significant impact on poverty alleviation mainly for two reasons: i) Empowered people and communities cope better with their comparative disadvantages of remoteness and limited access to resources. They actively link up with service providers and seek support where needed; and ii) the AKF has the capacity to provide, but mainly to facilitate support in case communities cannot access services.

External funding for non existing livelihood services in mountain areas is a permanent challenge. AKF's strong presence with multi-sectoral competence in participatory development results in good targeting of interventions and reducing costs of development services, while AKF's close dialogue with donors, government, private sector and regional support organizations, aiming at mobilizing resources, is another essential function in AKF's long term partnership with mountain societies.