



AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

**THE ISMAILI IMAMAT AND
THE AGA KHAN DEVELOPMENT NETWORK IN PORTUGAL**



HIS HIGHNESS THE AGA KHAN



Above: His Highness the Aga Khan

Photo credit:AKDN

Cover: President of the Portuguese Republic Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa presented the Aga Khan with the *Grã-Cruz da Ordem da Liberdade* in recognition of his service to uplifting lives around the world, Lisbon, Portugal, 20 July 2017.

Photo credit:AKDN / Antonio Pedrosa

His Highness Prince Shah Karim al-Hussaini is the 49th hereditary Imam (spiritual leader) of the Shia Ismaili Muslims. The Ismailis, an ethnically and linguistically diverse community residing in many countries across the world, are the only Shia Muslim community led by a living Imam who is vested with global religious authority and has the responsibility for the community's spiritual and material well-being. In Europe, Portugal has one of the largest concentrations of Ismaili Muslims.

His Highness the Aga Khan succeeded his grandfather, Sir Sultan Mahomed Shah Aga Khan, as Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims in 1957 at the age of 20. Since taking on his role, the Aga Khan has dedicated his efforts to improving the quality of life of the world's most vulnerable in society, while emphasizing the view of Islam as a thinking, spiritual faith: one that teaches compassion and tolerance and that upholds human dignity.

In Islam's ethical tradition, religious leaders not only interpret the faith but also have a responsibility to improve the quality of life of their community and society in general. For the Aga Khan, this has meant a deep engagement with development for over 60 years through the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a group of private, international, non-denominational agencies he founded that work to improve living conditions and opportunities for people in the developing world. The Network's organizations have individual mandates that range from the fields of health and education to architecture, rural development and the promotion of private-sector enterprise.

In recognition of the Aga Khan's exceptional efforts and contributions to human development and improving the social condition of societies globally, the Aga Khan has received numerous decorations, honorary degrees, and awards from institutions and countries across the world.

In Portugal, the Aga Khan has been the recipient of the country's highest honours and awards. In 2014, the Aga Khan received the Council of Europe's annual North-South Prize for his commitment to furthering a more pluralistic society and his achievements, through the work of the AKDN, in improving the quality of life of some of the world's most vulnerable people. He was the first Muslim religious leader to be awarded this Prize.

In 2017, Portugal's President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa bestowed the Grand Cross of the Order of Liberty on the Aga Khan at Lisbon's Belem Palace. He also received an Honorary Doctorate from Universidade Nova de Lisboa for his longstanding commitment to improving the quality of life of people within the developing world and elsewhere.

Left: His Highness the Aga Khan welcomes Mozambique's President, His Excellency Armando Guebuza, at the Polana Serena Hotel in Maputo, 16 December 2010.

Photo credit: AKDN / Zahur Ramji

Right: His Highness the Aga Khan welcomes Professor Charles Correa to a luncheon hosted ahead of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture ceremony at the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon, 5 September 2013.

Photo credit: AKDN / Gary Otte



THE ISMAILI IMAMAT AND PORTUGAL

The Ismaili Imam, which spans 1400 years, is the institution or office of the Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims. The history of partnership between the Ismaili Imam and Portugal is one that dates back centuries. In reflecting on this history at the International Symposium at the University of Évora in 2006, the Aga Khan remarked:

“This country and this university know from your own history how Islamic and Christian cultures met in this part of the world many centuries ago—and how enriching their interactions were for both traditions. This is a good time and place to emphasize the manifold blessings that come when peoples decide to stop shouting at one another, and instead begin listening and learning.”

“Cross cultural interaction has been a central focus of my own activities in the nearly 50 years since I became Imam of the Shia Ismaili Muslims. The ethics of Islam bridge faith and society, so my responsibilities as spiritual leader are accompanied by a strong engagement in issues of community well-being.”

The Ismaili Imam’s presence and recognition within Portugal and in certain Portuguese speaking countries continues to strengthen over time as evidenced by the ongoing collaborations with the Portuguese community, their civil society organizations, and government. The Imam’s activities in the country operate within the framework of the agreements established between the Ismaili Imam and Portugal, namely the Protocol of Cooperation with the Portuguese Government signed in 2005, the Protocol of International Cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed in 2008, and the Agreement established with the Portuguese Republic signed in 2009, which recognised the legal personality of the Ismaili Imam.

In June 2015, the Aga Khan established a formal Seat of the Ismaili Imam in Portugal pursuant to a landmark agreement signed by Minister of State and then Foreign Affairs Rui Machete. This agreement affirms the interest of the Ismaili Imam and the Government in the establishment of a Seat

An AKF Photography Workshop with Fred Roberts in Lisbon provided youth the opportunity to identify, critique, question and analyse fundamental global issues in their local communities through the lens of photography. This model of learning integrated diverse socio-economic perspectives, and in the process forged a strong sense of connection and respect among the students.

Photo credit: AKDN / Cristina Nunes



In 2016, during a visit made by His Highness the Aga Khan to Portugal, President de Sousa remarked:

“What really brings us together is a joint commitment to defend and apply the principles and values that honour the ethical importance of human life, pluralism of societies and respect for the dignity of human beings.”

“The values of your civil society are the same values that we defend,” responded His Highness the Aga Khan. “We have therefore great commonality in the work we do, not only here in Europe, but in Africa, Asia, and elsewhere.”



of the Ismaili Imam at in the territory of the Portuguese Republic, as well as the mutual trust and esteem that has traditionally characterised the relationship. Thanking the government for inviting the Ismaili Imam at to establish a permanent Seat in Portugal, the Aga Khan hailed the agreement as a historic milestone in the Imam at's history. He noted that the agreement provides an enabling framework, which will facilitate the work of the Ismaili Imam at and the Imam globally.

Moreover, the agreement is a reflection of the Ismaili Imam at's and Portugal's common objectives in areas such as the defence of human dignity, economic and social development, interfaith dialogue and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, as ways of achieving justice and peace. The accord will therefore result in intensified cooperation between Portugal and the Ismaili Imam at in supporting research and a knowledge society and in improving the quality of life of Portuguese people in Portugal, in Lusophone countries and around the world.

Also in 2015, the AKDN strengthened one of its partnerships with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe whereby the AKDN committed to financially supporting the North South Centre with 150,000 Euros over a period of three years, for research and initiatives that will improve the quality of life in developing countries. In 2017, this commitment was renewed for another two years, 2018 and 2019, for a total amount of 100,000 Euros.

His Highness the Aga Khan arrives at the University of Évora, Portugal and is greeted by (left to right) Professor Adriano Moriera; the Rector of University of Evora, Professor Manuel Patricio; Portuguese Foreign Minister, Freitas do Amaral; and the Mayor of the city of Evora, José Ernesto Oliveira; Évora, 12 February 2006.

Photo credit: AKDN / Gary Otte

CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY AND DEVELOPMENT

The work of the Ismaili Imamat is driven by a firm belief in a shared humanity. In pursuing its mandate and in the course of improving the quality of life of those communities within which Ismailis live, the Imamat recognises the importance and value of partnership. The work of the Imamat and the AKDN generally relies heavily on community-driven models, consultation and dialogue, as well as the engagement of people from all backgrounds, regardless of faith, gender or origin.

Aga Khan Foundation Portugal

In considering Portugal's pluralistic outlook and the Aga Khan's commitment to community building, the Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) Portugal – an agency of the AKDN – was established almost four decades ago in 1983.

AKF programmes in Portugal aim to improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable in society, mainly those with migrant backgrounds, through five thematic areas: early childhood development (ECD), education, civil society, economic inclusion and seniors. The programmes are anchored in Greater Lisbon but have a footprint that is now expanding to Porto and, through partners, on a national basis.

Since 1983, AKF has been building on the successful model (set up in Lisbon) to foster a national network of **early childhood development** quality providers. Already recognised as a leading voice in the field, AKF has influenced both government and practitioners to adopt holistic approaches valuing diversity in education and care, as well as participatory pedagogies in communities across the country. The ECD and education activities of AKF Portugal benefit close to 100,000 people, encompassing the PPP for the management of the ECD Centre in Lisbon, started in 2009 at the request of the Government. The related programmes such as the Family Literacy Programme support around 200 public and school libraries, and associations across the country in

Left: Efforts to improve the educational system are focused on raising students' learning achievements and reducing drop-out rates, particularly in schools with a high number of immigrant children and youth who lack learning support at home.

Photo credit: AKDN / Lucas Cuervo Moura

Right: AKF is a key stakeholder of the Portuguese Diversity Charter, which encourages employers to implement policies that promote diversity in the workplace. Efforts are underway to strengthen employability networks, and improve vocational training and job placement.

Photo credit: AKDN





strengthening family literacy activities. The Childminders Programme is strengthening 150 professionals across the country in partnership with the Association of Early Childhood Education Professionals (APEI) and the Bissaya Barreto Foundation, supported by the longstanding global partnership with J&J Citizenship Trust Fund. The Parenthood Support Programme (Gerar.te) is a pilot parenting programme focused on pregnancy and the transition to parenthood that promotes “good starts” and early development opportunities for children through health centres and other frontline organisations delivering care.

The Network began its investment in early childhood development in the early 1980s, by undertaking hands-on research to develop a child-centred learning model that would transform the preschool experience.

Photo credit: AKDN / Anaya Galibdin

Additionally, AKF has developed a set of pedagogical tools that enables teachers and school administrators to provide children with an **education** focused not only on a core curriculum but also on soft skills and multiple literacies that encourage an ethical, pluralist outlook. It also advocates for learner agencies and lifelong learning awareness and motivation. Working through the Ministry of Education across 600 schools in Portugal, AKF is developing a network of learning communities that will improve practices and outcomes in the country’s schools.

In the area of **economic inclusion**, AKF has successfully launched local employment networks that match job seekers with businesses. These networks ensure access to stable employment by improving coordination among local employment services, as well as enhancing technical and soft skills for unemployed people. AKF has also piloted

vocational training and income-generation activities to foster sustainable employment, and access to finance for micro and small to medium enterprises while valuing culture heritage and local knowledge.

In support of strengthening **civil society**, AKF encourages self reliance, the development of effective leadership skills and good local governance for the purposes of creating equal opportunities for all. The Urban Community Support Programme (UCSP) started in 2009 benefits many people including immigrants and minorities. It is a model designed to strengthen human capacity and develop dynamics of economic and social inclusion through participatory processes that foster talent and creativity. AKF also promotes the Portuguese Diversity Charter, a European Union initiative that is being adopted by employers across Portugal, in partnership with the High Commission for Migration. The Diversity Charter provides businesses with tools and learnings to enable them to embrace, rather than fear, diversity in their workforce. This initiative currently engages more than 200 employers.

The Aga Khan Foundation has been working closely with the Government and the Patriarchate of Lisbon to establish models of inclusion, representation and care for senior citizens – efforts that have benefited approximately 30,000 people to date.

Photo credit: AKDN / Lucas Cuervo Moura

Since it was established, AKF Portugal has developed programmes focused on enhancing the well-being and welfare of **senior citizens** in Portugal. In 2009, it launched a study to address the needs of senior people in Portugal (commissioned to CEDRU and the Boston Consulting Group (BCG)). AKF has been working closely with the Government and the Patriarchate of Lisbon to establish models of inclusion, representation and care for senior citizens – efforts that have benefited approximately 30,000



people to date. AKF continues to develop solutions for the isolation faced by senior citizens by working with community groups – from schools to professional associations and volunteers – in order to engage them in dialogue and local action. AKF is also connecting a community of practice around effective models of care for senior citizens, encouraging a higher quality of life that promotes greater participation and representation in society.

AKF has also taken a leadership role in the fields of inclusion and immigration. The High Commission for Migration has recognized AKF's innovative work in developing community-led models of inclusive citizenship. It has also requested technical assistance to take the approach to a national scale in order to start building the capacity of all immigrants associations in the country.

Throughout its 35-year engagement in Portugal, AKF has forged longstanding partnerships with not only municipalities, community associations, government, local authorities and businesses in the country, but also with academic institutions and civil society partners across Europe including the Lisbon and Porto Holy House of Mercy and the Catholic University in Lisbon.

The Urban Community Support Programme (UCSP) started in 2009 and benefits many people including immigrants and minorities. It is a model designed to strengthen human capacity and develop dynamics of economic and social inclusion through participatory processes that foster talent and creativity.

Photo credit: AKDN



CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

In education and research, the AKDN's investments have ranged from cooperative ventures dedicated to advancing research in areas such as poverty alleviation, migrant resettlement and biodiversity to financial support for Portuguese-based initiatives. Examples include the National Reading Plan, into which almost half a million Euros went towards benefitting hundreds of schools in Portugal.

Aga Khan University

The Aga Khan University (AKU), another AKDN agency, has had a longstanding presence in Portugal. It has contributed its expertise to and partnered with various Portuguese institutions.

In 2008, the AKU and the Catholic University of Portugal signed a five-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on academic collaboration. The MoU addressed common interests in areas related to culture, law, religion, ethics, health sciences, education and human development. A second five-year MoU was signed in September 2013, with a broadened focus to address shared objectives in culture, law, religion, governance, digitization of archives (world of the Indian Ocean), bioethics, health sciences (nursing) and human development.

A few years later in 2016, the Ismaili Imamat and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education signed a Protocol of Cooperation in Science and Technology, to foster the welfare of people in African Portuguese-speaking countries and elsewhere in Africa. The Protocol aims to deliver scientific and technical research to assist in advancing the quality of life in both Portugal and Africa. The Ismaili Imamat committed 10 million Euros towards this work. In 2017, the first call for the funding of shared projects on scientific investigation was launched. In February 2018, a grant of 4.6 million Euros for 16 investigation projects was confirmed. A second call for funding will be launched in July 2018.

(Left) Early childhood development and (right) health and nutrition interventions in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique. In 2016, the Ismaili Imamat and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education signed a Protocol of Cooperation in Science and Technology, to foster the welfare of people in African Portuguese-speaking countries and elsewhere in Africa. This agreement builds on nearly two decades of development work that the Network has been implementing in Cabo Delgado, the northernmost, and poorest, province of Mozambique where the Aga Khan Foundation works with communities in 13 districts.

Photo credit: AKDN / Lucas Cuervo Moura





Aga Khan Academies

The AKDN's contributions in the field of education in Portugal and elsewhere are far reaching and include support and opportunities for students from pre-school to university. Plans for an Aga Khan Academy in Portugal are underway.

The Aga Khan Academies, which were launched in 2000, encompass an international network of schools of excellence, with a curriculum based on the International Baccalaureate. They are dedicated to increasing access to quality education, from pre-school to secondary school. Enrolment to the Academy is based on merit rather than on a family's financial capabilities.

The first Aga Khan Academy opened its doors in Mombasa, Kenya in 2003. The Aga Khan Academy Maputo – the first Academy in a Portuguese speaking country – opened its doors to student in 2013. In January 2018, the official inauguration of the second phase of the buildings and campus took place. The next construction phases will include residences, sports areas, a secondary school and senior library – all of which will be built in sequence through 2020 and will eventually accommodate 750 pupils.

The Aga Khan Academy Maputo is the third in the network of Aga Khan Academies and the first in a Portuguese speaking country. It follows the highly successful model established by the first two Academies in Mombasa, Kenya and Hyderabad, India.

Photo credit: AKDN / Lucas Cuervo Moura

CONTRIBUTIONS TO CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

In the field of culture, several initiatives have taken place in Portugal to promote a better understanding of the legacy, the traditions and the cultural sensitivities of communities from Muslim countries, as well as to promote culture as a catalyst for development.

Ismaili Centres

One of the most enduring and visible contributions to culture by the Ismaili Imam in Portugal was the development of the Ismaili Centre, Lisbon. One of six Ismaili Centres across the world, the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon was opened 20 years ago on 11 July 1998 in the presence of the Aga Khan and then Republic of Portugal President Sampaio.

Ismaili Centres are symbolic markers of the permanent presence and core values of Ismaili communities around the world. Incorporating spaces for social and cultural gatherings, intellectual engagement and reflection, as well as spiritual contemplation, they are bridges of friendship and understanding, and serve to enhance relationships among faith communities, government and civil society.

Left: One of the most enduring and visible contributions to culture by the Ismaili Imam in Portugal was the development of the Ismaili Centre, Lisbon.

Photo credit: AKDN

Right: His Highness the Aga Khan and Prince Aynan Aga Khan examining, with Indian architect Raj Rewal (left), a model of the Lisbon Ismaili Centre under construction in Lisbon, 18 December 1996.

Photo credit: AKDN

At the foundation laying ceremony in 1996, then President Sampaio described the contribution that he saw the building making by observing that *“the future Ismaili Centre will be an important element in the permanent dialogue amongst cultures, a place of encounter between civilisations, of discussion of ideas, and of serene and mutually enriching debate on the great problems that are of legitimate and equal concern to all”*.

The design and construction of the Ismaili Centre, Lisbon, brought together two renowned architects, Raj Rewal of New Delhi and Frederico Valsassina of Lisbon, who led a team of professionals in bringing to life the vision of the Aga Khan.





Today, the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon is animated by activity and events in which people from Portugal and around the world participate year round. It is not uncommon for the Centre to be full of elementary students in the day learning about the shared values of the Ismaili and Portuguese community and enlivened at night with musical concerts showcasing some of the world's most renowned artists. Annually, AKDN hosts events organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe at the Ismaili Centre in Lisbon, in areas such as intercultural dialogue and education, including the annual *Lisbon Fora*.

Restoration and Architecture

The Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) is yet another agency of the AKDN dedicated to the physical, social, cultural and economic revitalisation of communities particularly – but not exclusively – within the developing world. Some of AKTC's initiatives include the Aga Khan Museum in Canada, the Aga Khan Music Initiative (AKMI), the Aga Khan Historic Cities Programme (AKHCP) and the Aga Khan Award for Architecture (AKAA). Its activities include the design and creation of parks and green spaces, restoration projects of heritage and historical sites, and promotion of music and art, all pursued with a desire to inspire hope, connect communities, and stimulate mutual respect and understanding.

In addition to the AKAA ceremony that took place at the São Jorge Castle in 2013, AKTC has also provided support to the Lisbon Architecture

His Highness the Aga Khan addresses the audience during the award ceremony of the 12th cycle of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, presented in Lisbon, 6 September 2013.

Photo credit: AKDN / Gary Otte



In 2008, “The Path of Princes: Masterpieces of the Aga Khan Museum Collection” exhibition was held at the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon.

Photo credit: AKDN / Carlos Azevedo

Triennale, namely to the cycle of conferences *Distância Crítica* (Critical Distance) by internationally renowned artists. It has also supported the rehabilitation of the roof of the Silves Cathedral.

More recently, AKTC has been actively leading the restoration of the Henrique Mendonça Palace, which will house a global Seat of the Ismaili Imamat.

Music and Art

In Portugal, AKTC has undertaken a range of activities in the areas of music and art. For example, in 2008, “The Paths of Princes: Masterpieces of the Aga Khan Museum Collection” exhibition was officially opened at the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon by Emílio Rui Vilar, President of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Prince Ayn Aga Khan, the Aga Khan’s brother. Support for the arts and culture extends beyond AKDN’s own



initiatives. Recently, for example, the Aga Khan made a sizeable contribution to the National Museum of Ancient Art for the acquisition of the painting by the “Adoration of the Magi” by Domingos de Sequeira.

Over the last decade, AKTC has also been active in Portugal through the Aga Khan Music Initiative. The Music Initiative has produced and presented concerts, workshops and masterclasses in prestigious venues including the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum, Serralves Foundation, Ismaili Centre, Lisbon City Hall and São Bento Palace, the home of the Assembly of the Republic, the Portuguese parliament. The Music Initiative has also sponsored musicians performing at historic Alentejan town of Évora and in this summer’s inaugural Évora África, a festival of contemporary art and music.

The first award ceremony of the newly established Aga Khan Music Awards will be held in Lisbon in March 2019 during a three-day ceremony featuring concerts, juried competitions, and winners’ seminars, all open to the public.

On 20 March 2017, the Aga Khan Ensemble performed a concert at the Serralves Foundation in Porto, in honour of Navruz, the traditional Persian New Year. This event reflected Portugal’s steadfast commitment to cultural pluralism.

Photo credit: AKDN / Pedro Figueiredo

THE ISMAILI IMAMAT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Ecological concerns have always been at the forefront of the ethical underpinnings of the AKDN, rooted as they are in the Quran's exhortation for Man to be a good steward of the Earth. For several decades, therefore, AKDN's development agenda has incorporated the preservation of natural resources. These activities have taken many forms, including the development of gardens and green spaces, the return to productive use of degraded lands in Asia and Africa, tree-planting initiatives that have planted over 130 million trees, more efficient stoves that cut fuelwood consumption in half and climate adaptation measures.

Since 2004, the city parks and gardens developed by the AKDN in places such as Cairo (opposite aerial), Kabul (below left), Delhi (below right) and Bamako (opposite left) receive millions of visitors each year, mostly urban dwellers who have otherwise limited access to green spaces. The Network's tree-planting initiatives in Asia and Africa (opposite right) support biodiversity, restore degraded forests, help revive rural communities and provide carbon sequestration to combat climate change.

Photo credit: AKDN / AKTC (below left), Christian Richters (below right, opposite left), Gary Otte (opposite aerial), Lucas Cuervo Moura (opposite right)

While most of the environment-related activities undertaken by the AKDN are integrated into other development activities such as healthcare, education, cultural revitalisation and economic development, the Ismaili Imamate also supports humanitarian relief efforts through direct donations to communities. As an example, in 2017, the Ismaili Imamate donated 500,000 Euros to support the victims of the fires in Pedrógão in June of that year, aimed at supporting study of young people in the affected areas.

The process was led in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, who identified the beneficiaries most in need of this kind of support, through the Institute of Social Security, and to whom the Delegation of the Ismaili Imamate handed directly the respective individual grants.

Similarly, on the occasion of October fires, a donation of 100,000 Euros was made for the cleaning and reforestation of the Pinhal do Rei in Leiria, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development.





COMMUNITY OF PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

In addition to the wide array of activity and partnerships of the Ismaili Imamat in Portugal, the Ismaili Imamat – through diplomatic offices and agencies of the AKDN – also seeks to promote dialogue and collaboration with the wider Portuguese speaking communities.

In Mozambique, AKDN activities started in 1998, following the establishment of the Cooperation Agreement with the Government of Mozambique. The Aga Khan Foundation Portugal has been operating in Mozambique as a branch of the Portuguese Foundation since 2001, with focus in the following programmatic areas: agriculture, education, health, entrepreneurship, civil society, environment and water and sanitation. The Aga Khan Foundation is currently present in 13 districts in Cabo Delgado (one of the most vulnerable and isolated provinces in Mozambique) and 190 villages (out of 195), benefiting close to 200,000 Mozambicans in partnership with the Camões Institute (Portuguese Cooperation, previously called IPAD). AKF also runs the development programme of the Agricultural Institute of Bilibiza.

Left: His Highness the Aga Khan speaks to engineer Dishon Kahara at the Moztex garment factory, a project company of the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED), Maputo, 16 December 2010.

Photo credit: AKDN / Zahur Ramji

Right: The Network has made a number of investments to assist Mozambique's economy gain momentum. AKFED has invested in the tourism infrastructure, through the purchase and restoration of the current Polana Serena Hotel in Maputo.

Photo credit: AKDN / Jon Ivins

In 2007, His Highness the Aga Khan travelled to Mozambique to meet with beneficiaries of the AKDN's development projects carried out in some of the most remote areas of the country including Cabo Delgado province. There, he was greeted by entire settlements of people, comprised mostly of Sunni Muslims. During that visit, one of the village chiefs, Henriques Gutura, said the villagers were better off today than a few years ago with a decent school building, an early education programme and more modern land tilling techniques. He said:

“For us, the Aga Khan presence means that we have better health, more education and better agricultural techniques.”

Other AKDN agencies also present in Mozambique include the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (Serena Polana Hotel and the Moztex Textile Factory), as well as the Aga Khan Academy.





In 2010, a Protocol of Cooperation was signed by AKDN Portugal and the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP). Its objective was to promote mutual cooperation and improvements to the quality of life of underprivileged populations in all CPLP countries where AKDN has a presence. The protocol was signed after obtaining the unanimous consent of all eight CPLP member states through their Foreign Ministers. Mutual co-operation has consisted of the establishment of joint initiatives, projects and events, logistical, institutional and financial support, sharing of information, knowledge transfer and the exchange of experiences.

A Protocol of Intentions with the Government of Brazil was also signed in 2010 to support co-operation actions to stimulate economic and social progress in developing countries. The AKDN has also granted logistical and diplomatic support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, namely in countries of Central Asia and East Africa, where AKDN has a strong presence, under the context of the International Protocol of Cooperation signed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Cabo Delgado, the northernmost province in Mozambique, has the highest poverty rate in the country. In rural areas, 95 percent of the households are involved in agricultural production. AKF's interventions are aimed at improving food security and livelihoods for these rural populations through production-related inputs in agriculture, livestock and handicrafts and through market integration of producers for selected value chains.

Photo credit: AKDN / Lucas Cuervo Mouras

TIMELINE

1800s

Early interactions between the Ismaili Imam and Portugal.

1970s

First substantial settlement of Ismailis in Portugal.

1983

Aga Khan Foundation established in Portugal.

1986

Acquisition of site for the Ismaili Centre, Lisbon.

December 1996

President Jorge Sampaio laid the Foundation Stone of the Ismaili Centre, Lisbon in the presence of the Aga Khan, senior government officials and the Mayor of Lisbon, Joao Soares.

July 1998

Opening of the Ismaili Centre, Lisbon.

1998

Establishment of the Cooperation Agreement with the Government of Mozambique and the Ismaili Imam.

2001

AKF Portugal begins operating in Mozambique as a branch of the Portuguese Foundation.

December 2005

Protocol of Cooperation signed between the government of the Republic of Portugal and the Ismaili Imam.

December 2005

The Patriarchate of Lisbon and Aga Khan Foundation Portugal sign a partnership agreement.

February 2006

At an International Symposium at the University of Évora, the Aga Khan says more relevant education, stronger civil society institutions and renewed commitment to ethical standards are key to stability of modern democracies.

February 2006

The Aga Khan is awarded the Honoris Causa Doctor degree at a University ceremony presided over by Portuguese President, Jorge Sampaio and Rector, Manuel Patricio.

April 2008

AKF commissions study to address the needs of senior people in Portugal.

March 2008

Opening of "The Path of Princes: Masterpieces of the Aga Khan Museum Collection" exhibition at the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum in Lisbon.

July 2008

Aga Khan University and Catholic University of Portugal sign agreement of academic collaboration.

July 2008

The Imamat concluded a Protocol of International Cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

May 2009

The Portuguese Republic and the Imamat concluded the “Faith Agreement”, which came into effect in January 2011.

July 2010

AKDN and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP) sign a Protocol of Cooperation to improve the quality of life of populations in the CPLP (e.g., Mozambique, Angola).

May 2012

The Patriarchate of Lisbon and the Aga Khan Foundation renew a partnership agreement to improve the quality of life of marginalized groups in Greater Lisbon.

September 2013

Award ceremony of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, in Lisbon, at the São Jorge Castle.

June 2014

The Aga Khan becomes the first Muslim religious leader to receive the Council of Europe’s North-South Prize for his commitment to furthering a more pluralistic society, as well as his achievements in improving the quality of life of vulnerable populations through the work of the AKDN.

June 2015

A landmark agreement is signed between the Republic of Portugal and the Ismaili Imamat for the establishment of a formal Seat of the Ismaili Imamat in Portugal.

June 2017

The Aga Khan contributes 500,000 Euros towards fire victims in central Portugal.

July 2017

Aga Khan receives an honorary degree from the Universidade de Liberdade as well as the Grand Cross of the Order of Liberty from Portugal’s President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa for his longstanding commitment to improving the quality of life for some of the world’s most vulnerable in society.

October 2017

Following the fires in Portugal, a donation of 100 thousand Euros was made by the Ismaili Imamat for the cleaning and reforestation of the Pinhal do Rei in Leiria, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Rural Development.



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