



1 September 1982

EXECUTIVE BOARD

RESTRICTED

Seventy-first Session

INDEX

APPLICATION FROM AN INTERNATIONAL NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
REQUESTING OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH WHO<sup>1</sup>



1. Name of the international nongovernmental organization  
(hereinafter referred to as "the organization")

AGA KHAN FOUNDATION (AKF)

FONDATION AGA KHAN

2. Address of headquarters and name of person to whom correspondence should be addressed

Address: 7, rue Versonnex, Geneva (tel. 022 - 36.03.44)

Postal address: P.O. Box 435 - 1211 Geneva 6, Switzerland

General Manager: Mr Guillaume de Spoelberch

Programme Officer Health: Dr Ronald Wilson

3. General objectives of the organization

To promote development and social welfare through philanthropic activities primarily in the developing world. AKF is non-communal and is committed by charter to assisting in the struggle against hunger, disease and illiteracy throughout the world.

4. Main activities

AKF seeks to use its human, financial and physical resources to innovate with new ideas, managerial concepts, organizational structures and techniques that have broad value and utility in resolving generic problems of development primarily in Third World countries.

Emphasis is placed on problems related to health, nutrition, education and rural development. The Foundation provides financial and technical assistance to medical and educational institutions, medical and health centres, schools and day care centres, and a variety of other facilities providing social development services. In addition to assistance for public health, preventive medicine, nutrition, health education, medical care, and education programmes, the Foundation supports rural development, particularly activities which emphasize and/or lay the groundwork for integrated rural development. Foundation inputs may come in the form of professional, technical, managerial and/or financial assistance. It also finances scholarships and training programmes, and occasionally makes grants to individuals for travel and study in programme-related fields.

<sup>1</sup> As submitted by the applicant on 22 June 1982.

The designations employed in this document are those which have been used by the non-governmental organization itself in its application and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

5. Objectives and Activities in relation to World Health Organization Programme

The objectives and activities of the Aga Khan Foundation's health programmes are closely aligned with the General Programme of Work of the World Health Organization.

One objective is to achieve greater levels of population coverage with greater efficiency of the health system serving the respective populations. To achieve this, the basic AKF strategy is to strengthen organizational and managerial practices of existing health service systems while applying more appropriate technology for health, nutrition and medical services.

A second objective is to reach and serve women and children, the segment of the population with the greatest need for health and nutrition services, through both primary and mid-level health workers; and, in turn, to stimulate improved family health and nutrition practices through the most concerned and available "primary health workers", mothers themselves. Aiming to help improve health and nutrition practices, the Aga Khan Foundation concentrates on health, nutrition and medical programmes which are community-oriented and, when feasible, community-based. To achieve this objective, a basic strategy is to strengthen the linkages among existing networks of medical and health institutions and to facilitate the transfer of health, nutrition and medical knowledge and skills from these institutional bases to all health and health-related workers, particularly to mid-level and primary health care workers.

These objectives and strategies, to the extent possible, call upon both modern and traditional practitioners, and mobilize resources from both the private and the public sectors. Under the theme "family Health and Nutrition: Community-Oriented Health Development", AKF-supported activities are focused on the following areas:

- (i) Developing, expanding and strengthening primary health care programmes emphasizing community-based health, nutrition and development interventions, and evolving clear and substantive roles for health units and hospitals in primary health care programmes. This involves heavy emphasis on training primary health workers and mid-level health personnel (nurse practitioners, paraprofessionals, medical assistants), as well as stimulating a community-orientation for all health personnel, including physicians and nurses.
- (ii) Developing and broadly applying improved educational methods, information materials and communications techniques directed towards creating behavioural change at the personal, family and community levels, for use by mid-level and primary health workers, teachers, and community leaders.
- (iii) Innovating and strengthening community-oriented organizations and management of nutrition improvement programmes emphasizing community-based nutrition surveillance and education; local food production, processing and distribution; maternal and child health; immunization and disease control measures; water supply, and environmental sanitation.
- (iv) Strengthening management and health information systems for health services, including innovative development of simplified systems appropriate for application by health units and by primary health workers at the community level.
- (v) Promoting innovative approaches for local financing of health services, community nutrition, social insurance and other locally managed development schemes.
- (vi) Promoting the application of more appropriate health technology, with particular reference to interventions with a potential for impact on maternal and child health.

6. Specific interest with reference to the work of the World Health Organization

(a) Activities which the organization has carried out jointly with WHO during the preceding period of working relations

The Aga Khan Foundation began substantial collaboration with the World Health Organization in early 1980.

Eighteen months after the 1978 Alma-Ata Conference on Primary Health Care, the Aga Khan Foundation and the World Health Organization jointly recognized the need to explore and promote the role of hospitals in primary health care, and began collaborating intensively to plan and implement an international conference on this subject. This collaboration reached fruition in November 1981, when AKF and WHO jointly sponsored the Conference on The Role of Hospitals in Primary Health Care, which was co-sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency and the Aga Khan Foundation Canada. The conference, held in Karachi, Pakistan, and attended by 117 participants from 29 countries (mostly Third World countries of Asia and Africa) was a notable success in terms of bringing attention to the important roles of hospitals in primary health care programmes, providing an effective forum for an international dialogue on this subject, and arriving at clear-cut guidelines for promoting and expanding the roles of hospitals in primary health care, a major approach to achieving the global objective of "health for all by the year 2000".

The Report of the Conference on the Role of Hospitals in Primary Health Care, jointly prepared by AKF and WHO, was completed in May 1982 and is currently being distributed by the Aga Khan Foundation and the World Health Organization.

Following the theme of the role of hospitals in primary health care, the Aga Khan Foundation is:

- (a) Providing a grant to the Charutar Arogya Mandal Hospital to develop linkages with the Tribuvandas Foundation's village-based health services programme and to evolve a primary health care scheme in Anand, Gujerat, India;
  - (b) Funding a Primary Health Care Planning Seminar and an experienced consultant (Dr Miriam Were) for the purpose of planning and implementing a primary health care scheme in the catchment area of the Aga Khan Medical Centre (soon to be developed as the Aga Khan Hospital) in Kisumu, Nyanza Province, Kenya;
  - (c) Promoting the establishment of a primary health care scheme in the context of the Aga Khan Hospital and Medical College in Karachi, Pakistan; and,
  - (d) Promoting the development of community-oriented curricula at the Aga Khan University of Health Sciences in Karachi, Pakistan.
- (b) Please specify those programmes and activities of the World Health Organization with which the organization will wish to be associated in the future

The Aga Khan Foundation and WHO are planning to continue a dialogue aimed at providing the technical and financial resources needed by AKHMC/AKUHS<sup>1</sup> to implement community-oriented curricula and primary health care schemes, in accordance with the conclusions and the guidelines of the AKF/WHO-sponsored Conference on the Role of Hospitals in Primary Health Care.

---

<sup>1</sup> Aga Khan Hospital and Medical College/Aga Khan University of Health Sciences.

While these past and current activities illustrate a clear record of effective and substantive cooperation between the Aga Khan Foundation and the World Health Organization, representatives of the two organizations are continuing to explore other areas of mutual interest. By matching the themes of concentration of the Aga Khan Foundation's health programmes and the Work Programme of the World Health Organization, a number of potential areas for possible future collaboration emerge, as illustrated by the following:

Primary Health Care Programme Development

- Role of Hospitals in Primary Health Care
- Role of Health Centres in Primary Health Care
- Training of Primary Health Care Workers
- Training of Mid-level Health Workers
- Community-oriented Medical and Health Personnel Education

Community-oriented Education, Information, and Communications

Community-oriented Organization and Management Systems Development

- Nutrition Improvement Programmes
- Maternal and Child Health Care Programmes
- Expanded Programmes of Immunization
- Communicable Disease Control Programmes
- Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Programmes
- Other Medical and Health Care Programmes

Management and Health Information Systems

- Community-based Management and Health Information Systems for PHC
- Rural Health Centre based Management and Health Information Systems
- Hospital-based Management and Health Information Systems

Local Financing of Health Service Programmes

- Community-based Health Service Financing
- Private Sector based Health Service Financing

Appropriate Health Technology for Application by:

- Family members
- Primary Health workers
- Rural Health Centre personnel

7. Special Health Measures, Procedures, or Reservations

The Aga Khan Foundation does not advocate any special health measures or procedures, nor does it have any special reservations as to treatment or health procedures.

8. History of the organization

The Aga Khan Foundation was established by His Highness the Aga Khan, 49th Imam of the Shia Imami Ismaili Muslims, on January 24, 1967. Geneva was selected as the location of the Head Office because of the city's international traditions and because of Switzerland's absolute neutrality in matters of politics. Branches of the Foundation have been established in countries of Asia and Africa as well as industrialized nations (see list in item 9) in order to stimulate active international cooperation and to facilitate increased exchanges of information, professional expertise, experience and resources.

Foundation activities during the early years concentrated on the slow process of putting the branch legal system into place and of forming competent nationals to take over the management of local AKF affairs. It was necessary to create from scratch a new standardized system of reporting and control responsive to the particular situation in each country.

Pre-existing local volunteer agencies - some of which have been active in the health and education fields for as many as 50 years - were gradually connected to the Foundation network or transformed into Service Companies which now manage many of the health and education services funded by AKF.

The availability of this experienced and competent pool of volunteer manpower remains one of the great strengths of the Foundation. In Pakistan alone, for instance, there are over 120 operating medical institutions. Many of them are staffed by beneficiaries of AKF-supported scholarship or training programmes.

Once structures in the Third World were functioning smoothly, attention was turned to the resources in terms of expertise and funds which could be mobilized through AKF affiliates in the developed countries and through partnerships with international and national aid agencies. A good example of the advantages of this unique foundation network is the Karachi Conference itself. The Aga Khan Foundation Canada received a matching funds grant from CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) in generous partial support of the conference, which was organized jointly by AKF/Head Office - WHO Headquarters with the full support of the Government of Pakistan and EMRO. The local arrangements for the conference were made by the Aga Khan Foundation (Pakistan). The report of the conference was distributed by AKF through the Foundation branches and affiliated institutions in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Syrian Arab Republic, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America, as well as by WHO through its own distribution network.

The Foundation seeks such partnerships wherever possible, as it believes that technical cooperation is one of the most effective means of successfully implementing development programmes in the Third World. The Foundation chooses its cooperating partners because of the particular experience and skills that they can bring to the project in hand.

The Foundation was recognized as a cooperating agency by UNDP in 1980. Currently, AKF is collaborating with CIDA for the training of nurses in Pakistan. A major community development project focusing on women and children in the Northern Areas of Pakistan, involving extensive cooperation between UNICEF, the provincial government and the Aga Khan Foundation, has recently been initiated by UNICEF and has the full support of the Aga Khan institutions, the only nongovernmental services currently operating in that part of the country. The Foundation is also the largest private sector distributor of WFP Food Aid in Pakistan. In India, cooperation with the Ford Foundation led to an AKF (India) grant to the Bharatiya Agro-Industries Foundation near Puna. And in Bangladesh, AKF has joined UNDP and a consortium of other donors in supporting the work of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research.

With such rapid growth in its international activities, it became clear that the AKF Head Office staff of seven people would need to expand along technical lines. A highly mobile, professional team of experts with considerable first-hand experience in the developing countries and in working with development agencies was recruited. Mr Guillaume de Spoelberch, formally of UNDP and the Ford Foundation, where he was most recently the Representative for the Middle East, joined AKF in January 1981 as General Manager. Under his direction, a Head Office Programme Unit has been constituted to assist in developing the network's capacity to design, monitor, evaluate and in certain cases implement programmes in a variety of countries. The Foundation concentrates its activities in those countries where it has a local base of human, physical and material resources, and where competent local management is available.

The limited resources of any one private organization inevitably imply a concentration of effort on a few carefully selected areas of activity where it can maximize their development potential. AKF has a history of involvement in health care, medical services, education in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, and in East Africa (Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, etc.). The Foundation will undoubtedly seek to build on its strengths in the spirit of the long tradition of voluntary social service which brought these institutions into existence, while developing new programmes which focus on the identification and solution of major problems in the following thematic areas:

- (1) Child Development: Effective Education for the Future
- (2) Family Health and Nutrition: Community-Oriented Health Development
- (3) Rural Income and Employment Generation
- (4) Management of Renewable Resources for Sustained Development.

## 9. Membership

### (a) List member/affiliated organizations

<u>Country</u>	<u>Affiliated Organization</u>	<u>National/Executive Committee members</u>
India	Aga Khan Foundation (India)	7
Pakistan	Aga Khan Foundation (Pakistan)	9
Bangladesh	Aga Khan Foundation (Bangladesh)	To be appointed
Kenya	Aga Khan Foundation (Kenya)	7
United Kingdom	Aga Khan Foundation (United Kingdom)	5
Canada	Aga Khan Foundation Canada	4
United States of America	Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A.	To be appointed
Portugal	Being established	To be appointed

### (b) Do they pay contributions to the organization?

No, but the branches have resources of their own which are used to support AKF-funded projects.

### (c) Are there other types of memberships of the organization such as individual, associate members?

No.

## 10. Is the organization affiliated to any other international, nongovernmental organization or to an organization of the United Nations system?

The Aga Khan Foundation was officially recognized as a cooperating agency by the United Nations Development Programme in April 1980. AKF is a member of the FIIG (Fédération des Institutions Internationales établies à Genève).

11. Addresses of all Branch or Regional Offices

BANGLADESH: P.O. Box 832, Dacca

CANADA: P.O. Box 10293, Vancouver, B.C. V7Y 1E8

INDIA: Sarojini House, 2nd Floor, 6 Bhagwan Dass Road,  
New Delhi 110 001

KENYA: P.O. Box 40898, Nairobi

PAKISTAN: Jubilee Insurance House, 2nd floor,  
I. I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi 2

UNITED KINGDOM: 14/15 Great James Street, London WC1N 3DP

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: c/o Ross, Marsh and Foster  
730 Fifteenth St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005

12. Structure

(a) Policy-making bodies

The Foundation is managed by a Board of three Directors of which His Highness the Aga Khan is the Chairman. The Board meets several times a year to review policy and important management matters pertaining to the Head Office and its branches.

All the branches have National/Executive Committees, approved by the Board, which are responsible for the Foundation's affairs in their respective countries. These committees meet regularly throughout the year.

(b) Frequency of meetings

The Board of Directors meets 6-8 times a year. The last meeting was held on June 21st, 1982. The next is planned for September 1982.

13. Officers

Head Office: Staff of 18

General Manager:	Guillaume de Spoelberch
Secretary General:	Jean-Louis Le Fort
Director of Special Programmes:	Robert d'Arcy Shaw
Programme Coordinator:	Katherine M. Pfitzer (Mrs)
Programme Officer - Education:	Ward Heneveld
Programme Officer - Health:	Ronald Wilson, MD
Scholarships Officer:	Catherine Hieronymi (Mrs)
Financial Controller:	Karlheinz Hager
Accountant:	Alfred Michel

Bangladesh: Honorary: Mr Mohamed Bhai, Constituted Attorney

No paid staff

Canada: Honorary: Mr Zulfikar Lalji, Chairman  
Mr Taj Mitha, Director and Secretary

Staff of 3  
Mr Nazeer Ladhani, Administrative Officer

India: Honorary: Mr Rajeshwar Dayal, Chairman<sup>1</sup>

Staff of 3  
Mr Habib Datoobhoy, Executive Officer

Kenya: Honorary: Sir Eboo Pirbhai, Chairman  
Mr Hassan Damji, Vice-Chairman

Staff of 3  
Mr Abdul Jetha, Executive Officer

Pakistan: Honorary: Mr Ramzan Merchant, Chairman  
Mr Mahomed Jaffer, Vice-Chairman

Staff of 5  
Mr Hakim Feerasta, Executive Officer

United Kingdom: Honorary: Mr Anil Ishani, Chairman  
Mr Amir Bhatia, Vice-Chairman

Staff of 2  
Mr Amir Karim, Executive Officer

United States  
of America: To be appointed and recruited

Portugal: To be appointed and recruited

14. Can officially designated representatives speak authoritatively for the membership on matters concerned with the stated purposes of the organization?

Yes.

15. Finances

Audited accounts (1979-1981) have been provided.<sup>2</sup>

16. Publications

None on a regular basis. Brochures describing Foundation activities are prepared as needed, together with special reports such as the AKF/WHO Conference report on "The Role of Hospitals in Primary Health Care".

17. Documentation

The Charter (English/French), Head Office Brochure, List of National Committee members, Reports on the activities of the Foundation for 1979, 1980 and 1981, as well as the Report (AKF/WHO) of the Conference on the Role of Hospitals in Primary Health Care, Karachi, 22 to 26 November 1981, have been provided.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Mr Dayal was the special representative of the UN Secretary General and Head of UN mission to the Congo during 1960-61.

<sup>2</sup> Held by the WHO Secretariat.