

Faces of *change*



For a quarter century, Aga Khan Foundation U.S.A. (AKF USA) has been investing in people, extending a helping hand to communities and individuals so they may live with dignity and hope.

Education for Marginalized Children in Kenya

In the chronically impoverished and water-starved Coast and North Eastern Provinces of Kenya, AKF USA has implemented a project called Education for Marginalized Children in Kenya (EMACK), in partnership with the Ministry of Education and supported by a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development. The project promotes quality learning in preschools and primary schools by improving teaching skills, educational materials, and infrastructure, as well as promoting involvement among the most vulnerable children and their parents.

KAMUTHE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Kamuthe Holding Facility is a unique, cost effective mini boarding school where the classroom serves as both a

school and a dormitory. Pastoralist (nomadic) families can enroll their children in this secure school at a low cost while they travel to far off areas in search of pastures. EMACK constructed underground water tanks, toilets and bathrooms; renovated two classrooms; and provided donkeys and carts to fetch water for the facility. The District Steering Group provides food to the school, and the government's District Education Officer's office has doubled the school feeding program. The community education and mobilization initiative has led to an enrollment of 234 pupils (160 boys and 74 girls, of whom 94 boys are boarders).

From 2004 to 2007, EMACK has worked in 684 schools, reaching 123,480 children and trained 2,583 teachers.

JUSTICE DELIVERED

Aden Noor Adow is 11 years old and comes from a pastoralist community in Wajir South Province in Kenya. Boys of his age typically help look after livestock and never go to secular school. But a mobile school, created by EMACK now gives Aden a chance to get an education. He can name most of the objects within his environment, write his name and the alphabet, and do basic addition and subtraction.

One afternoon when Aden was looking after his family's goats, he saw a government vehicle knock down a herder and speed off. Aden wrote the vehicle's registration number in the dirt to memorize it and then raced back to his village. He wrote the number in his exercise book and reported the incident to his family. After they reported the hit-and-run incident to the Abakorey Administration police post, along with the vehicle registration number, the police officers were able to signal other police stations in the area. They apprehended the driver who caused the accident, who was 185 miles away. Because of his literacy/numeracy, young Aden became a local hero.



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