



Supporting Girls Education in Afghanistan

By: Rahmkhuda Karimi and
Qurban Ali Waezi

Date: Jul.2022

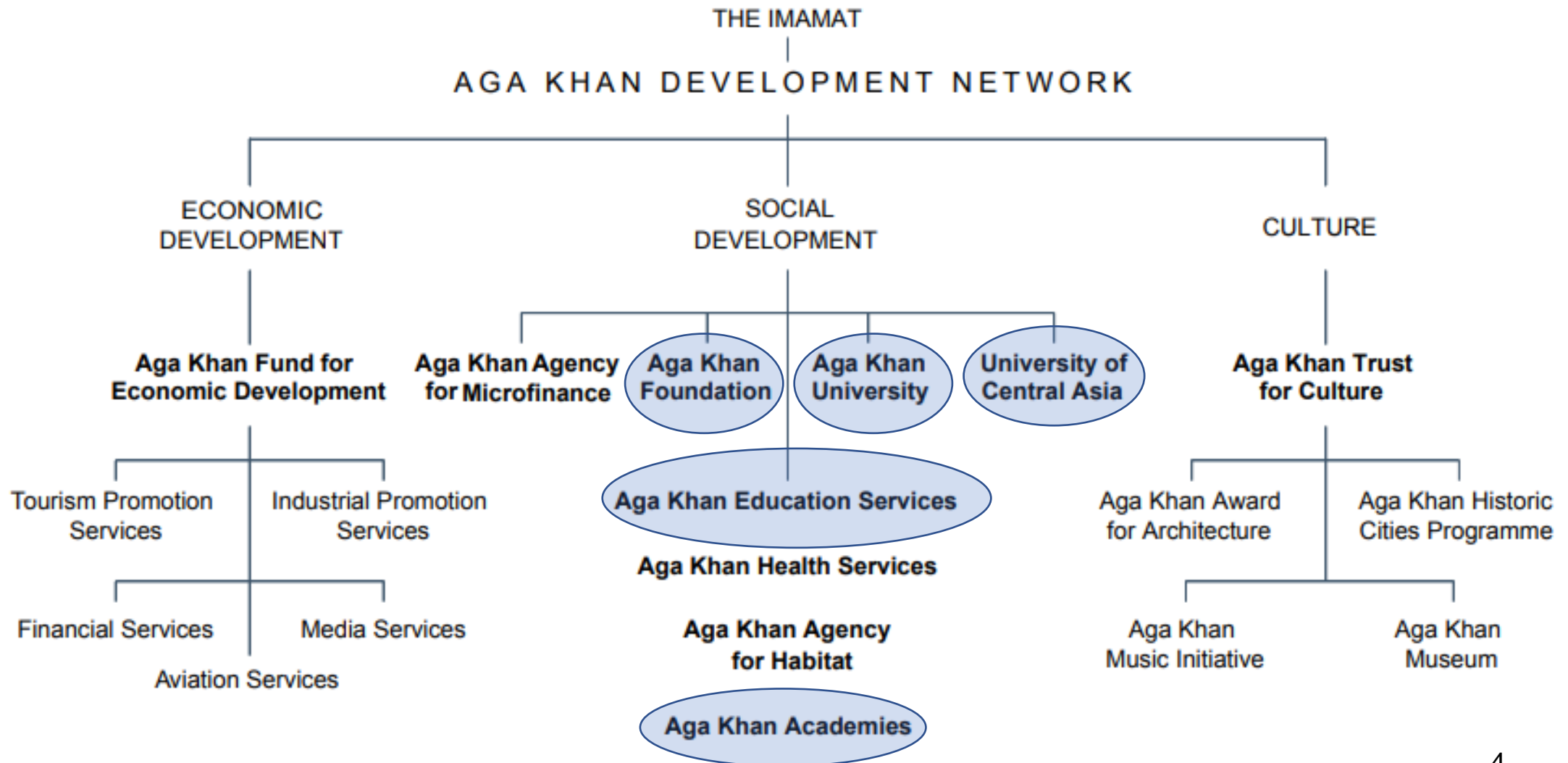
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i. *About us*

About AKDN



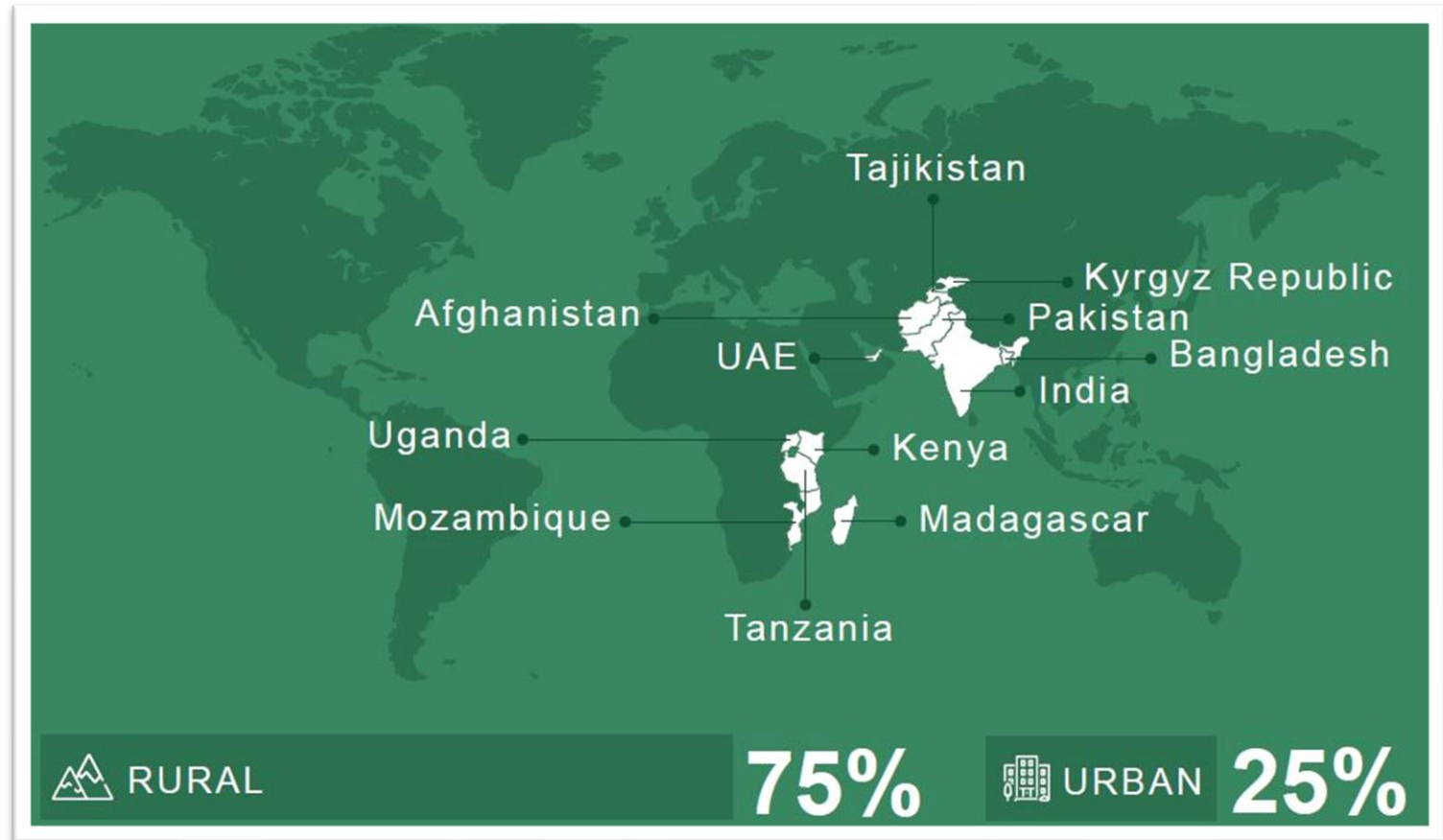
Aga Khan Development Network Education

- For over 100 years the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) has worked to ensure that students of all ages have access to quality learning opportunities.
- Each year, the AKDN reaches 2 million students.
- The Network operates programs and institutions which span the educational ladder, from:
 - Early childhood programs to primary and secondary schools
 - From vocational studies for youth and adults to university degrees and continuing professional development.



Aga Khan Education Service

- A global network
 - 12 countries
 - 200+ Schools and standalone pre-primary centers
 - 7 hostels
 - 100+ centers offering non-formal programs
- Student Population
 - Pre-primary: 16,350+
 - Primary: 28,750+
 - Secondary: 25,250+
 - Higher Secondary: 5,150+
 - Education Programs: 20,600+



ii. Context

Facts

- The Afghanistan Constitution states that there is free education for Afghan citizens up to the Bachelor's degree level.
- Education is compulsory up to grade nine
- The literacy rate is 47% among the population ages 15-24

Strong gains for girls and women

Primary education

2001

Almost 0 out of
10 students are girls



2018

Almost 4 out
of 10 students are girls*



10 x
increase
in enrolments

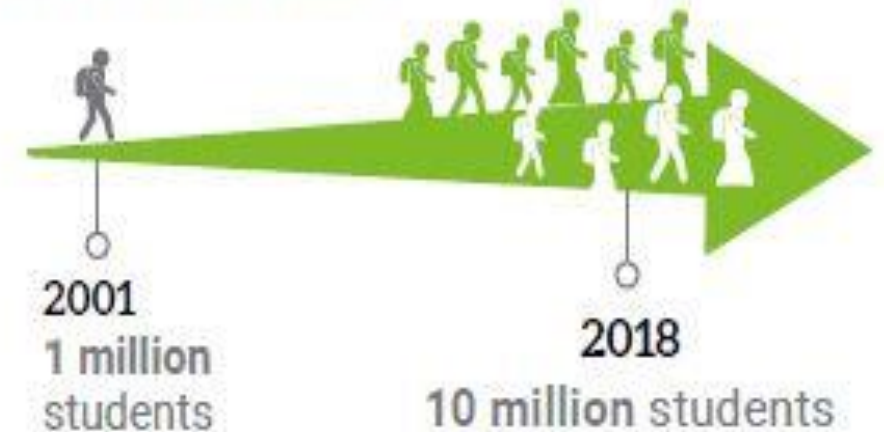


Figure 1: Extracted from UNESCO (2021) "The right to education: What's at stake in Afghanistan? A 20-year review": Snapshot of the education sector in Afghanistan pre-15 August 2021.

Challenges for girls' education include:

- Currently girls' education is provided for ages 7 - 12
- Long distances to schools
- Security issues
- Early and/or forced marriage
- Lack/shortage of female teachers in the schools
- Poverty
- Women's commitment to household work
- Quality of education received is variable



iii. Our Interventions

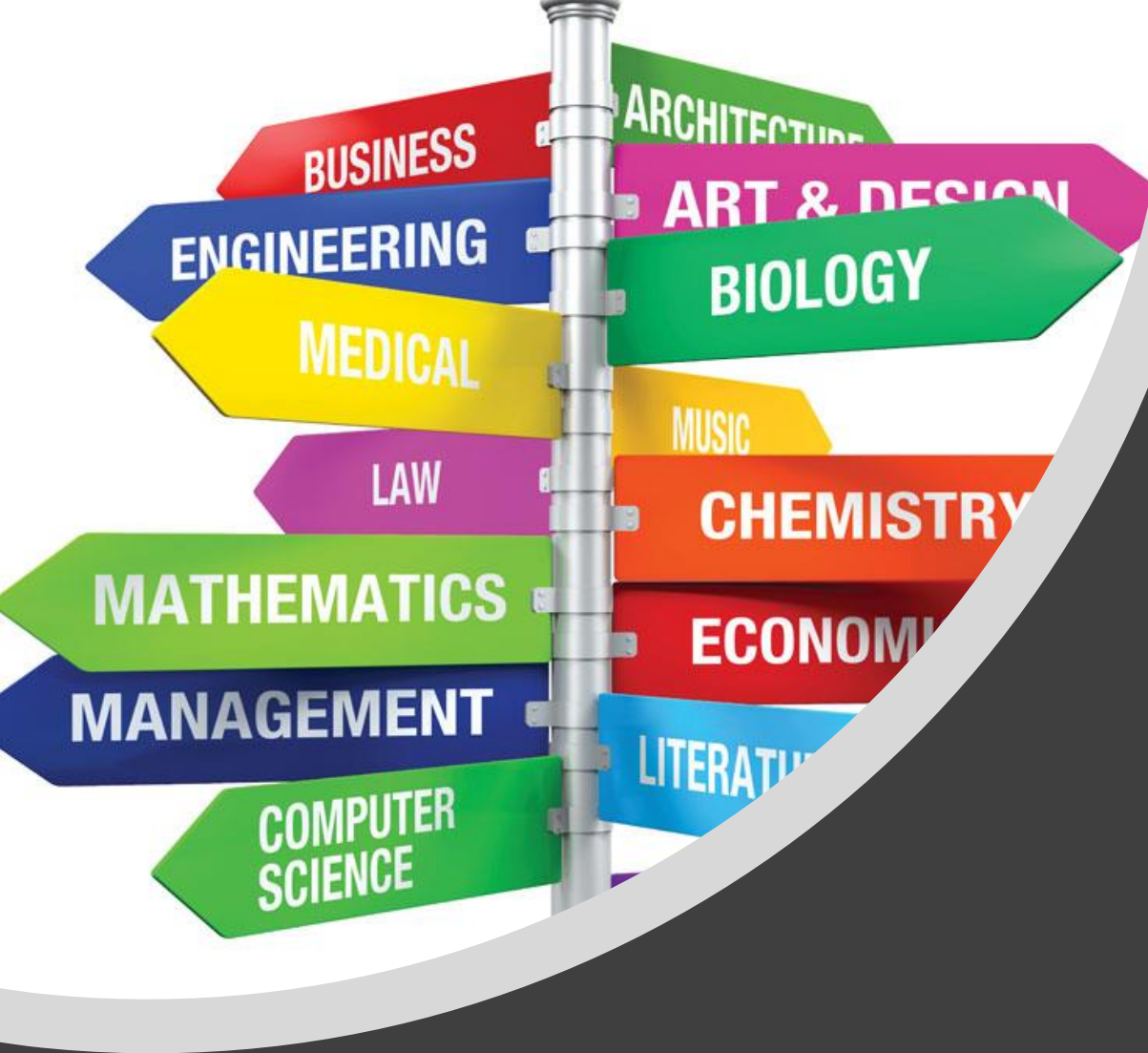
Supplementary Education Program, SEP

Supplementary Education Program (SEP) is an afterschool tutorial program that offers tutorial assistance classes in math, chemistry, physics, and biology subjects to secondary-level students. This program also provides Kankor (university entrance exam) preparation sessions to grade 12 and graduates.

Program outcomes

- To run high-quality courses on difficult subjects (science and mathematics) for lower and upper secondary students and graduates
- To provide Kankor preparatory course for twelve grade/ graduate students and help them to pass the national Kankor test successfully.



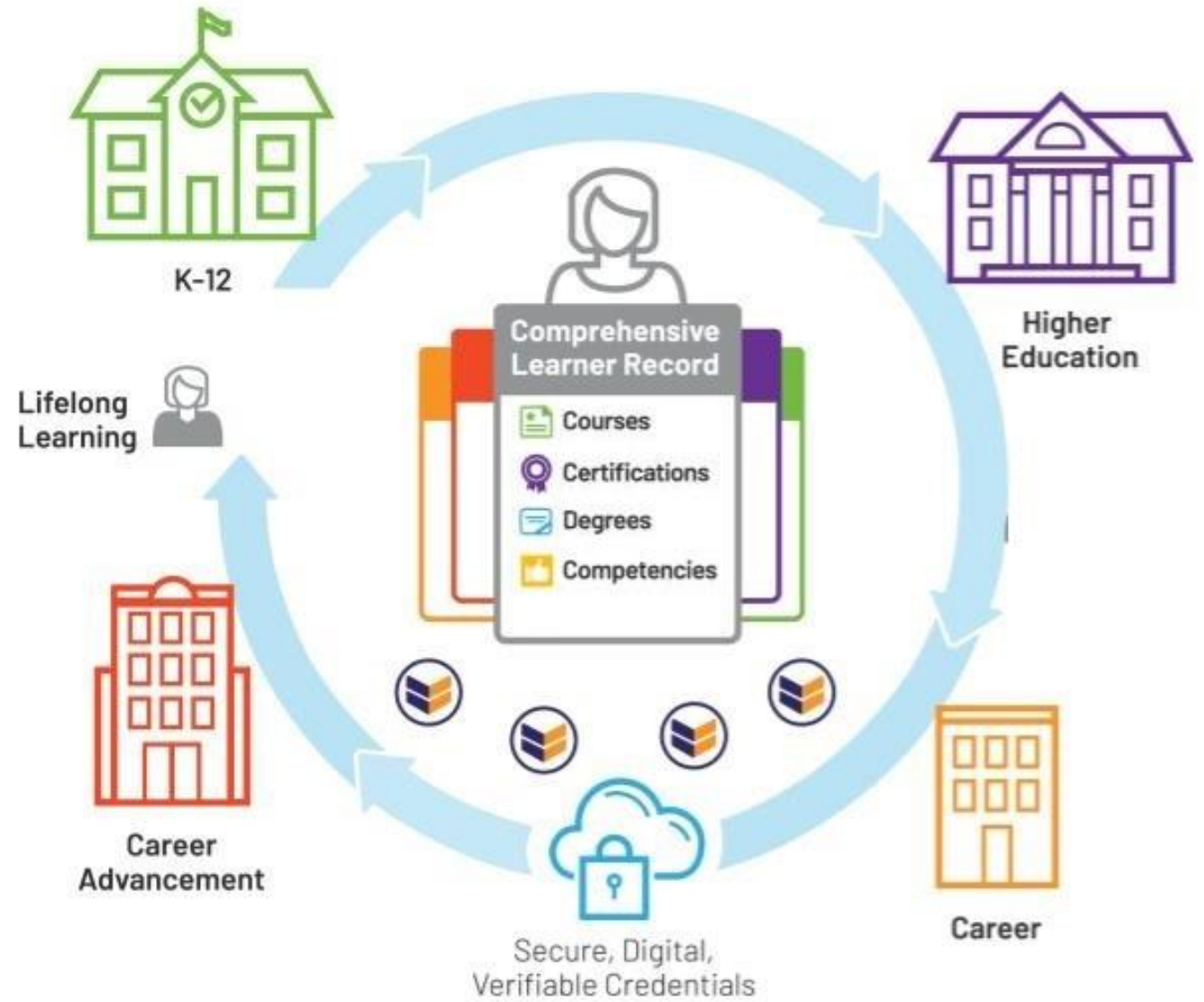


SEP by Phase

- Primary Phase
 - Primary School Support Program
 - Consolidation Classes Program
 - Teacher Training Program
 - Library
 - Science laboratory
- Secondary Phase
 - Science and Math (Learning Math, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology) (Grades 7 - 12)
 - Basic (grade 7-8)
 - Intermediate (grade 9-10)
 - Advanced (grades 11-12)
- Higher Secondary Phase
 - Kankor Preparatory Program (18/+)
- Secondary and Higher Secondary Phase
 - Girls Coaching Centers

Quality Benchmarks

- Standardized National and International Curriculum
- Student Quality Standards
 - Summative and Formative assessments are conducted based on National Curriculum and Kankor forms.
 - Teacher-student ratio 1/30.
- Teacher Quality Standards
 - National Qualification Standards
 - 16 grade graduate (specialized in math, science)
- Facility Quality Standards
 - Classrooms, 12 SQM



Selected achievements

- Around 24,000 students benefit from non-formal education programs on annual basis.
- Around 300 Kankor program students will enter universities and institutes of higher education on annual basis.
- Through the STAGES project, supported over 200,000 girls to attend school in 16 provinces of Afghanistan.
- Established 11 science (physics, chemistry, & biology) laboratories in 11 public schools.
- Participated in international science competition (virtual versions) of IJSO, IBO, and IChO from 2019 to 2021.



iv. The Way Forward

Primary Education

- Continue to improve the quality of SEP provided
- Support capacity building of teachers
- Provide nutrition programs as an incentive to get children to school
- Enable provision of school supplies and uniforms



Secondary Education

- Continue to improve the quality of secondary SEP provided
- Conduct national and international Olympiads
- Build resources, for example, learning DVDs
- Provide incentives for teachers to go back to their own towns to continue teaching
- To continue to enable students to access careers of choice as supported by Kankor program



Thanks!

- rahmkhuda.karimi@akdn.org
- qurbanali.waezi@akdn.org
- 0093-797811634
- 0093790074907
- <https://www.agakhanschools.org/>
- <https://www.akdn.org/>

