



Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance

As an agency of the Aga Khan Development Network, the Aga Khan Agency for Microfinance's (AKAM) mission is to improve the quality of life of low-income communities. This includes improving their physical environment and living conditions, in particular housing quality and safety. Providing clients access to housing finance to safeguard and

quality construction materials and techniques, AKAM institutions offer a range of home improvement and construction loans.

For example, AKAM's affiliate in Afghanistan, the First Microfinance Bank-Afghanistan (FMFB-A), introduced home improvement loans in 2008. Simultane-

ously, it developed a Housing Microfinance Toolkit with the support of the International Finance Corporation (IFC) that is now used as a reference across the region. In 2009, with initial support from USAID, FMFB-A introduced free construction advisory services paired with its housing loans to promote better-quality construction, including seismic retrofitting, energy efficiency, sanitation and proper ventilation. Today, with 8,000 clients, housing represents 10% of FMFB-A's portfolio value.

finance for a decade. Today they serve nearly 9,000 housing clients, particularly rural households (over 60% of their housing clients) and women (40% of their housing clients). This year, with support from KfW and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) respectively, First Microfinance Bank-Tajikistan and First Microcredit Company-Kyrgyzstan introduced targeted loans for energy-efficient housing upgrades, paired with guidance on best practices and context-appropriate solutions.



FMFB Client in Tajikistan

upgrade their homes is a key priority for AKAM and its affiliates.

AKAM has a network of 10 microfinance institutions serving half a million borrowers and over one million depositors. Many of these clients live in low-quality, overcrowded housing with poor sanitation, insulation and ventilation. Many also live in areas with high vulnerability to natural disasters or in conflict zones that expose housing to further hazards and damage. To enable clients to repair, upgrade and protect their homes with

are women and 45% of whom are in rural areas. By helping clients invest in better, safer homes, AKAM aims to contribute to genuine improvements in their quality of life.

In Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, AKAM's affiliates have offered housing micro-

As of July 2017, AKAM's affiliates in Afghanistan, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Syria and Tajikistan offer housing finance with a total housing portfolio of \$30 million, serving 30,000 clients – 30% of whom