



Afghan Volunteer Women's Association



# YOUR HELP FOR AFGHANISTAN HAS A GREAT EFFECT

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – THE OUTLOOK FOR 2019

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*Every day, day in, day out, the members of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association work hard, sometimes risking their lives, to provide a secure future for Afghan families in their home country.*

*They support internally displaced persons, those who are hungry or injured and women and girls who have been pushed aside and are in great need.*

*They arrange medical aid, provide education and training and help to supply whole villages with clean drinking water.*

*These efforts deserve our deep respect and our support.*

*I wish to lend my support to these efforts and I ask you to participate in this work.*

*Join in. Help us carry out these projects. Together we can do so much to improve life in Afghanistan.*

**Herbert Grönemeyer**

Ambassador for the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association



*Afghanistan's children speak of literacy as if it were a profession. Their thirst for knowledge consumes them, their vision of their own lives is to be responsible for the development of Afghanistan.*

*And what do they want to become?*

*The first one we ask wants to become a doctor, the second hopes to be a teacher, the third would like to be an engineer. Yet another would like to become a member of the government of the country.*

*"And what about becoming an actress or a singer?" I ask. The little ones look at me in a puzzled way. It is not easy to contradict a stranger, but no, really no-one wants to become anything like this.*

*Senda bashi – may you live a long life. When I see Afghanistan lying below me, I think of nothing else.*

**The late Roger Willemsen**

**Patron of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association**

This is an excerpt from Roger Willemsen's book: An Afghan Journey – published by S. Fischer Verlag 2008. Pages 268, 108-109, 182-183. And also from "Once upon a Time – or not" published by S.Fischer Verlag in 2015. Page 158.

*Dear Readers,*

*The work of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association would not be possible without you - our donors and benefactors, our friends and partners, those who work on a voluntary basis in the association and its managing committee, without the tireless colleagues in Afghanistan, our marvellous ambassador Herbert Grönemeyer and the many helping hands here in Germany and in Afghanistan.*

*We wish to thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts.*

*We achieved so much in the past year by working together. We supplied more than 26,000 people in Afghanistan with desperately needed, at times life-saving, help.*

*I would love to take you with me on my journeys to our projects, to be able to share with you the progress and the developments that are taking place, to share with you the encounters and the words of gratitude that are addressed to me but in fact are meant for you.*

*I hope that this annual report can give you some idea of what we can achieve on the ground with your help and support.*

*Together we can give people in Afghanistan hope and support for their future. Thank you for joining us in our efforts.*

*Yours,*

Nadia Nashir



## THE AFGHAN VOLUNTEER WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

For more than 27 years the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association has made it a priority to provide destitute families in Afghanistan with basic assistance in getting settled and helping them to have some stability in the future. That is why we concentrate mostly on remote areas where there is hardly an aid available.

Children, girls and women are always our priority when we plan our projects. Their circumstances in Afghanistan are always especially difficult and their chances of determining the course of their life are very limited.

### This is what we work for

- providing clean drinking water by building wells
- school and professional education
- medical facilities in particular for women and girls where it is not available
- providing refugees with emergency and winter aid
- sponsorships and mentoring for families in direst need
- scholarships for further study for young women without any financial resources

## **Help that is sustainable and always in motion**

Our most important objective is to encourage self-help and to improve the situation of girls and women in the country on a permanent basis with our offers of assistance. We follow up our projects on a long-term basis and we adjust them to changing challenges whenever necessary. For example, when the first students at our schools achieved their university entrance qualification, we developed a scheme that provided girls with no financial means an opportunity to pursue further (university) studies. We are happy to report that former pupils at our schools have become teachers, nurses and doctors. When we build a well, we teach the people who live in the village how to maintain them so that our help and our efforts have a lasting effect.

## **Working together for the best way forward**

When we plan our projects, we bear the specific needs of the local population in

mind. With the help of our 121 local staff and employees, we know where and which the greatest need is. Together with those whom we wish to help, we develop programmes to alleviate the problems. Our projects and our efforts are closely co-ordinated with the village communities, the authorities and local decision-making bodies. In this way our projects are supported, safeguarded, and sustained on a wide basis.

## **Tested and recommended**

On our regular trips, we assess the progress, the efficiency and the impact of each project. The use of financial resources, the level of success of each project and also setbacks are all recorded - not only for our supporters and partners but also for the German Central Institute for Social Matters. This institute audits us each year and awards us its DZI Seal of Excellence.



## INFORMATION ABOUT THE SITUATION INSIDE THE COUNTRY

Afghanistan looks back on a long history rich in tradition. As a bridge between the East and the West, Afghanistan was an early centre of culture and artistic forms of expression. Architecture, oral literature, art and artisan handicrafts were rated very highly in Afghan society and to this day are significant factors in Afghan social life.

However, four decades of war have affected the country and its population very severely.

The current humanitarian situation is a very difficult one – Afghanistan has been struggling to find peace for 40 years.

### **2018 was a difficult year for Afghanistan**

A severe drought in 2018 meant that two-thirds of the harvest withered and failed, with fatal consequences for families in rural areas – those people who rely most heavily on home-grown products. Four million people were starving because the harvest failed on account of the drought.



Qala-e-bost is regarded as an architectural landmark of the cultural golden age. Afghanistan is still known today as “The Blue Flower” – a reference to lapis lazuli and the typical blue ceramic articles, which are produced in Istalif.



Refugee children in Pul-E-Sheena camp near Kabul

However, it was not only the drought which forced many families to flee from their homes but new geo-political developments and renewed violence played a large part. In Afghanistan, in 2018, 700,000 people were once more on the move within the country, according to the United Nations, - one-third higher than in the previous year.

Currently a total of approximately 2.6 million people are internally displaced persons (IDPs).

They live under extremely difficult condi-

tions in emergency camps or tents. They are in particular exposed to the harsh winter climate with little or no protection. This means that at the present time more than 6 million people in Afghanistan are dependent on aid in order to survive. We, the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association, do our very utmost to react to this emergency and extend our aid and assistance.

PROJECTS  
THAT  
PROVIDE FOR  
THE FUTURE



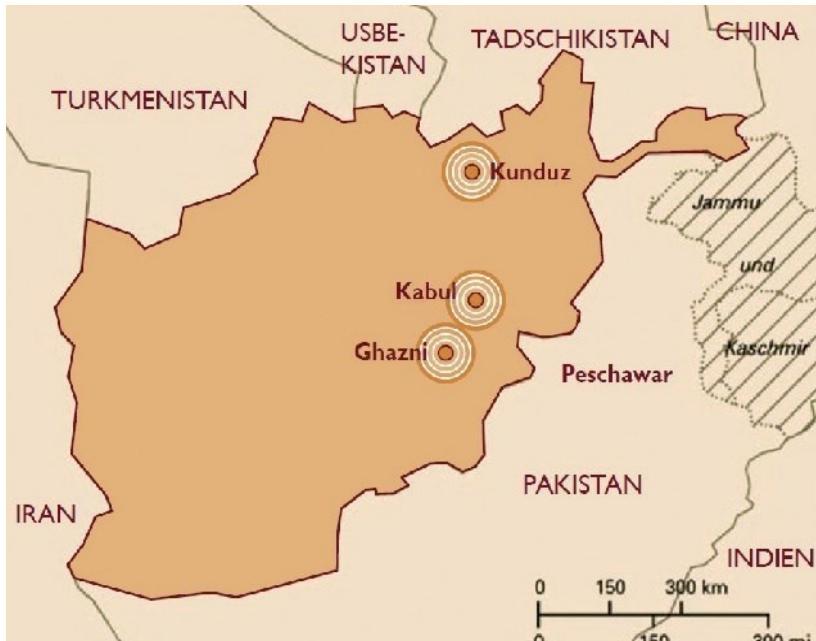
## **HELP THAT IS SUSTAINABLE AND LONG TERM**

The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association is currently working on aid projects in the Provinces of Ghazni, Kunduz and Kabul.

**With your help, we were able to achieve so much in the past year:**

- 2,253 girls and boys were able to attend school
- 15 scholarships were awarded to young women so that they were able to attend university
- 8,770 people had clean drinking water as a result of newly built wells
- 5,600 sick people and pregnant women were given medical treatment
- 30 women were trained as seamstresses
- 125 family sponsorships helped 805 people who were in dire need to start a new life
- 9,220 people were given urgently needed aid to help them survive the winter weather and their desperate destitution

**26,683 people were helped by our aid and support in 2018.**





## BUILDING WELLS

### 55 NEW WELLS WITH CLEAN DRINKING WATER PROVIDE HEALTH

It was on Roger Willemsen's initiative that the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association started in 2006 with financing the building of wells in remote villages that had no source of clean drinking water. Since then we have achieved so much: 600 wells have already been built – they supply over 115,000 people daily with clean drinking water. These wells safeguard health in the villages concerned and they lessen the workload of the women and girls who live there.

A well for a village costs approximately 1,000 euros. Each well is built and installed by local builders. Water technicians check the wells regularly and teach the village committees how to service them.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and special collections at birthday or wedding parties, we were able to build 55 new wells last year in Kunduz and Kabul provinces.

**Now 8,770 more children and adults have access to clean drinking water.**



## EDUCATION

### FOUR SCHOOLS GIVE CHILDREN BETTER PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

"Our classroom is now large and full of light, we no longer have to sit in the corridors, every child has enough space. We are so proud to be here." says Zohal.

Zohal is one of 2253 pupils for whom the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association provides access to education. To this end the Association builds schools, runs its own girls' school in Ghazni and supports three state schools by organising winter courses, providing extra teachers and supplying the children with school and educational materials.

We help to improve the learning pro-

grammes by providing advanced training or improving the standard of the buildings. Each of the schools we support has its own challenges and our association works with them in close co-operation and tries to solve their problems.

**In the past year the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association was able to provide education for 2,253 girls and boys in its elementary and secondary schools.**



Proudly, two girls present their new school uniforms and work books. The uniforms have been sewed in the near-by Roschani Sewing Centre in Ghazni.

## BETTER PREPARED FOR LIFE THROUGH PC AND ENGLISH COURSES

### THE ROSCHANI GIRLS' SCHOOL IN GHAZNI

Already in 1999 during the rule of the Taliban, the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association set up the Roschani Girls' School in the province of Ghazni. At first there were just 20 pupils, today 502 girls attend the classes there every day and they are taught by 16 teachers up to university entrance standard.

The reputation of the school, whose name (when translated) means "light" extends far beyond Ghazni. Many of the pupils have a long and tiresome journey in order to reach the school. In spite of the fighting and turmoil in the area, their longing to learn remains unbroken.



*„I feel myself very lucky because now I can talk in English very well and all of this because of you. Thank you.“*

Safa, 6th class, Roschani School

### **Winter courses: computer and english lessons in the afternoons**

Even in the winter holidays, from December to March, and in the afternoons many girls decide to attend these supplementary offers on a voluntary basis.

Last year 47 children attended courses in English, Dari and natural sciences.

For an entire year, the association gave 80 girls the opportunity to attend a certified computer course and an English course. In this case, and for the second time running, we were supported by the Bingo Environmental Foundation of Lower Saxony. This course improves their chances of being accepted at a university and also acquaints them with the world of the Internet.

### **14 out of 17 pupils with university qualifications started a degree course**

We are very proud of the fact that in March we could welcome 59 new pupils to our school.

Of the 17 pupils who graduated from the school, 14 are now students at the University of Ghazni. In 2018 inspectors from the provincial school administration visited the school four times and certified that the standard of instruction was outstanding. As has been the case each year, every child received a new school uniform, books and other learning materials.

The Roschani School is in a partnership with the Klax School in Berlin.



When this photo was taken, the rooms in Khazani school were cold. New stoves are planned so that this will no longer be the case.

## A NEW SCHOOL YEAR WILL START WITH ELECTRICITY, WATER AND STOVES

### KHAZANI SCHOOL NEAR KUNDUZ

In 2002, the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association founded the Khazani School in central Afghanistan, 10 kilometres from the city of Kunduz. Now 437 girls and 679 boys attend the school. They are taught by 27 teachers. Their partner school is the Schiller School in Frankfurt on Main.

**In the mornings, the girls attend their classes, in the afternoons it is the turn of the boys**

We are happy to report that last year 135 girls and boys were able to start school here. 23 pupils graduated with university entrance qualifications. Since then many of them have enrolled at a university for courses in law, educational science and agricultural economics.

Furthermore, 430 pupils voluntarily attended course in the winter holidays in mathematics, chemistry, Dari and calligraphy. We were able to set up these courses by purchasing five new stoves, heating materials, paper and books.

### **At last: a reliable source of electricity and water**

In addition to the measures already mentioned, in 2018 the association paid the cost of installing a better water and electricity supply for the whole school. A new water pump was installed, new water pipes and a new, safe power cable were laid.



**“I love our Khazani School.  
I like the sports lessons best of all.”**

Palwachse, 6th class, Khazani School



Lessons held in dark and crowded corridors are a thing of the past. In 2018 we built four new classrooms in Bojasar Girls' School.

## FOUR NEW LIGHT CLASSROOMS

### BOJASAR GIRLS' SCHOOL NEAR KABUL

Bojasar Girls' School was founded by our association in 2012 and is situated approximately 35 kilometres from Kabul. The area is largely agricultural and marked by extreme poverty. 636 girls from 22 villages attend the school. Thanks to the generosity of our donors in Germany lessons at this school are free. The association bears a part of the cost of the teachers' salaries, the cost of satchels, teaching and writing materials.

### 22 male and female teachers

find good staff in this remote valley, we are particularly happy to be able to employ former pupils at the school. In March 2018, 110 new pupils started school here. For the first time in the school's history there were a few children from nomadic families who had settled nearby. In 2018 there were 11 pupils in 12th grade, 10 of them passed the final examinations and 8 of them are now preparing for university entrance examinations.



Before the new annex was inaugurated lessons were partly held in the corridors.

### **Parents and pupils are involved in the running of the school**

In the Bojasar School some of our pupils have formed a health committee that is providing important education and information. There is a sports committee that organises cricket and volleyball games and a committee that plans and lovingly looks after the garden and herb beds. There is also a committee of parents who work together with the teachers and the school administration as well as the council of village elders in order to help children with problems.

### **The delight over the new annex is great**

In 2018 we decided to invest in an annex because the number of pupils was steadily rising. There are now four light new classrooms and in 2019 those pupils who had had their lessons in the corridors because of lack of space were able to move into them. Our aim for 2019 is to connect the school to a reliable source of electricity.

**“I want to learn really well so that one day I can serve the community.**

**I love English and Arabic.”**

Zohal, 9th class, Bojasar School



These seamstresses learn not only sewing and embroidery but also reading, writing and arithmetic and basic book-keeping.

## TRAINING

### ROSCHANI DRESSMAKING SCHOOL IN GHAZNI

Next door to the Roschani School in Ghazni the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association set up a dressmaking school in 2002. Since then 30 particularly poor and needy women and mothers in the area are trained each year in a dual scheme.

The women who are aged between 18 and 35 learn to become dressmakers in a year of training. At the same time three particularly dedicated teachers instruct

them in the following subjects: reading, writing, arithmetic, bookkeeping and Dari. At the end of the training each woman who has completed the course is presented with a sewing machine, a pair of dressmaking scissors and an iron – the most important basic equipment for starting out into independence. After the course the Roschani School remains available to them for advice if required.



A sewing machine, an iron and a pair of scissors help the women on their way to independence. Items they have embroidered can be purchased from our association – the price paid goes in full to the women concerned.

### **A better life for a family of up to eight members**

Many of the graduates of our courses start off sewing for large firms or for hospitals, they teach other women or set up their own little alteration shop. With the money they earn our graduates often support and feed between four and eight further family members.

### **Send off for 30 newly trained seamstresses**

In June we were happy to be able to discharge 30 young women who had finished the training course successfully. They are now setting up their own independent life. In January the next course will start – again for 30 prospective seamstresses.

**“You have made our school into one of the best sewing schools in the whole region. You are helping us so much.”**

With deepest respect, 10 seamstresses trained by the Roschani School.



12 of the young women who are funded by scholarships work as assistant teachers in the mornings and attend lectures at Kabul University in the afternoon.

## UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS

### PUPILS ARE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO STUDY

Not long ago Lida, Nasia, Lima, Farima and eleven other scholarship holders were themselves pupils at one of our schools. They were dreaming of becoming doctors, nurses or teachers. While at school they stood out through their academic achievements. However, going to university seemed an unattainable dream.

Their own families would never have been able to afford further years of study with the fees and the cost of transport and books. In order to enable very gifted pupils to study at university after leaving school the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association decided in 2017 to devise a scheme of scholarships and to try to find sponsors in Germany for suitable candidates.

### **No easy way**

Now 15 scholarship holders are already part of the programme. They undertake a great effort to do their studies, they often have to prevail against traditional role models and set out on new paths which are hitherto unknown in their villages. One of the young women who was awarded a scholarship could only start on her teaching course after her husband had mollified her father and persuaded him to withdraw his ban.

### **One's first own salary**

12 of the scholarship holders wish to become teachers. In the mornings they work as assistant teachers at the Bojasar Girls' School – they work alongside their university course and earn a small salary.

**“I hope you are well. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you for enabling me to take my teacher training course at the State Academy. You help me in every aspect of my life: my lectures are from 13:00 to 17:00 o'clock every day. In the mornings work at the Bojasar School and in the evenings I help care for the family. I wish to become a really good teacher. Taschakur -thank you.”**

Farima, 1st semester, natural sciences



It is a long way to the only medical centre. Dr. Mujib is the only available doctor for many families.

## MEDICAL AID

### **QOLAB: MEDICAL CARE IN AN AREA THAT OTHERWISE HAS NONE**

When our doctor and his assistant set out for our health centre in Qolab it is an early start of their day. The village is just 35 kilometres from Kabul but the roads are in bad conditions. If rain or snow make them impassable, the pair of them shoulders their medical kit and proceeds by foot.

“Our journey is nothing compared to those taken by our patients” is what they say. Men, women and children from neighbouring villages have to walk between two and four hours to reach the small health centre run by the association where they receive free medical care.

**Up to 80 patients per day are treated, most of them are children**

Our association has maintained this clinic for eleven years. Pneumonia, diarrhoea and malnutrition are the most prevalent medical conditions among infants. 80 percent of the patients can be treated successfully, for the other 20 percent the team arranges for treatment in a hospital. Once a month the association buys fresh supplies for the clinic.

**“We, the inhabitants of Qolab and Ghaza are deeply grateful to you because with this medical centre you are supporting us in our poverty. God bless you.”**

In 2018 the consultations and treatment sessions at this medical centre were increased from once a week to twice a week. Since then the expenses incurred and the number of patients treated have doubled. A new coat of paint for the interior of the clinic and new instruments for measuring blood pressure and blood glucose have improved the medical care of the patients and are a great help.

#### **Medical care for expectant mothers and newborn babies**

14 local midwives work in the region. Every year they are given a refresher course and the association supplies them with essential equipment: clamps for the umbilical cord, disinfectants, sterile sanitary pads and rubber gloves – the most important items of all to ensure a safe delivery and reduce the very high mortality rate in the region.



Women and children often walk up to four hours in order to get medical help.

## FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

### 115 SPONSORSHIPS RESCUE FAMILIES FROM DESTITUTION

In the course of our work we often come across families, in particular children, who are in a desperate situation on account of a variety of strokes of fate. For instance when the father or even both parents die, or if they have been injured by a landmine or if some form of disability or a particular medical condition arises, this presents a severe challenge for the whole family.

#### **Help: effective and individually adapted**

In order to help these children in their dire need we developed a scheme in 2008 of family sponsorships. Under this scheme donors in Germany support the children and the families concerned over a certain set period with a sum of up to 100 euros a month and thus enable them to make a fresh start.

The families make good use of this initial

assistance: they invest it in medication and visits to a doctor, in school fees and training schemes, in safe accommodation, in small livestock and seeds. In this way they try to get back on their feet and be independent as quickly as possible.

#### **Making school attendance possible again**

We supported 115 families in this way in the past year. 25 of the families were new admissions to the scheme.

Most of the families have pupils in the schools we support. This programme ensures that the children can continue with their education.

There are still many families on our waiting list and they hope that we will be able to help them.

**“My name is Mahbuba. We are so grateful that we four siblings can continue to go to school thanks to your help. With your support we can buy pencils, exercise books and something to eat. Both our parents are very sick. We live in two rooms with mud walls which we continually repair so that they remain standing. All of us do this work together.”**

Mahbuba, schoolgirl



Thanks to a sponsorship these three girls can continue to go to school.





Emergency aid work in the refugee camp in Pul-E-Sheena

## EMERGENCY AND WINTER AID FOR REFUGEES

**IN THE CAMPS IN GHAZNI AND KABUL OUR WINTER AID HAS REACHED 9,210 PEOPLE**

Without a homeland, without a place to stay, without shelter – the situation for many of Afghanistan's internally displaced persons is particularly life-threatening in the harsh winter months. Most of them live in scattered makeshift shelters, in tents in refugee camps, occasionally in small mud huts they have managed to build for themselves. The child-

ren rarely have warm clothing or shoes, the parents have no means of paying for heating fuel. The constant worries over food, warmth, drinking water and medical care shape their day-to-day life. Often the men go off on their own seeking casual employment and the women and children are left on their own and fight to survive.

### **Aid against the bitter cold**

In 2018 the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association provided aid in three separate refugee settlements. In the refugee camp Hussain Khel near Kabul we were able to supply provisions, blankets and heating materials to 4,300 particularly indigent families in February. In the old city of Ghazni we were able to secure the survival of 110 displaced persons from Pakistan and Iran. And because the winter of 2018 brought temperatures down to -15°C as early as December we once again started our winter aid for

4,800 children and adults in Pul-E-Sheena camp near Kabul before Christmas.

### **Goods purchased locally and distributed**

All in all the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association distributed 61 tons of flour, 18.6 tons of sugar, 2.5 tons of tea, 12,360 litres of oil, 400 kilos of rice, 224 kilos of dried beans, 1,220 gas cylinders, 1,220 woollen blankets and 1,220 buckets in an attempt to brave the winter.



CHALLENGES  
AND THE  
OUTLOOK FOR  
2019



## PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE TAKE US TOWARDS OUR GOAL

### A conversation with Nadia Nashir, chairwoman of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association, about milestones and challenges

#### **What were the most important milestones of 2018 from your point of view?**

We were able to record a variety of successful undertakings: in the villages in the Kunduz area where we have built wells, parents report that their children hardly ever suffer from diarrhoea. In 2018 our medical centre in Qolab was able to double the number of cases treated. There is a steady increase in the number of pupils who attend our schools and also in the number of scholarships we can offer in order to enable school leavers to study at a university. It is very moving to see how these young students go along their chosen paths with great courage and indefatigable dedication. They are role models and pioneers for the others. It is very encouraging to see this process and after 27 years of hard work it is proving a genuine milestone.

#### **Where were you confronted by obstacles?**

In 2018 we started construction of the largest school project since our association's formation. This is the Safa School near Kabul to be built in memory of Roger Willemse. Our late patron's primary concern was to provide education for children. In his last will he made a very generous provision for our association. Among other things he left us all the pro-

ceeds of his books. We decided to invest this legacy in education and with further support from many donors we planned a school for 1000 boys and girls which will bear his name and which we will finance.

#### **What happened?**

The construction of the school with 24 classrooms got off to a smooth start. However a sudden delay in the process of granting the authorisation led to all work being halted. Many negotiations followed, we needed a lot of Afghan patience and much perseverance to get everyone on board again. In May 2019 we were able to lay the foundation stone in the presence of the Minister of Education and we hope that in June 2020 the Safa School will be officially inaugurated – in memory of Roger Willemse. It will be a great moment for us.

#### **What is the greatest challenge in your work?**

The fact that the security situation in the country as a whole is so tense.

It makes every trip and all logistics difficult to plan and very dangerous. Our team of helpers undertake huge risks in order to reach the remote areas around Ghazni, Kunduz and Kabul in order to support the people living there.

International aid workers are no longer present here. For example: in August 2018 the Taliban seized parts of the city of Ghazni. Telephone and internet connections were disrupted. There were major problems with electricity and water supplies and food supplies were interrupted. For the population of the city this was a bad time. It was a time when it became very clear once again what great risks the pupils and the teachers at our Roschani School and the seamstresses' school took upon themselves each day in order to continue attending

the school.

**In spite of all this you and other dedicated members of the association visit these projects several times a year?**

Of course we do. That is what we owe our staff on-site, the people for whom we do our work but also and above all for our sponsors in Germany. All our trips are privately funded and serve to co-ordinate the close monitoring and control of our projects. They are necessary to sound out in discussions whether the measures are effective in the way we conceived them or whether they need to be adapted in any way. Together with our local teams we develop new ideas for projects and try to find solutions for upcoming programmes.



Three ladies selling handicrafts at bazaar in memory of our longstanding supporter Habib Jan Yussof with voluntary support from Rona Mansury, Dr. Issa and Sarghuna Sultanie, all members of the executive committee together with members of the association.



Children in the town of Nippes collected enough money for several wells to be built by playing music in the streets of the town.



The structure for the 24 classrooms of the Safa School in memory of Roger Willemse has been completed. We are starting work on the completion of the interior.

### **What are you planning for the coming months?**

In view of the great humanitarian crisis we plan to extend this year's winter aid very considerably and intend to start distributing aid as early as December to more than 2500 refugees. We are working hard on equipping the Safa School with a library, a laboratory and a computer room and currently we are carrying out the necessary repairs at Bojasar School near Kabul.

### **This is where you suffered a severe setback a short while ago...**

That is correct. After 22 years of working in Afghanistan we experienced our first arson attack on one of our projects – in this case the Bojasar Girls' School. The fire was laid at night so fortunately no one

was harmed.

But the school's roof, part of the furniture and the library were damaged.

### **How did the population react?**

Like us, they were very shocked. All the communities in the area, the councils of elders and the parents of the pupils reacted immediately. They organised night watches for the school and the clearing up operation was so quick and effective that we could resume classes just four days after the fire. Everybody's wish for the girls' education to continue in spite of the current risks is unbroken. That is very encouraging. Now, more than ever, we must not allow ourselves to be intimidated. More than ever, our campaign for education for girls is exceptionally important.

### **How much solidarity do you experience in Germany?**

In Germany we are supported and encouraged by our closely linked sponsors. But we are still not sufficiently well known.

Since 2017 Herbert Grönemeyer has been helping us as our ambassador in a very special way. In the past few months he has been on tour with his new music album "Tumult" and has used the concerts to collect money for the construction of the Safa School in memory of his friend Roger Willemsen. We are overwhelmed by his dedication to our cause and deeply grateful to him.

### **Where can one meet with you?**

In Osnabrück, Hamburg or anywhere in Germany – any time. At the Festival of Cultures, at the State Horticultural show, at Christmas markets, at benefit concerts or readings – in the past year we were present at 25 large events and presented information about Afghanistan and about our work.

My thanks go out to those who help us again and again on these occasions.

### **How is the financial situation of the association developing?**

After the death of Roger Willemsen we were very worried that we might not be able to continue working on our projects in the manner and on the scale to which we had become accustomed. With Roger's passing we had lost our best friend and most prominent advocate for Afghanistan. Nevertheless our concerns were unfounded.

At first our revenue dropped slightly. But in 2018 we were delighted to be able to record a considerable increase in donations. In particular we received many generous donations for our educational projects and in particular for the Safa School. In this report we wish to make quite clear that each and every donation has an effect and is used directly for our work. The following financial report should make this apparent.

**We thank all members, friends, donors and our many partners who work with us for the same goal: enabling a worthy future to women and children in Afghanistan. We have achieved a lot. Still, there is much to do. Thank you for still being on our side!**

<b>Income 2018</b>		2018 EURO	2018 %	2017 EURO	2017 %
<b>Donations</b>	568.728,32	70,8%	362.331,72	64,1%	
Donations, general	349.082,28	43,5%	185.320,41	32,8%	
Drinking-water supply	45.006,68	5,6%	38.328,67	6,8%	
Emergency assistance	17.769,00	2,2%	32.273,11	5,7%	
Grants by inheritance	50.000,00	6,2%	10.000,00	1,8%	
Family sponsorships	49.061,86	6,1%	48.092,27	8,5%	
Donor contributions	57.808,50	7,2%	48.317,26	8,6%	
<b>Material Donations</b>	0,00	0,0%	607,00	0,1%	
<b>Non-Profit Organization Grants</b>	194.701,28	24,2%	181.206,26	32,1%	
containing: Emergency aid grants	30.000,00	3,7%	104.828,78	18,6%	
<b>Membership Fees</b>	9.568,00	1,2%	6.365,24	1,1%	
<b>Government Grants</b>	19.737,26	2,5%	2.039,40	0,4%	
<b>Taxable Establishment</b>	9.138,00	1,1%	10.855,06	1,9%	
<b>Other Income</b>	1.412,66	0,2%	1.501,37	0,3%	
<b>Total Income</b>	803.285,52	100%	564.906,05	100%	

<b>Expenditure 2018</b>		2018 EURO	2018 %	2017 EURO	2017 %
<b>Project Funding</b>	385.160,51	67,9%	358.064,75	73,0%	
Drinking water supply / well construction	48.427,16	8,5%	47.062,77	9,6%	
Vocational training and school education	140.093,50	24,7%	110.841,29	22,6%	
Medical care	9.219,00	1,6%	7.123,66	1,5%	
Family sponsorship	67.125,77	11,8%	54.292,51	11,1%	
Emergency aid	101.243,80	17,9%	116.262,46	23,7%	
Other expenses for project funding	19.051,28	3,4%	22.482,06	4,6%	
<b>Funded Projects</b>	23.737,00	4,2%	8.737,26	1,8%	
<b>Project Support</b>	18.823,20	3,3%	23.193,43	4,7%	
Personnel costs included	15.610,15	2,8%	17.237,43	3,5%	
<b>Campaigns And Educational Work</b>	6.915,61	1,2%	13.668,96	2,8%	
Personnel costs included	5.203,38	0,9%	11.491,62	2,3%	
<b>Advertisement And General Public Relations Work</b>	40.644,86	7,2%	39.403,23	8,0%	
Personnel costs included	18.211,84	3,2%	11.491,62	2,3%	
<b>Administration</b>	44.404,05	7,8%	45.779,44	9,3%	
Included costs for accounting, closing and auditing	25.264,35	4,5%	22.876,65	4,7%	
Personnel costs included	13.008,46	2,3%	17.237,43	3,5%	
<b>Asset Management And Purpose Enterprise</b>	342,00	0,1%	1.859,96	0,4%	
Long-term investments and expenses	46.889,66	8,3%	-	-	
Construction of the Safa School in memory of Roger Willemsen, Kabul					
<b>Entire Expenditure</b>	566.916,89	100%	490.707,04	100%	

The table sheet contains rounded values.

This may lead to rounding discrepancies.

## Balance sheet of 31st December 2018

Assets in Euro		31.12.2018	31.12.2017
<b>A. Fixed Assets</b>			
I. Tangible fixed assets			
1. Other plants, business and office equipment	411,00		485,00
2. Advanced payment under construction	46.889,66	47.300,66	0,00
<b>B. Current Assets</b>			
I. Supplies			
1. Finished products and goods	686,59		3.541,24
II. Demands and other assets			
1. Demands from deliveries and services	402,60		3.818,00
2. Other assets	54.637,32		83.510,76
III. Cash on hand, bank balances	650.898,94	706.625,45	414.530,31
<b>C. Deferred income</b>		524,40	439,72
		754.450,51	506.325,03

Liabilities in Euro		31.12.2018	31.12.2017
<b>A. Equity</b>			
I. Reserves			
1 Legal Reserves	145.000,00		145.000,00
2. Free Reserves (not earmarked)	110.311,62	255.311,62	101.318,22
<b>B. Not yet statutorily consumed donations</b>		477.289,05	203.563,33
<b>C. Provisions</b>		16.100,00	16.000,00
<b>D. Liabilities</b>			
1. Liabilities from conditionally repayable donations, grants and contributions	3.210,34		28.662,74
2. Liabilities from deliveries and services	1.991,71		10.960,88
3. Other liabilities	542,79	5.744,84	759,86
<b>E. Deferred Income</b>		5,00	60,00
		754.450,51	506.325,03

Income and Expenditure Account from 1st January to 31st of December 2018

		31.12.2018	31.12.2017
<b>1. Income from ideal area</b>			
a) Donations	495.501,54		481.275,79
b) Public resources	24.327,05	519.828,59	8.737,26
<b>2. Income from business establishment</b>			
a) Revenue (Business establishment)		6.865,00	12.049,56
<b>3. Other income</b>			
a) Other operating income		1.412,66	616,88
<b>4. Costs of materials (Business establishment)</b>			
a) Expenses for raw, auxiliary and process materials and for purchased goods		-3.604,65	-1.260,94
<b>5. Expenses from ideal area</b>			
a) Expenses for project funding-	-390.046,69		-360.034,75
b) Expenses for project supervision-	-18.502,66		-23.738,59
c) Expenses for campaigns, education and awareness raising-	-6.751,23		-14.032,38
d) Expenses for advertising and general public relations-	-39.445,79		-40.440,46
e) Expenses for funded projects-	-23.737,00		-8.737,26
- thereof expenses from currency conversion			
EUR -2.349,73 (EUR 699,39)		-478.483,37	
<b>6. Result from association work</b>		46.018,23	54.435,11
<b>7. Administrative costs</b>			
a) Expenses for administration		-37.024,83	-41.387,41
<b>8. Net income</b>		8.993,40	13.047,70
<b>9. Transfer in free reserve</b>			
a) In free reserve		-8.993,40	-13.047,70
<b>10. Net profit</b>		0,00	0,00

Note to statutory auditor's report

The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association board has chosen the auditing company HvO from Oettingen GmbH as statutory auditor for the financial year 2018. The association's CEO has ordered the review. The HvO from Oettingen GmbH has ordered the unconditional auditor's report of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association for the annual financial statement for the financial year 2018 on November 8 of 2018. After the evaluation and review by HvO from Oettingen GmbH, the annual financial statement of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association, concerning the auditor's report, meets the trade issues in all material respects. It conveys, in accordance with the German principles in proper bookkeeping, an image fitting to the actual conditions of the wealth, financial and profit situation of the association to December 31 of 2018. The ordered auditor's report and the completely reviewed annual financial statement, to whom this note is referring to, can be found on our website [www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de/ueber-uns/#transparenz](http://www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de/ueber-uns/#transparenz).

## FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL REPORT 2018

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the end of 2018 the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association completed its 26th financial year. The association is financed through contributions from other charitable organisations and foundations, grants from church and private sources as well as donations, sponsorships and membership dues and also from the proceeds from the sale of handicrafts. Its statutory tasks include setting up humanitarian aid for Afghan women and children and their families. The association aims to support the education and professional training for these people, to promote a health care system, to give assistance in individual cases, to promote the advancement of women, to carry out emergency aid programmes and help to provide clean drinking water. Based on the statute of our association these are our most important goals.

#### **Current situation and developments**

The revenue which the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association recorded in 2018 (the year covered by this report) was 803,285.52 euros (in 2017 it was 564,906.05 euros) – this is considerably higher than the sum for the previous year.

Similarly expenditure in 2018 increased to 566,916.89 euros (in 2017: 490,707.04 euros).

The increase in expenditure for our projects resulted mainly from the extensions built on to the Bojasar School. We also commenced building the Safa School in memory of Roger Willemsen. In this connection we made advance payments of 46,889.66 euros in 2018. Our cash assets were particularly affected by the construction work on the Safa School in memory of Roger Willemsen and on 30th September 2019 amounted to 428,728.85 euros (by comparison on 31.12.2018: 650,898.94 euros) – the cash available at that time was needed to finance our programmes and projects. In order to carry through these projects in 2020 we shall be dependent on further support.

All in all the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association generated a very positive result in 2018 amounting to 8,993.40 euros (in 2017: 13,047.70 euros). This is the result of a surplus from our special purpose operations and was credited to our reserves for contingencies

that might occur while carrying out our work as set out in our statute. At the end of the period covered by this report the sum of 477,289.05 Euros remained on the account to be used to finance projects in the following year. This sum came from donations which were to be used according to our statute. On the reporting date (31st December 2018) the association's account balance was 754,450.51 Euros.

### **Revenues**

Money received from other charitable organisations amounted to 194,701.28 Euros (in 2017: 181,206.26 Euros). Surprisingly, donations in cash and commodities rose to 568,728.32 Euros (2017: 362,938.72 Euros). We express our heartfelt thanks to all our donors.

### **Expenses**

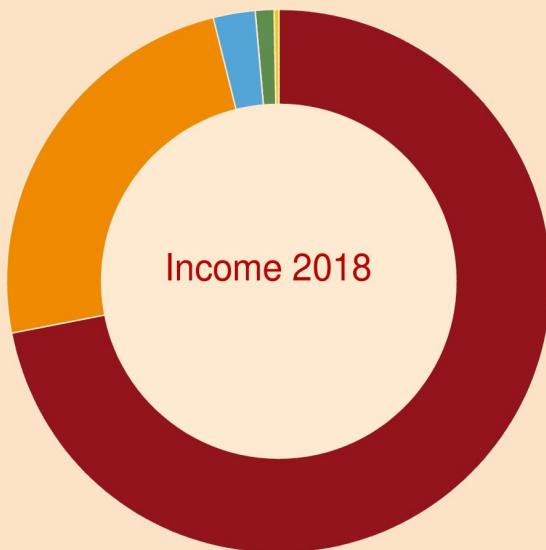
The cost of proceeding with our projects rose by 7.6% in comparison with 2017 reaching a sum of 385,160.51 Euros. The expense of providing life-supporting emergency aid for families in dire need was at the same level as in 2017. We spent a total of 168,369.57 Euros. We were happy to be able to spend 16,307.00 Euros on the pilot scheme of supporting pupils with scholarships to enable them to attend university.

### **Reserve assets and liquid assets**

Our reserves increased as a result of the surplus from the special purpose operations as of the reporting date to 255,311.62 Euros (an increase of 3.65%). Our liquid assets increased by 236,368.63 Euros to a total of 650,898.94 Euros. We are therefore in the fortunate position of being able to continue with the tasks defined by our statute in 2019.

### **Our chances and risks**

In the period under review we were able to raise sufficient funds to proceed with our work and to build up reserves. In the immediate future we expect the cost of financing our current projects to rise partly because of an increase in the cost of living and therefore also in wages. We are also continually working on an extension of our projects since there is an ever-increasing demand. More and more girls would like to attend our schools, the need for medical care grows continuously and the number of refugees grows all the time. We are therefore making plans for further investments and an escalation of running expenses. One very positive factor for us is that membership of the Association has remained at the same high level for many years and that the number of sponsors and supporters continues to rise steadily.



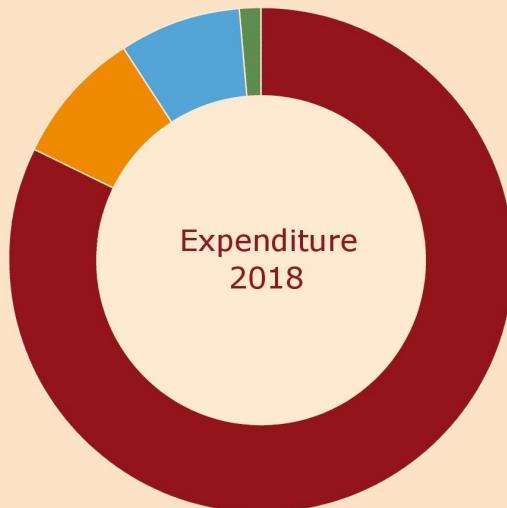
Income 2018

- 72 % Donations and membership fees
- 24,2 % Non-profit organization grants
- 2,5 % Government grants
- 1,1 % Taxable establishment
- 0,2 % Other income

Expenditure 2018

- 83,7 % Project funding and project support
- 7,9 % Administration
- 7,2 % Advertise and general public relations work
- 1,2 % Campaigns and educational work

Expenditure  
2018



## 27 YEARS OF SUCCESSFUL WORK

THE AFGHAN VOLUNTEER WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN A REGISTERED ASSOCIATION SINCE 1992

Now the association has 126 members and 344 sponsors. Currently the association's board is composed of five members.

Anyone can become a member of the association – they must be 16 years of age and may have any nationality or any political or religious affiliation.

Once a year all members are invited to an annual general meeting where we present a report on the work which the executive board has carried out in the past year.

This meeting approves the board's report and elects a new board every two years. The executive committee consists of a chairman/woman, a deputy chairperson, a treasurer, a secretary and possibly one more person.

### **The Executive Committee and a select circle of members**

The executive Committee and 20 other members of the association who are particularly active in our work co-ordinate the work of the association on an entirely



Members of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association with members of staff and some guests at the Annual General Meeting on 9.11.2019 in Bonn.

basis. At the annual general meeting in Bonn on 9th November 2019 the chairwoman Nadia Nashir, her deputy Homa Abass, the association's treasurer Rona Mansury and the secretary Sarghuna Sultanie were released.

At her own request Malahat Dinkelmann resigned from the executive committee. In her place Aziza Popal was elected as a new member of the committee. In 2018 the Annual General Meeting has approved a new statute. The full text can be viewed online. The executive committee and those members who are particularly active in our work meet together up to six times a year.

At these meetings the executive committee report on the ongoing projects and involves these members in all further planning.

The executive committee and their active colleagues are assisted by two employees who work full-time or part-time and occasional trainees in the association's office in Osnabrück. This office deals with publicity, the co-ordination with our sponsors, management of our projects and general administration. Together with the executive committee and the active members, it maintains close contact with the association's office in Kabul, Afghanistan.



The Executive Committee of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: (left to right): Homa Abass (deputy chairwoman) Aziza Popal (member of the committee) Nadia Nashir (chairwoman), Rona Mansury (treasurer), Sarghuna Sultanie (secretary).



121 local members of staff in Afghanistan put the Association's project into practice, often at the risk of their own lives.

### **The Association's team in Kabul**

The Association maintains an office in Kabul which currently has 121 employees, both men and women, who co-ordinate our projects. All members of staff in Kabul work on the projects of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association are local people who are fully familiar with the culture and language of those participating in the projects.

In an emergency or if an accident occurs or there is a serious illness in one of their families Afghan employees of our organisation can apply for assistance from a special fund which we have set up.

Important developments in the work of the organisation are shared with our members, our sponsors and donors in the form of an annual report which is sent by post once a year. In order to continue to support women and children in the best possible way we need continuous further donations. To this end the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association has a variety of forms of information and publicity apart from the annual report such as newsletters, letters with up-to-date information, public events, an internet presence and we are available for personal conversations. We have Christmas campaigns and visit schools in order to promote our work.

THIS IS  
HOW YOU  
CAN HELP



## **YOUR HELP HAS AN EFFECT**

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE AFGHAN  
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

### **Handmade textile from Ghazni**

If you wish, you can support our seamstresses and embroiderers in Ghazni by buying one of their filigree products. They are made according to traditional methods and their work is highly qualified.

The entire proceeds from these sales go to the women who have made these items and their families.

Delicate silk scarves, classic embroidered keyrings, bags, table runners or children's bed linen – all products feature high-quality materials. Each piece is unique.

You will find many more examples on our web page. If you would like further advice or information please contact:

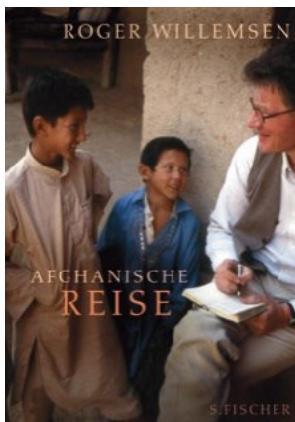
Mrs. Sultanie: Tel: +49 – (0)6742 81239 or [www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de](http://www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de)



This is how you can help

## DO GOOD BY READING

**Roger Willemsen travelled to and around Afghanistan on numerous occasions accompanied by members of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association. He published his impressions, as well as the letters and pictures he received after his trips to the Hindu Kush in two books: "Afghan Journey" and "Once upon a time – or maybe not. Afghan children and their world." The proceeds of the sales of these books flow to the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association.**

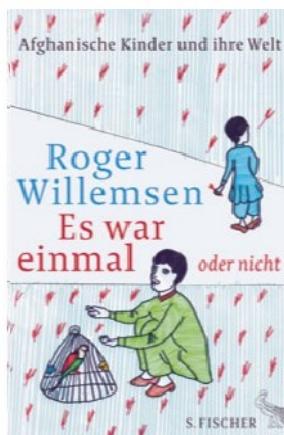


Roger Willemsen: "Afghanische Reise"  
S. Fischer Verlag  
"An Afghan Journey" (English version)

In February and November 2005 Roger Willemsen travelled through Afghanistan. He accompanied the chairwoman of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association Nadia Nashir. In November their journey took them from Kabul over the Hindu Kush Mountains well into the remote villages of the north of the country and to the banks of the legendary River Oxus. He met girls who played football, nomads and orphans, human rights activists and prisoners, former Mujaheddin fighters and Taliban functionaries, camel herders and musicians. He visited a number of our projects and spoke to our staff – to teachers and students, to administrators, village elders and people who built wells. He won their hearts through his interest and his sympathy for their concerns. This book is really worth reading for anyone who wishes to discover Afghanistan.



Roger Willemsen made countless trips to Afghanistan travelling around the country. He brought back hundreds of drawings, essays and letters – moving documents from young people whose everyday life is marked by war. On his last journey in the autumn of 2012 he travelled from Kabul into the Panshir Valley and visited some of these children. His account of this trip draws up an exact and somewhat astonishing picture of life in Afghanistan – it is illustrated with the text and pictures these children had given him and brings to life not only the gloomy side of Afghan life but also many happy moments.



"Once upon a time – or maybe not – the  
World of Afghan Children"  
S. Fischer Verlag  
(published by S. Fischer)

This is how you can help

## DONATIONS – THE MOST IMPORTANT AND MOST DIRECT WAY OF HELPING

### EVEN SMALL SUMS BENEFIT WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN AFGHANISTAN

- 10 euros a month mean a girl can attend school
- 30 euros per month provide access to a year's training course as a seamstress
- 25 – 100 euros a month ensure the sponsorship of a family in dire need
- 80 euros a month cover the salary of a teacher
- 1.000 euros is the price of a well that can bear your name and will supply up to 200 people with clean drinking water on a permanent basis

**Please support our work with your donation  
or a regular contribution.**

**Our account:**

**Afghanischer Frauenverein e.V.**

**IBAN: DE 28 5708 0070 0680 8505 00**

**BIC:DRESDEFF570**





You can make a big difference to people in Afghanistan with your donation.  
Thank you so much!

# Forms of sponsorships

## Please support us with your donation!

Yes, I support the projects of the AFV with a regular donation.

in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ Euros.

monthly       quarterly       half-yearly       yearly

beginning on: \_\_\_\_\_

To ensure that my support arrives without deduction of bank charges, I authorize you to collect my donation by direct debit. If my account is not covered, my account-holding bank is not obliged to redeem the amount.

Note: I can request a refund within eight weeks of the debit date. The terms and conditions agreed with my/our payment service provider apply.

BIC, Name of the Bank: \_\_\_\_\_

IBAN: \_\_\_\_\_

Account holder: \_\_\_\_\_

My address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name, First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code, Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to be informed about the work of the AFV.

I accept the privacy policy and agree to the collection and processing of my data. ([www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de/datenschutz](http://www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de/datenschutz)). Personal data will not be passed on.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Location, Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Of course, the sponsorship can be cancelled at any time and with immediate effect.

All donations tax deductible.



We say Thank You

**We wish to take this opportunity of saying a very special word of thanks to our ambassador Herbert Grönemeyer. We also wish to thank all our supporters, our voluntary helpers, our interns, the members of our association and our sponsors.**

**Our thanks also go out to the institutions which co-operate with us and support us, to the schools and foundations and charities which work with us and all our partners in the private and public sector who give financial backing:**

*Sahar Abass, Soraya Akram, Barbara Auer, Jörg Bong, Henrike Bosse, Angela von Brill, Agnes Büinemann, Tom Bullmann, Petra Coppenrath, Heike Fischer, Nikolaus Gelpke, Patrick Görke, Franziska Grillmeier, Hedwig Hardtke, Kerstin Hehmann, Franziska Hölscher, Klaus Hoffman, Nadja Hussein, Christina Ihle, Melanie Kizinna, Dr. Achim Knolle, Tatjana Knoop-Scheck, Brigitte Kupke, Olena Kushpler, Anna Luckhardt, Nina Lükenga, Prof. Dr. Walter Lükenga, Felix Mauser, Kristine Meierling, Franz Metzler, Hilde Middelberg, Karin Möllhoff, Grana Nawabi, Familie Noack, Prof. Dr. Günther Nogge, Mustafa Nouri, Anita Schubert-Zeimetz, Tobias Sunderdiek, Ulrike Teepe, Mariam Wagner, Insa Wilke, Stefan Wimmer, Svenja Windisch, Julia Wittgens, Ronja Wurmb-Seibel*

*Aktionsgruppe 3. Welt Kettig e.V., BBS Cadenberge, Bingo Umweltstiftung Niedersachsen, Brunnen für Afghanistan, Camps International GmbH, Children of Nippes, Clifford Chance Deutschland LLP, Cyclos GmbH, Deutsch-Afghanische Initiative e.V., S. Fischer Verlag GmbH, Friedenskreis Eutin e.V., Gemeinnützige Stiftung Helfen, Gerda Henkel-Stiftung, Gymnasium Carolinum Osnabrück, Kinder Afghaniests e.V., Klax Schule Berlin, Lions Club Köln-Vitellius e.V., Malteser International e.V., Mare-Verlag, Michael Horbach Stiftung, Musik Bewegt Stiftung gGmbH, Lagerhalle, ROOF Music Schallplatten- und Verlags GmbH, Rotary Club Herford-Widukind e.V., Rotary Club Neuwied-Andernach, Rotary Club Ravensburg-Weingarten, Scheck-Stiftung, Schillerschule Frankfurt am Main, SI-Club Bad Oeynhausen / Wittekindsland, SI-Club Bamberg-Kunigunde, SI-Club Bonn, SI-Club Cuxhaven-Stadt und Land, SI-Club Essen Victoria, SI-Club Osnabrück, SI-Club Paderborn, Stiftung Dr. Saber Seleman, Stiftung RTL – Wir helfen Kindern, terre des hommes Deutschland e.V., Verein Niedersächsischer Bildungsinitiativen e.V., Verlag Krüger und Schönhoff und Visions for Children e.V.*



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Afghan Volunteer Women's Association

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[www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de](http://www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de)

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Afghan Volunteer Women's Association  
3rd floor  
Kwaja Amini Market  
Chicken Street Shar-e-Naw  
Kabul, Afghanistan

### Account for donations

Afghan Volunteer Women's Association  
Commerzbank Koblenz  
IBAN: DE28 5708 0070 0680 8505 00  
BIC: DRESDEFF570

All donations tax deductible.



Geprüft und empfohlen:  
Das Deutsche Zentralinstitut für soziale  
Fragen (DZI) bescheinigt dem AFV mit  
der Zuerkennung dieses Siegels, dass wir  
mit den uns anvertrauten Geldern sorg-  
fältig und verantwortungsvoll umgehen.