



AVWA projects 2012/13



Roger Willemsen in Afghanistan 2012

The Afghan Volunteer
Women's Association,
under the patronage
of Roger Willemsen:

» Your help for Afghanistan counts «



Afghanischer Frauenverein e. V.



Our ability to help depends on your support and trust. Especially in such perilous times, Afghanistan is in need of our help. Without our efforts, Afghanistan's citizens are left without hope and without prospects for a better life in the future. Let us not forsake them! Please.

Roger Willemsen

Prof. Dr. Roger Willemsen, patron of the AVWA



Our projects systematically support Afghan women and children in the following areas:

- School education
- Vocational training/trades
- Construction of clean drinking water wells.
- Healthcare/health education
- Emergency relief
- Family sponsorships

We have been supporting projects in North, East and South-eastern Afghanistan and in Afghan refugee camps close to Peshawar in Pakistan for 20 years. We mainly support projects in rural areas where aid scarcely arrives.

We are constantly funding five schools for girls and boys, two training centers for seamstresses and embroiderers, two literacy projects, two maternal health centers, one healthcare center and one kindergarten. We promote and fund the construction of clean drinking water wells, support families with sponsorships and initiate emergency relief actions when and where needed.

Our aim is to help people help themselves. We intend to support the abilities of local people in order to participate in shaping their future in Afghanistan. Your help is important in achieving this goal. Your contribution makes a lasting difference to improve the lives of Afghan women and children.

Create hope for Afghanistan!

After the lasting years of trouble, Afghanistan deserves to take the responsibility of its own future. To secure peace, particularly the weakest members of Afghan society – women and children – need our support. One out of six children does not reach the age of five.* Only 39% of girls in cities receive basic education; in rural areas, the percentage is much more lower.**

We have still been able to change many things for the better. In 2012 we enabled about 3,000 girls and women to go to school or help themselves economically, provided medical treatment to approx. 20,000 patients, performed more than 72,000 vaccinations, provided clean drinking water to almost 52,000 people in remote regions and supported more than 62 families in need through sponsorships. However, the need is still great and education, healthcare, clean drinking water and vocational training are continuously limited.

Create hope! Only your support lets us continue to give Afghan women and children a real chance of access to education and healthcare – which would lead to security and stability.



- The marked places show rural areas we are supporting with 16 relief programs for Afghan women and children.

* report 2012 WHO ** report 2012 UNESCO



AVWA – Afghan Volunteer Women's Association

The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association (AVWA) has been providing support and help in North, East and south-eastern parts of Afghanistan as well as in refugee camps near Peshawar since 1992.

We support 16 ongoing projects, predominantly in rural regions. All projects are developed in close cooperation with villagers and are based on their demands and needs. More than 160 project managers, teachers, physicians, midwives, drivers, guards and administrators are involved in the work on site.

Our work empowers Afghan people to shape their own future. Many people in Germany support the work of AVWA. Especially our patron, Roger Willemssen, contributes many time and active support to our projects. In 2012 he travelled to Afghanistan again to witness the local conditions.

Thanks to the financial support and voluntary work of our sponsors and members, administrative costs remain low, and donations are constantly and directly supervised to reach the people dependent on them. Members of the Board of Directors and active members of AVWA often travel to Afghanistan at their own expenses to oversee the progress of the projects.

We therefore depend on your contribution to help us provide a sustainable and effective support to Afghan women and children.

Drinking water supply | Project 1

Well-drilling

1. Drinking water supply in Afghanistan is disastrous.

Only 23% of the Afghan population has access to clean drinking water. Particularly in the districts of Dasht-e Archi, Char Darah and Qalaizal outside Kunduz city, people hardly have any access to clean drinking water. Outside aid only arrives rarely in these regions. In summer many rivers dry out, in winter they freeze. Without wells people drink from dirty rivers and stagnant ponds polluted with fertilizers and pesticides. Women and children are often forced to travel long and dangerous ways to carry water to the village. Our work has allowed residents to draw clean drinking water from local wells. This year we also drilled wells for two girls' schools in the provinces of Kabul and Kunduz.



Roger Willemsen at the Bojasar school in Kabul, autumn 2012

For the local people a drinking water well means safety, health, improved living standards and a better future. Thanks to the outstanding commitment of our patron Roger Willemsen and support from numerous donors, we have been able to provide more than 52,000 people with clean, daily drinking water throughout the last seven years. For years, we have been working with the same local company which also works on sustainability issues. The construction of a hand-pump well on average costs 800 Euro. It can supply between 100 and 200 people per day with fresh drinking water. Locals are supporting the construction of wells, e.g., by supervising the construction, transporting equipment and do repair work.

Water saves lives!

In 2012 alone, we built more than 54 new wells!



Without a well the villagers have to drink polluted water



Well for a girls' school in the village Basus in the province Kunduz



Thank letter to Roger Willemsen from villagers of Koja Galtan/Kunduz:

«We, the residents of our village in the Kunduz district, thank Mr. Roger Willemsen with all our hearts for drilling this well. We had no clean drinking water before. We are so thankful to have these wells now. Thank you!»

Schooling | Project ②**New girls' school in Bojasar near Kabul**

The new girls' school Bojasar

2. Close the cycle!

When we opened our girls' school in the village of Bojasar in 2012, the village elders, some AVWA members from Germany, and the Afghan teachers and students attended this event. The first year immediately started with 300 girls who were instructed by 15 teachers in 11 classes until the end of secondary school. We plan to receive up to 1,000 girls in the near future. The school has 21 rooms, 17 thereof classrooms, three offices and a library. The girls spend their breaks in the large schoolyard with sports field and a drinking water well.



Opening of the girls' school Bojasar





Students on the way home

Poor farmers, who have hardly received any aid so far, live in these remote villages, which lie about one hour from Kabul. The school is located at the center of the village of Bojasar. In the surrounding area there are 22 more mud brick villages. Sweet grape vineyards and high, snow-capped mountains dominate the landscape. To reach school, the girls go on foot for almost one hour. Due to the extreme lack of trained teachers, we have to shuttle teachers from Kabul to the school by car. In the long run, we want girls from the school to work as teachers in these villages.



The pupils receive free school uniforms, pens, notebooks and textbooks.

The girls and their families are very excited about this opportunity, because older pupils can now read letters to their parents. This way, the whole families benefit.

Schooling | Project 3

Khazani boys' and girls' school near Kunduz



3. Great thirst for knowledge

At the modern Khazani school, which we founded 10 years ago, more than 1,200 girls and boys, in 22 classes, are instructed by 27 teachers in 16 subjects until the 10th grade. New grades are added every year. In 2012, a 10th grade was added and promoted to senior secondary school classrooms. In the mornings girls up to 8th grade go to school and in the afternoons the boys. The number of students is steadily growing. In March 2012, the new first grade comprised 143 boys and girls.



There is a kindergarten for the teachers' children and a large playground for the children to enjoy their recess.

During the winter breaks, our students can attend free classes in computer science, calligraphy and English. Despite the cold and the high snow, the pupils come from faraway villages and participate with great enthusiasm. Furthermore, there is a local well with fresh drinking water.

Khazani boys' and girls' school near Kunduz



13-year-old Rani, a sixth-grader at the Khazani school, writes:

»I am so happy to go to school; I often read letters to my parents, because they never went to school. My father is very proud of me and says I should become a teacher one day. He is a bricklayer. My favorite subjects are Dari, sports and art. I have six siblings. I get up early in the morning, sweep the yard, bring our cow to the meadow, and then drink some sugared tea for breakfast, while my mother bakes bread, which is also our lunch and dinner. I like peace, not war. Thank you for the beautiful pencils, notebooks and school uniforms.«

Many families from the neighbouring provinces of Takhar and Badakhshan have moved to the province of Kunduz to escape poverty and find work. We had to add a guard-room and a new office room to the building in 2011. We promote education in remote areas to prevent rural depopulation. Therefore, we are particularly proud that three former students are now teachers at the Khazani school.



The boys' school gymnastics at the Khazani school

Schooling | Project ④

Roshani girls' school in Ghazni Province



Graduation ceremony at the girls' school Roschani

4. Sustainability guaranteed

460 students in twelve classes are instructed by 15 teachers at Roshani school in Ghazni Province. The girls pay no tuition fee. Our association does not only pay the running expenses for the staff and the rent, but also expenses for school uniforms and material.

During the winter break from January to March, the principal volunteers to teach 40 girls in Dari, English, religion and mathematics. These courses run six days a week. The teachers also receive professional training during the winter breaks, to get able to offer more and better educational services to the pupils. Last year's training focused on mathematics, biology and physics. In 2012, ten girls graduated from high school, four are studying at university now, three have become teachers and three other ones are taking classes in computer science and English. Two former students are themselves teaching at the Roshani school now.



Letter from a girl in 8th grade:

»My name is Mahbuba and I love my classmates and teachers. I like going to Roshani school, although our house is four kilometers away, because classes are fun and we get free pens, notebooks and clothing. My father is unemployed and collects old bread for resale. I live in a mud-brick house with my parents and four little siblings. We built the house, so we pay no rent. I want to become a doctor, so I can help my family and my country.«

We have been offering regular classes for 13 years, and although the situation is hard, the girls continue to attend with great determination.



A class at the Roschani school in winter



Certificates are issued



5. Commitment to the future

For 19 years, the Marefat school has been the only school in the desolate district of Peshawar-Takhal (Pakistan) which offers free, high-quality primary and secondary education to Afghan refugee girls. All expenses, such as rent, salaries, transportation of teachers and educational material are paid by our association. 21 teachers instruct approx. 450 pupils in 15 classes before and after noon in 25 subjects.

Physical exercise is a daily routine to strengthen the girls' confidence.

The girls avidly participate in various competitions.





Khatera Akbari visited the Marefat girls' school from the first to 12th grade. She writes:

»I have been a teacher at the Marefat girls' school for two years; I really enjoy teaching the elementary school children. I can share my knowledge, because I, a refugee child, found the best prerequisites for learning at the Marefat school. Thanks to the love and honest work of the teachers, this school has earned great respect from families, so that now everyone tries to send their children to our school. Unfortunately, our means are limited and we cannot accept all applicants. One mother even proposed to bring a chair for her daughter. We have chairs and tables, but there is too little space. I thank you dearly, because your help and care allows our school to exist.«

The work of the AVWA is actively and continuously supported by two partner schools, Gymnasium Carolinum in Osnabrück and Schule am Roten Berg in Hasbergen (near Osnabrück). The school is registered with the Afghan Ministry of Education and the curriculum follows the Ministry's specifications, so that the refugees' certificates are also recognized in Afghanistan and they have the possibility to contribute in reconstructing their country after returning home. In 2012, 19 girls completed secondary school.

Many of our graduates work as doctors, teachers and officials in Afghanistan and Pakistan.





6. So far away on foot ...

Since December 2010, we have been supporting a new elementary school for 85 girls and boys in the village of Nurzai in the Char Darah district. It is located approximately 25 kilometers from the city of Kunduz. The boys and girls are between seven and nine years old and are instructed together in three classes from first to third grade.



A teacher started this school on his own and for this purpose obtained a license from the Ministry of Education.

We pay the salaries for three teachers and provide the necessary pens and notebooks. Some children come to school on foot from very remote villages. The locals are poor tenant farmers who grow grain, fruit and vegetables to support themselves.

Vocational training | Project 7

Roshani training center in Ghazni

7. Small costs – large effects

Since 2002 we have trained more than 300 seamstresses. The women furthermore attend a literacy course. Each year, two teachers instruct 30 women for one year. After the course they receive a sewing machine with accessories, so they can earn a living from home and hereby support their families.

There is a long waiting list because poverty is widespread in Ghazni and has devastating effects, especially for widows and impoverished girls.



«This training has not only made me a very good seamstress, I also received a six-month course which I may attend every year from the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, because I had the best grade among 40 candidates taking the admission test. At home I teach 20 students. I also sew at home. I live with my parents, my son and my brothers. Believe me, I pay most of the expenses. Each month I buy two sacks of flour, seven kilograms of peas and five liters of oil, from my sewing work. I also pay the treatment and medication for my parents. One brother of mine is addicted; I also help his five children and his wife. From the rest of the money I buy clothes. I am very grateful; God be with you. Sarghuna»



8. Overcoming poverty

At the tailoring workshops 30 students receive literacy classes one hour per day. These women from 18 to 35 years are talented and want to take charge of their lives. Often they are the only members of their families who are still able to work and earn money.

We give the girls and women educational material and also financial support throughout the year.

Many girls who could not read and write before, visit a regular school after a year of our training. Six girls made it this year.



Vocational training | Project 9

Honar training center in Peshawar



9. Education and tradition

In January 2012, 80 girls received a one-year training as seamstresses and embroiderers. Twelve qualified teachers give them embroidering and sewing lessons six times a week. After their training, they receive a sewing machine giving them the possibility to start their own businesses from home. Many of these women are widows. Some of these talented women now work as teachers in Honar. 50 women work as embroiderers for our project and create the beautiful products we sell in Germany and other places to fund this project. Board members of our association regularly travel to Peshawar to train the Afghan teachers.



Vocational training | Project 9

Honar training center in Peshawar

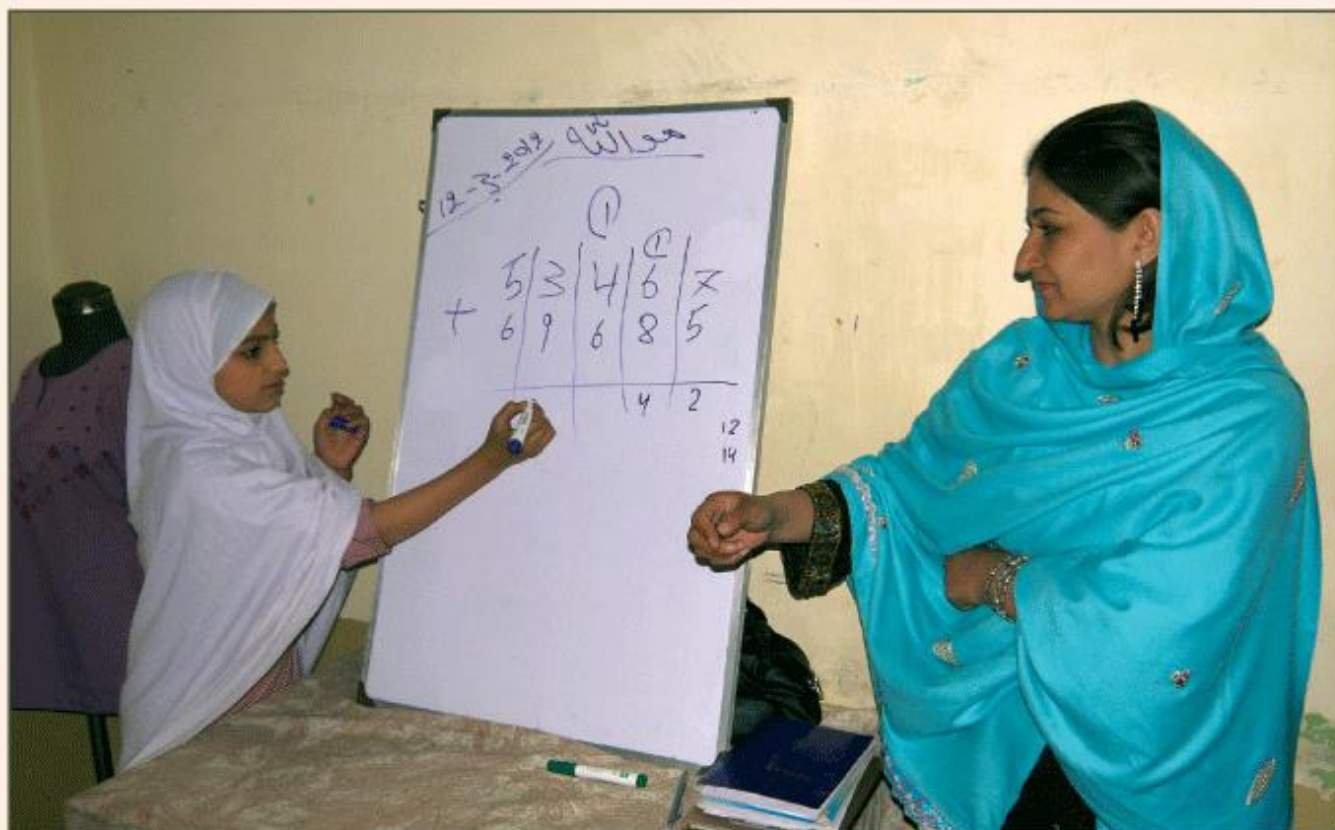
18-year-old Hasina wrote this after her one-year training as a seamstress in Honar:

»I have two brothers and four sisters and I live in a poor neighbourhood in Peshawar, far from my actual home, Jalalabad in Afghanistan. My father was a merchant and had a small kiosk. It burned down, and it drove him insane. After that, we had hardly enough food and no hope. Fortunately, I learned how to sew, read and write at the Honar training center. I thank you with all my heart for giving me the opportunity to learn the seamstress trade. The machine you gave me allows me to sew and sell clothes. Now my siblings can go to school and I can feed the family. Thank you so much!, Hasina«



You can order Honar's beautiful handmade products to our Honar project Manager Mrs. Sultanie at +49 (0) 6742-81239.





10. Two hours of school can make a big difference

Six times a week, our students in Honar attend classes in reading, writing, mathematics, sports and religion in addition to their vocational training.

They also learn about issues like peace, health, nutrition and law. The women are particularly interested in social issues.

Every year, five to seven girls proceed to a regular school after completing the one-year literacy course.

Last year, six girls aged 16 to 18 could join the 7th to 8th grades after attending only one or two hours of lessons each day at the project.





11. Support in remote regions

People in this secluded valley, one hour from Kabul, have no access to any type of healthcare. Since 2007, our doctor has been travelling to the village each week, even during the harsh winter months, walking the last stretch.

With his team of three, he treats people against digestive tract infections, malnutrition, skin, eye and respiratory diseases. In 2012, more than 3,500 patients came for ambulant treatments.



The region's poor inhabitants often travel for hours on foot or by mule over difficult terrain for free diagnoses and medicine.

Since 2004, fourteen local midwives are trained to provide pregnancy and birth support. Each year they are provided with material for their midwives' kits. We also repaired a well to provide them with clean drinking water.



12. Outpatient healthcare

The Adezai refugee camp is about one hour from Peshawar. At its healthcare center, more than 6,000 refugees are treated by one doctor, nurses, midwives, a pharmacist and a laboratory specialist.



6,000 outpatients have been treated against digestive tract infections, malaria, skin or respiratory diseases, and provided antenatal and postnatal care. A laboratory is also in operation in the camp. In 2012 there have been 158 births under the supervision of our medical team.



The staff is continuously trained in the areas of disease prevention, family planning, human rights and patient treatment methods. They share this knowledge with patients, camp inhabitants and representatives of the village communities.

Healthcare | Project 13

Munda Pul Mother-Child Healthcare Center near Peshawar



Life in Pakistan has become even harder for Afghan refugees due to high costs of living after the disastrous flood in 2010.

Therefore, we urgently need financial support. We need your help.

13. Forgotten refugees

We have been funding the Munda Pul Mother-Child-Healthcare-Center in the Charsadda district for 14 years. The remote Munda Pul refugee camp lies more than two hours from Peshawar. 17,000 refugees live in this camp. It is the only medical center for the region's women and their children, many of them newborns and small children. Patients are treated for free. 365 births were supervised by our medical team, who all commute for at least three hours each day from Peshawar. Since 2010, a midwife has been living at our healthcare center to support women throughout the day and night. More than 7,000 patients, 33% thereof children, have been treated against respiratory and skin diseases,



digestive tract infections, diarrhea, hepatitis, typhus and mental illnesses. Almost 60,000 vaccinations were administered. We also operate a laboratory. We continuously train our staff while they provide prenatal, postnatal and family planning services to the villagers.

Other measures | Projects 14, 15 and 16 sponsorships, emergency relief and education

14. A special bond

We support 62 needy Afghan families with many children in Afghanistan and Pakistan with monthly payments. Most of the children in these families are half-orphans.

Your help allows the children to go to school and provides medical care and food to all family members. Letters between families and sponsors often forge bonds that are deeper than mere sympathy.

Thank you letter:

»My name is Khaleda. I am 19 years old and live with my blind father, my mother, four sisters and four brothers in a poor neighborhood of Peshawar. Like my father, my brothers and sisters only have 20% of their eyesight left. Your regular monthly support allows us to buy food and clothes, added by a surgery saving my four-year-old brother's life. We pray for you every day and are deeply grateful for your help. May God protect you. Khaleda«

15. Surviving the icy winter

The icy winter of 2012 hit the poor very hard. A spontaneous call for donations raised 1,200 kg of food (sugar, tea and fat), 300 blankets and 750 pairs of stockings. The aid was distributed to 150 needy families, widows and orphans.

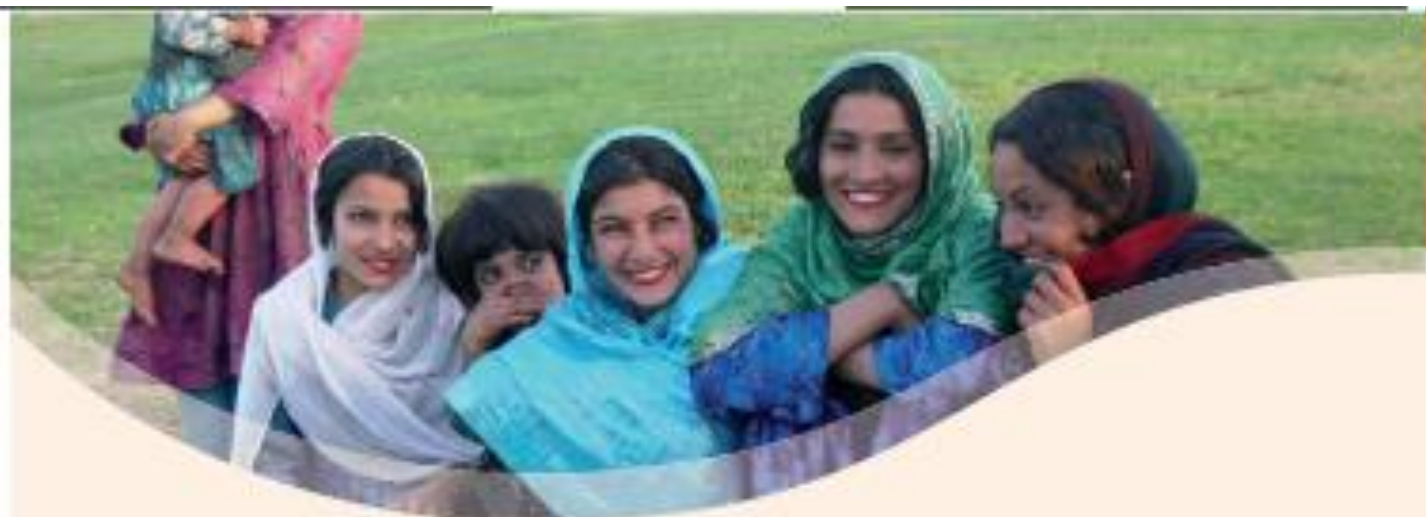


Generous donations and quick deployment allowed us to save many lives.

Thank you! With your help we were able to provide medical care to 40 families, treated hepatitis and performed necessary surgeries.

16. Promoting Education

This year we are planning training measures for the teachers at our schools.



Looking back – at AVWA's the first year

When in 1992 in Germany a group of dedicated women came together to help the people in Afghanistan, no one expected that they would achieve so fast.

Despite our pride in our achievements, we always look forward, especially to the future of women and children. In 2011, 2,500 girls attended our schools and training centers each year; now there are more than 3,000. The number of high school graduates is constantly increasing. After visiting our literacy classes, the young women are often so motivated because they choose to enroll in a regular school for the first times in their lives.

Former students have become teachers and doctors who return to their remote villages to work in schools and hospitals. Meanwhile, ten graduate students work as teachers in three different schools.

Looking back over the years, we built 54 new wells and thereby gave more than 52,000 people access to clean drinking water. We vaccinated and provided medical care to more than 72,000 children and women. The number of treatments increased by 12,000 over the last year.

All this is possible because our members and sponsors – particularly our patron Roger Willemsen – show exemplary, overwhelming commitment and thereby help us to keep going. Roger Willemsen set a brave example by travelling to Afghanistan in the fall of 2012 at his own risk.

He wanted to personally witness the progress of our work.

The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association thanks him sincerely!

A Gift from the bottom of the Heart: Roger Willemsen's benefit gala for Afghanistan



Benefit gala with Roger Willemsen and guests, Cologne Opera, 2012

With pride and joy we look back at 2006, when Roger Willemsen became our patron. Since then, thousands of women and children have received access to **education, medical care and clean drinking water**. A patron like Roger Willemsen is a blessing. Again and again, he organizes fundraising readings, gives interviews and supports all of our activities.

For the 20th anniversary of the AVWA in May 2012, he again made it possible to mobilize celebrity „friends and accomplices“ to organize an overwhelming, grandiose benefit gala at the Cologne Opera.

»Afghanistan does not need your money, not your moral support – Afghanistan needs your interest.« With this announcement, Roger Willemsen opened the show, which he presented with outstanding commitment, charm and empathy. The artists all volunteered to make this evening a touching experience through their renditions of personal „heartfelt gifts“ – texts and songs.

This memorable night with Roger Willemsen, Anke Engelke, Bastian Pastewka, Annette Frier, Joachim Krol, Iris Berben, Pegah Ferydoni, Franziska Hölscher with Nils Mönkemeyer and William Youn, Klaus Hoffmann, Hakim Ludin, Andreas Rebers and Olga Scheps, raised the remarkable sum of EUR 60,000.

Tashakor – our heartfelt gratitude to all of you!

Roger Willemsen »An Afghan Journey«



Roger Willemsen
»An Afghan Journey«
Haus Publishing
ISBN 10: 978-1905791033
EUR 10.00

Paperback
ISBN 10: 978-1906598006
EUR 9.95

Roger Willemsen, »An Afghan Journey« (Haus Publishing)

In February and November 2005, Roger Willemsen travelled through Afghanistan. Together with Nadia Nashir Karim, chairwoman of the AVWA, he travelled from Kabul over the Hindu Kush mountains in November to the most remote villages of the North and to the banks of the legendary Oxus. He met football players, nomads and sages, human rights activists and prisoners, former mujahedeen and Taliban officials, camel herders and musicians... His destinations included different projects of the AVWA; he spoke to employees, teachers, students, administrators, well builders and village elders.

»An Afghan Journey« is available in German, English and Polish. The English edition (Haus Publishing) was recommended by the renowned writers' association PEN International.

An evening for Afghanistan Live from the Bonn Opera



In collaboration with
tacheles! / ROOF Music



Order the CD for EUR 10.00
from the AWS headquarters

Give us a call or send an e-mail.
Phone: +49 (0) 541 4 08 99 96
E-mail: info@afghanischer-frauenverein.de

Experience astounding heartfelt gifts by: Roger Willemssen, Frank Chastenier, John Goldsby, Sophie von Kessel, Gert Scobel, Farhad Darya, Bastian Pastewka, Christine Urspruch, Charlotte Roche, and Christoph Waltz.

With texts by Ingeborg Bachmann, Robert Musil, Tommy Jaud, Ernst Jandl, Jürg Schubiger and Karl Kraus.

»In November 2007, I wanted to host a gala for the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association, this small and remarkably powerful association. All proceeds should go directly to helping Afghanistan. So I asked friends and accomplices to come to Bonn for an evening, where everyone could present their 'heartfelt gifts' – and all attended. Everyone brought their favorite literary, musical, cabaret pieces. Surrounded by conversations, music by Afghan's most famous singer and Germany's greatest jazz pianist, the recitals – all at once serious, touching, funny or grotesque – became moving experiences, and at the end of the evening, everyone felt they had attended an extraordinary event.« Roger Willemssen

All those involved in producing the CD worked for free.

All revenues from the CD flow directly to AVWA aid projects.

We thank you very much.

The purchase of one CD funds the costs for tuition, school clothes, pens, notebooks and textbooks for half a year.

Form for AVWA supporters

Please support our project with your donation!

Yes, I support projects of the AVWA with a **regular donation**

to the amount of Euro.

☐ monthly

☐ quarterly

☐ semi-annually

starting on:

I allow you to directly debit the amount from my account to avoid bank fees for my support.

If my account is not covered, my bank is not obliged to pay the amount.

This authorization is terminable at any time.

Bank:

Bank code:

Account:

My address is:

Name /first name:

Street:

Postcode /city:

Phone:

E-mail:

.....
Place /date /signature

All donations are tax deductible.





Afghanischer Frauenverein e. V.

Büro Osnabrück:

Afghanischer Frauenverein e.V.
Katharinenstraße 32
D-49078 Osnabrück
Tel.: +49 (0) 5 41 4 08 99 96
Fax: +49 (0) 5 41 4 08 99 97
E-mail: info@afghanischer-frauenverein.de
www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de

Kabul office:

Afghanischer Frauenverein e.V.
2nd floor
Khwaja Amini Business Center
Chicken Street Share Naw
Kabul, Afghanistan

Headquarters:

Im Siek 35
D-49170 Hagen a.T.W.

Patron:

Prof. Dr. Roger Willemsen

Donations:

Afghanischer Frauenverein e.V.
Bank: Commerzbank Koblenz
Bank code: 570 800 70 • Account: 0 680 850 500
IBAN: DE28 5708 0070 0680 8505 00
BIC: DRESDEFF570

All donations are tax deductible.

