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# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Outlook 2017



Afghan Volunteer  
Women's Association

# Afghan Volunteer Women's Association:

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Ihre Spende kommt an!

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Dear Reader,

The work carried out by the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association would not be possible without YOU – our contributors, supporters, friends and partners. You have supported and helped us for 25 years and we wish to thank you for that from the bottom of our hearts.

At the beginning we were a small group of exiled Afghan women but in these 25 years this idea has grown into an aid organisation of which we can all be proud: we have completed over 100 aid projects, we have provided schooling for more than 11,000 children and 2300 mothers have been trained in various skills. 10,000 people now have access to clean drinking water through wells which we have built, 450,000 people in direst need have obtained basic supplies necessary for survival and more than 700,000 people have received medical aid.

These numbers would be even higher if we considered each single person and their biographies. I wish I could share with you all the letters and messages of gratitude which we receive on a daily basis. The help which you enable us to give not only alleviates need where it is at its severest but increases its effect on the ground and bears rich fruit.

Our work would not be possible without all our wonderful, brave helpers and staff on the spot. They spare no pains nor heed any danger when helping those whose needs are greatest. We would not be where we are today if it were not for the tireless work of our late patron Roger Willemsen who worked alongside us until his death in 2016 – he opened doors and hearts for us wherever he could. We shall continue our work in his memory.

We all know that people in Afghanistan still suffer great hardship. They continue to need our support even if, or rather because, public interest has turned away from Afghanistan and is no longer affected by, or interested in, the great poverty that still exists. For this reason we are delighted that Herbert Grönemeyer has agreed to become the new ambassador for our association and to speak on behalf of the people of Afghanistan.

I beg you to continue to support us. Let us work together to alleviate poverty and to give women and girls in our country a chance for the future. Thank you!

With best wishes,

Nadia Nashir - Chairwoman

**Roger Willemsen**

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



**Roger Willemsen †**

**Author, publicist and patron of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association**

*Afghans do not shake your hand, they hardly squeeze it – but they are more likely to take your hand in both of theirs as if to take it into their care, keep it safe. After that they release your hand and place their right hand over their heart, so that you know that this gesture comes from there and wishes to be there.*

Quotation from *Afghanische Reise (An Afghan Journey)* by Roger Willemsen  
Published by S. Fischer Verlag, 2008 pages 108-109.

In Afghanistan communication does not start with oneself but always with one's opposite.

Roger Willemsen in an interview with *Stuttgarter Nachrichten*, 2015

*And what do you want to become? First of all: a doctor, then secondly: a teacher, thirdly: an engineer. Another girl wishes to become a worker for the government, two more would like to be painters. An actress? A singer? I ask. The little girls consider this odd. It is not easy to contradict a stranger – but really no-one wishes to take up those careers.*

Quotation from *An Afghan Journey* by Roger Willemsen  
Published by S. Fischer Verlag, 2008 pages 182-183

*I have never seen a country in which culture has been so completely demolished by bombs and destroyed to its very roots. And in which its people have such a desperate need to have what culture can be.*

Roger Willemsen in an interview with Aldo Parmeggiani, *Radio Vatican* 2015

*Rain clouds gather over the hills, it is getting darker but the brightly coloured clothes of the children shine through the gloomy atmosphere. When they run out to collect fuel, mainly wood and straw with animal dung stuck to it, then from a distance they look like mountain flowers.*

Quotation from *An Afghan Journey* by Roger Willemsen  
Published by S. Fischer Verlag, 2008, page 203.

*Senda Bashi! (...) May you have a long life. When I see Afghanistan lying below me I can think of nothing else.*

Quotation from *An Afghan Journey* by Roger Willemsen  
Published by S. Fischer Verlag, 2008, page 268.

*Your help can save lives. It can help to give people a future. Please do not desert Afghanistan!*

Roger Willemsen speaking on behalf of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association 2010-2016



**Herbert Grönemeyer**

**Ambassador for the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association**



Foto: Ali Kepenek

**Herbert Grönemeyer**

**Ambassador for the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association**

It is an honour for me to support the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association as their ambassador. I do this as a gesture of deep solidarity with Afghanistan and with my late friend Roger Willemssen who served and helped to mould the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association for ten years until his death.

Day by day the members of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association work to enable Afghan families to build a future in their country, often risking their own lives in the course of their work. They support those who have fled, those who are hungry or injured, women and young girls who are in dire need. They help to make medical aid available, provide education and professional training and supply whole communities with clean drinking water.

The work being done by the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association deserves our deepest respect and our support. I intend to become involved in this work and to support it. Please help us. Together we can help to set improvements in motion in Afghanistan.

Yours



Herbert Grönemeyer



## The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association Our Aims, Our Standards

**Ever since the foundation of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association 25 years ago we have worked to improve the living standards of the people of Afghanistan, in particular that of women and children on a long-term basis. The situation for women and children is often very difficult, their chances of leading a life that is self-determined are limited. They therefore need a high degree of protection and encouragement. This is what we set out to do with our projects in north, east and southern Afghanistan. That is why we promote:**

- **School education**
- **Vocational trainings/artisan skills**
- **Scholarships for university education**
- **access to safe drinking water by building wells**
- **Medical Care / Health Education**
- **Sponsoring for Families in exceptional need**
- **Emergency Aid**

Most of our projects are in rural districts of Afghanistan – in places where there is hardly any other aid arriving.

Over the years our projects have developed and become more ambitious: Schools are extended; scholarships enable those leaving our schools to go on to academic institutions; professional training centers and courses in IT and English prepare them for the future; with health care we help to reduce the high

mother and infant mortality. In rural areas of Afghanistan only one in four people have access to clean drinking water. Therefore providing wells is another of our priorities. Sometimes strokes of fate make our special and immediate support vital. In these cases we undertake emergency help and provide family sponsorship.

### Help for self-help

Our primary aim in all our projects is help for self-help. We want to provide people with basic help and knowledge which will enable them to emerge from their poverty and give them new perspectives. Our help is always concentrated on the needs of the people in any given locality. Through close co-operation with our 100 or so staff and helpers we know where help is most urgently needed.

Over the period of 25 years we have reached approximately 1.2 million people. Our supporters in Germany work on an honorary basis and with great personal commitment. They regularly review the success and progress of the projects in the field.

**Every helping hand, every donation for our work is urgently needed! Join us in our work. Help to give women and children in Afghanistan a new perspective!**



## Afghanistan – Country under Rebuilding

**Even though we can see and feel a good measure of success, rebuilding Afghanistan remains a major challenge. Four decades of war or warlike conditions have left vast areas of destruction behind. There are more challenges to be met.**

### **Creating roots**

So far approximately one million Afghan refugees have been forced to return to Afghanistan on account of political tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan. In addition, in 2016 there have been more than 670,000 internal refugees. It is more necessary than ever to give these people a firm base and new perspectives.

### **Migration from rural areas**

72.9% of Afghanistan's total population lives in rural areas (source: World Bank Report 2016). This is where the migration is most strongly felt. Cities such as Kabul have grown enormously in recent years. Within the past 15 years the proportion of town dwellers has grown from 21.6% in 2001 to 27.1 million in 2016 (source: Global economy). One reason for this is the difficult living conditions in the rural areas. That is where we concentrate a major part of our help. And so one of our aims is to combat the causes of this migration.



☉ In and around the towns marked we support Afghan women and children living in rural areas with our projects.

### **A young country**

At the same time Afghanistan is a very young country. 43.92% of the population is under 15 years old (source: Statista 2016) and the birth rate at 34.5 births per one thousand inhabitants is high. (Data: UN 2015). On the other hand infant mortality is also high at 66.3 per 1000 live births in 2015 (source: Statista 2016). Therefore creating comprehensive health care is of utmost importance. At the same time many people cannot read or write – 61.8 % of the population over 15 years of age are considered illiterate (source: Statista 2015).

According to data provided by the Afghan Ministry of Education around 80% of women in Afghanistan cannot read or write. For this reason education is a fundamental key to the future and for fighting poverty.

We educate girls and young women in Afghanistan. Many of them have graduated from secondary school, have studied or participated in further education programmes thanks to scholarships. Many of them pass their knowledge on as teachers or in their extended families. At the same time our health care programmes improve the chances for mothers and children.

This is a further success story that has been made possible with your help. Our progress continues thanks to your financial and voluntary help. Please continue supporting us!

Your donations can be used where they are most urgently needed thanks to our low administrative costs.\* At regular intervals members of the organisation and the management convince themselves of the economic effectiveness of the projects. They travel at their own expense and thanks to their dedication and the support of sponsors and members we can change things for the better for these people with our aid programmes.

\*source: current examination by the Deutsche Zentralinstitut für soziale Fragen – German Central Institute for Social Matters for the financial year 2015



## Review: 25 Years of Successful Work

**Afghanistan has been in a state of emergency for almost 40 years – through wars, economic factors or political extremism. For the past 25 years the Afghan Women's Association has been working there in order to alleviate hardship and above all to help women and children achieve self awareness for the future and have a perspective for their own lives.**

### **The Beginning**

#### **Five German Marks and a lot of ideas**

It all began in 1992. Twelve Afghan expatriates met in Bonn and had a common wish. They wanted to help the people in their destroyed homeland. At that time Afghanistan had more or less disappeared from the headlines, so they decided that they wanted to attract renewed attention to the disastrous situation in the country and not allow Afghanistan with all its scope and potential sinking into oblivion.

Five German Marks and lots of enthusiasm and thousands of ideas were the foundations and the beginning of a development that would be hard to match. Starting with 12 members, the association has grown to 400 members and patrons. The members and managing committee regularly reassure themselves of the progress and effectiveness of the projects – all the journeys are undertaken at their own expense.



**The first meeting in Bonn, August 1992**



**Our member Dr Kaltenborn (on the right side of the picture) in the first tailoring school in Herat, 1995**



## **Emergency Aid Becomes Help for Self-Help**



**Education, health, artisan skills, supplying drinking water but also alleviation of hardship – these are the pillars which should support Afghan society towards reconstruction. To this end the association had to do a lot of pioneering work.**

**At the beginning priority was given to distributing medical aid, basic supplies and foodstuffs. The work of the Afghan Women's Association developed steadily and was based more and more on the principle of help for self-help.**

In order to have a realistic picture of the situation for women and children 3 members of the executive committee travelled through Afghanistan and Pakistan in 1993. In 1994 we started our first major project: the Mia-Omar girls' school for 3000 students in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

In 1999 the Roshani girls' school was founded in Ghazni in spite of the Taliban regime. At first there were just 20 pupils. Now approximately 500 girls

attend the school and there have been seven classes which have graduated at A-level. There were setbacks due to the increasingly difficult situation on the ground. The Afghan Women's Association's work could only continue thanks to the brave helpers and staff in the area and to the solidarity and commitment of members of the association and voluntary workers in Germany.

Over the years these projects grew as did the demands on the work of the association. Every school which we founded or supervised grew in the number of classes and the subjects on offer. Now we can provide teaching for many students up their graduation from secondary school. The standard of education has risen steadily.

## Twelve Projects which Give Future



**Building Wells**



**Emergency aid after a landslide in the Afghan province of Badachshan in the north-east of the country.**

**Nowadays the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association supports 12 on-going projects on a continuous basis: among them are schools and medical centres, programmes to promote literacy, programmes to supply safe drinking water and measures to help secure a stable livelihood for women.**

Parallel to these basic educational programmes the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association supports further education and professional training for women teachers and doctors and pays for extra courses for students in English and computer skills so that they may have easier access to university places. Where there is dire poverty the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association helps with emergency aid and organises sponsorships for families. At present 700 families are supported by 100 on-going sponsorships. A new project supports school leavers from our schools with scholarships for higher education and universities.



**A thank you letter from one of the students at the Roshani School in the Province of Ghazni:**

*My name is Zohal. I have attended the Roshani School in the Province of Ghazni from the first class onwards. I am very happy. The new school building is so big and we have a very good new teacher. We also received books, pencils and exercise books. Thank you very much!*



**Computer course for women at the Roshani School, Ghazni**



## Effect, Sustainability and Transparency



**Mrs Heidarfazel, one of our members, presents certificates at Honar sewing centre in Peshawar, Pakistan**

**The projects of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association are mainly in areas some distance from the urban centres of the country – that is Ghazni, Kunduz or Andkhoi. In this way the association hopes to contribute to a decrease of migration to the cities. Medical care centres are intended to improve health in these areas and reduce the high mortality rate among mothers and newborn babies.**

All projects are subject to strict criteria of transparency, effectiveness and sustainability. The real needs of women and children and the sustained relief of the hardship they suffer is always at the centre of our work. All projects are carried out in consultation with the local population and is based on the expertise of local workers and partners.

### **For a detailed picture of Afghanistan**

In Germany the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association tries to present a complex and varied picture of Afghanistan. As a country with a multitude of races the country has a rich culture and varied traditions which are rarely mentioned alongside the reports of war and terror. The association tries to convey these aspects in lectures, bazaars and school projects. What is important for children in Afghanistan and in Germany? What are their wishes and dreams? What unites them and what sets them apart? And how do they see life in the other country? In order to answer some of these questions the association encourages pen friendships between young people in selected schools in Germany and Afghanistan.

The Afghan Women's Association keeps a complete record of the sums of money used, the success and also the setback suffered not only for the members and sponsors but also for the German Central Institute for Social Affairs which audits the Afghan Women's Association on an annual basis and rewards it with the DZI seal of excellence.



**Our member Mrs Sultanie is shown helping a trainee in the sewing centre in Honar Peshawar.**



**The Information Stand of the AVWA at a charity event at the Krone Circus, Munich 2013**



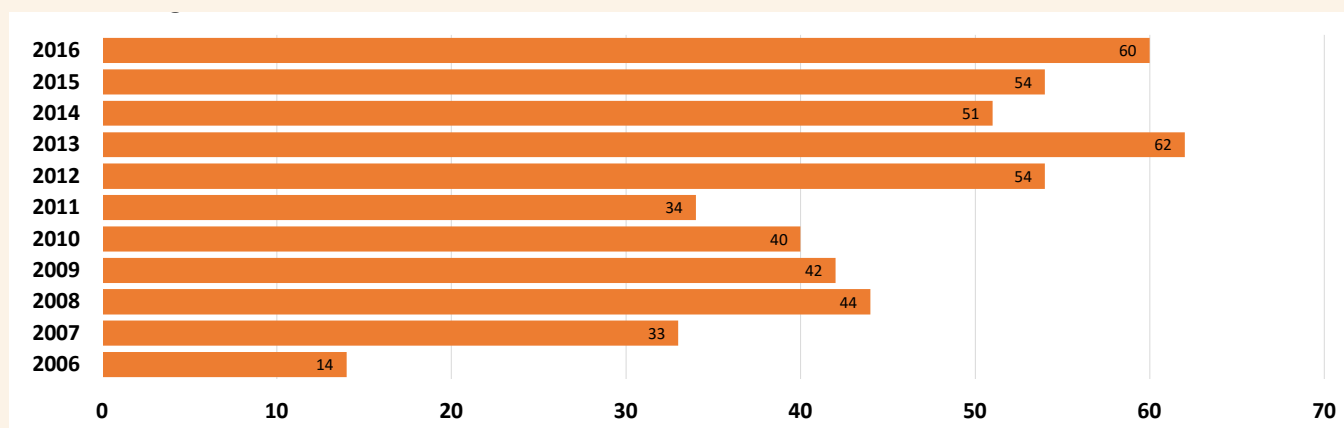
# Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: Review: 25 Years of Successful Work

## Success in Figures

In the course of its 25 years existence the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association has carried out over 100 projects in the fields of water supply, education, health, emergency aid, vocational training and family sponsorships.

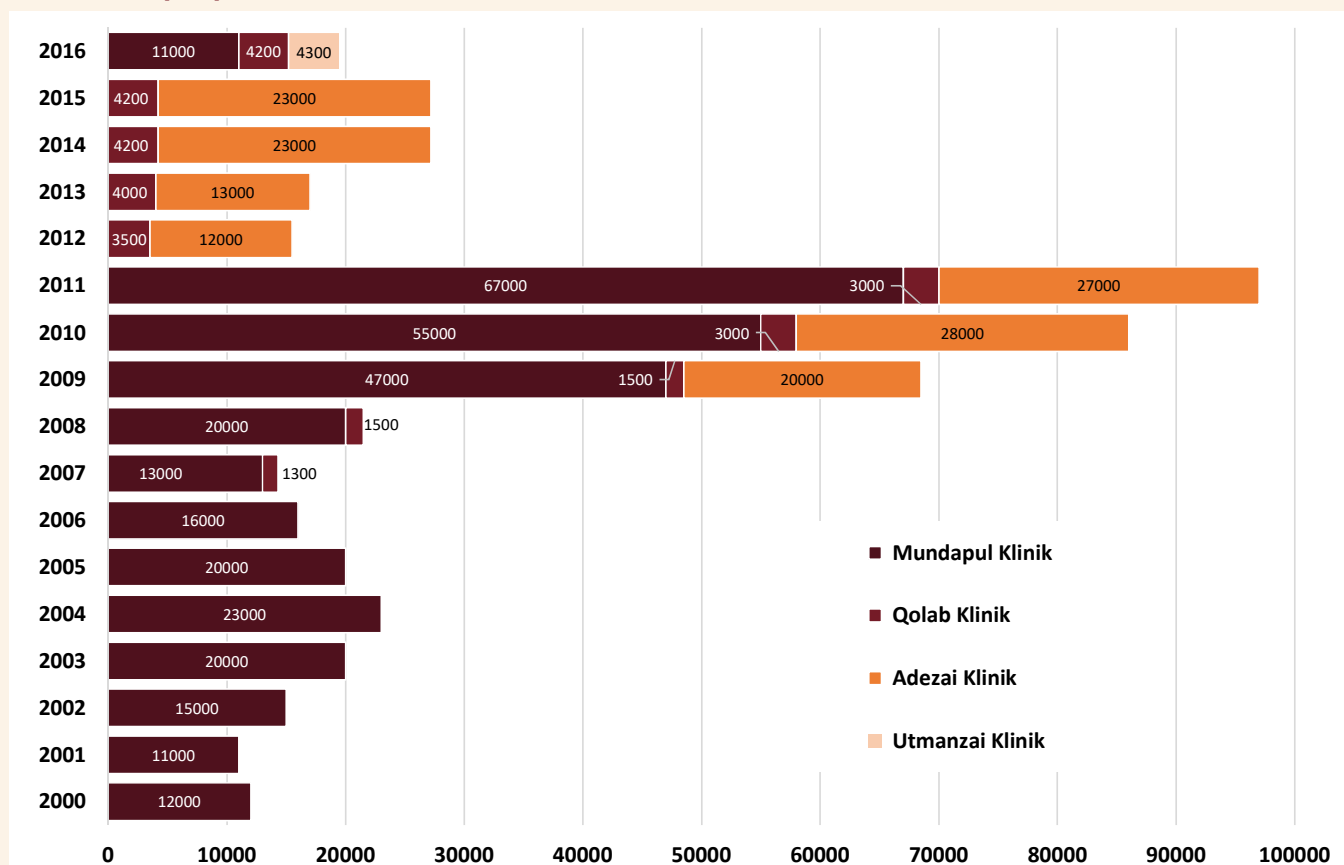
More than 100,000 people have access to clean drinking water through newly built wells.

### Number of wells built



700,000 people have received medical aid

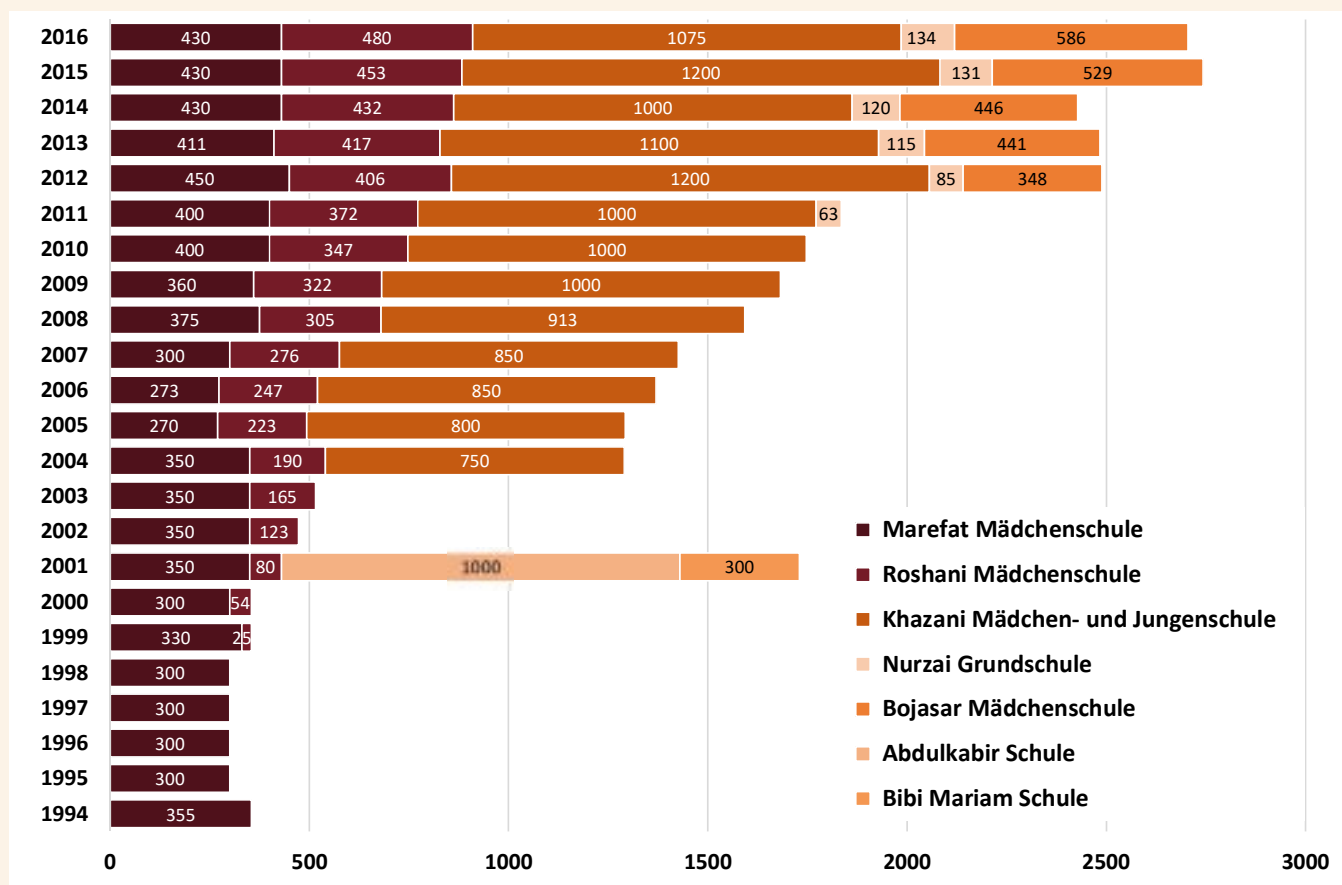
### Number of people treated in our clinics



# Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: Review: 25 Years of Successful Work

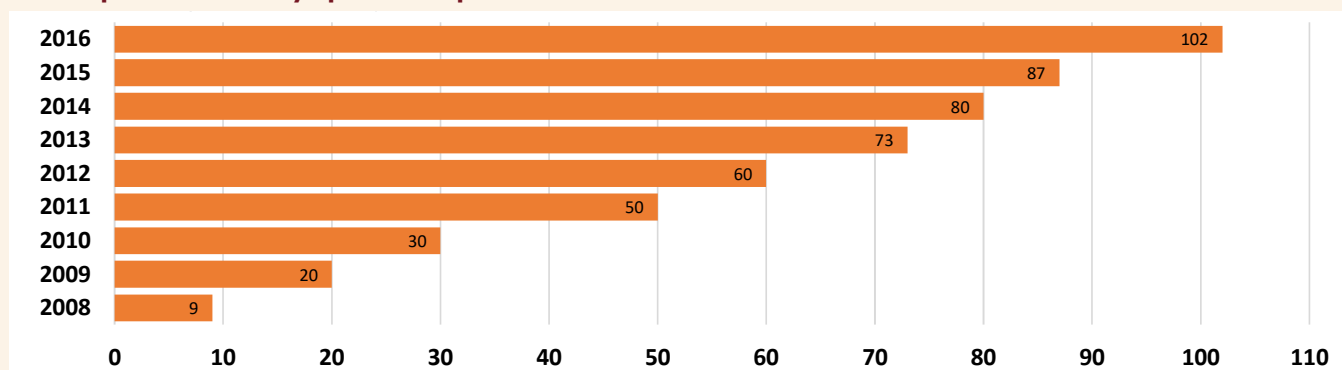
More than 11,000 children have been able to attend school thanks to the association.

## Development in numbers of scholars in our schools



At the present time 100 families receive support through sponsorships.

## Development of family sponsorships



2300 women were trained as seamstresses or embroiderers.

450,000 people received emergency aid in the form of food, blankets, clothing or tents whenever earthquakes, floods or acts of war required urgent emergency supplies to be distributed.

## Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: Review: 25 Years of Successful Work



### 10 Years of Brilliant Support through Our Patron Roger Willemssen

**For more than ten years the author and publicist Prof. Dr Roger Willemssen was our dedicated patron and magnanimous supporter.**

He was a bold and strong personality when he travelled to Afghanistan. In the field he was very modest, he travelled without military escort and his commitment helped providing people in Afghanistan with clean drinking water, school education and medical aid. Like no-one else he built bridges of tolerance and understanding between Germany and Afghanistan.

With his best-selling books "An Afghan Journey" and "Once upon a time – or not" he created a nuanced view of Afghanistan and life there. Roger Willemssen helped us wherever and whenever he could. He organised charity events where his many friend gave their time and presence for the benefit of our association.

Roger Willemssen died on 7th February 2016. He was our friend and our patron. We miss Rogerjan and are determined to continue our work as he would have wished. We shall always remember his commitment and dedication.



**Roger Willemssen at the Bojasar-Girl's-School near Kabul**



**A well dedicated to the memory of Roger Willemssen**



## Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: Review: 25 Years of Successful Work



**Roger Willemsen and friends at the gala evening "Matters of the Heart" at the Opera House, Bonn, 2007**



*In November 2007 I wanted to give the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association this small and remarkably productive organisation, a gala evening. The proceeds were to be given to them in their entirety for their work in Afghanistan. So I asked some friends and accomplices to an evening performance in Bonn to participate in "Matters of the Heart" – and they all came. Each and every one brought along favourite pieces of literature, music, cabaret. In a framework of conversations, music performed by famous Afghan singers and the greatest German jazz pianist, there were recitations - some serious, some touching or comic or grotesque. They were moving experiences and at the end of the evening there was a general feeling that we had experienced something very special.*



**Embroiderers in Honar at work on the tablecloth for „Matters of the Heart“ in the Opera House, Bonn**

## Water is Life



Women and children can now fetch water in safety.

**„Senda bashi – May you have a long life!“ This is a greeting one hears very often in Afghanistan. But in this country which has been ravaged by war and economic penury, help from outside is urgently needed. Or to be more precise: help for self-help. Because that is the basis on which we plan many of our projects in Afghanistan.**

But in order to be able to get back on one's feet again one needs two pillars: health and education. Both aspects are at the centre of our projects. For instance, it is immensely important to have access to clean drinking water. This can prevent diseases such as cholera or dysentery. But as the route to sources of water is often long or dangerous because of land mines, it is important that wells should be near a village so that water is readily accessible. And so women and girls who have to fetch water are helped by these measures. And for that reason the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association built a further 60 wells in 2016.

It is a major project that our late patron Roger Willemsen (who died in 2016) initiated after his journey through Afghanistan in 2005. His appeal for donations for building wells has surely saved many



Wells provide access to clean water.

lives in remote villages. Since that time approximately 500 wells have been sunk – and they provide some 100,000 people with clean drinking water.

One well costs approximately 800 Euro if it is built by local contractors. Each well provides 100 – 200 people with drinking water each day.

This is a success story and at the same time it is a wonderful legacy left to us by Roger Willemsen for this project was a heartfelt wish. We are happy to be able to carry on with this good work. Water is a basic human right! For above all it stands for life!



## **Good Health – An Important Condition of Life**



**Patients are prepared to walk for up to three hours to visit the clinic where Dr Mudjib and his assistants hold a free surgery once a week in the mountain village Qolab near Kabul.**

**Dr Mudjib has to endure many challenges. No matter whether it is snowing or the road is muddy after rain or the sun is beating down, once a week the doctor goes to the Qolab clinic which is in an area that is difficult to access. It is about 35 km from Kabul.**



**In winter Dr Mudjib has to walk for an hour in order to reach the clinic and take along medicines.**

Together with his assistant he treats some 4200 patients a year free of charge and provides them with urgently needed medication. He has been able to save many lives and to alleviate many ailments.



**Consultation and treatment at the clinic**

The Qolab clinic also assists at births. Fourteen local midwives who have been trained by the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association since 2007 have been able to reduce mortality among mothers and newborn babies. As in previous years, we supplied them with clamps for the umbilical cord, disinfectants, sanitary pads and gloves.

Help us to support these people who often go to Qolab under extremely difficult conditions. Give them a scrap of hope and a scrap of quality of life. Help young mothers to bear healthy children and see them growing up!

## Education – a Basic Human Right



Brightly coloured books help.

**Education is a basic human right – in Afghanistan as elsewhere. But girls and young women who come from extremely poor families have no chance whatsoever to attend school. They are dependent on help. For many years the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association has worked hard to give girls and women a chance to be educated. For their own future, for their families, for their local communities and for the successful reconstruction of the country as a whole. In 2016 the association supported five schools and a tailoring unit.**

### **Roshani School:**

#### **A beacon of light in darkness**

As long ago as 1999, in the Taliban era, we founded the Roshani School for girls. It is situated on the periphery of the provincial capital Ghazni in south-east Afghanistan. At first, there were only 20 students. But the name of the school – Roshani, meaning light – is significant. Every year the number of pupils grew. Today 480 girls from in and around Ghazni are taught there. Many of them are prepared to undertake a long and difficult journey each day for this privilege.

These girls have a great appetite for education. Even during the winter holidays from December to March many of them voluntarily come for extra lessons. In these months the teachers give lessons in English, Dari, mathematics and religion without pay. All of Ghazni benefits from this school. It makes local life more varied and the girls become more independent.



Great joy – free exercise books.

We are very proud of the fact that in the past year 22 of the students passed their A-level. Most of them can now study at the university of Ghazni. In 2016 the school moved to larger premises because of its growing popularity. The school now has a canteen and a drinking fountain so that the girls enjoy a better diet.



Leila is eager to learn to write on the blackboard.

The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association helps to pay for the classes, the rent, the staff, the school uniforms and also the books, exercise books and pencils and crayons.





The classrooms are light and friendly.



Relaxing at break.

#### Khazani School

##### Boys and girls - Education for all children

**In the centre of northern Afghanistan, 10 km from Kunduz, lies the village Khoja Galtan. This is where the Khazani School was founded by us in 2002 – a school for both boys and girls.**

This was a small beginning – now this school, like the others, reaches out to more and more students. Many refugee families, expelled from Pakistan, and families from the northern areas Thachar and Talugan have settled here. There is great interest in the school: we now have 1200 students at the Khazani School. In 2016 twelve finished school with the general university entrance qualifications.

Intercultural dialogue is a high priority at the Khazani School. The Schiller School in Frankfurt am Main has activities that connect with the Khazani School. Penfriend-ships have developed between students at the schools, other activities are planned, project weeks have been organised and there are benefits for all concerned in learning about each other's country.

The Afghan Women's Organisation and the Afghan Ministry of Education co-operate in paying the salaries of the teachers, the head of the school and the two deputies, a driver and a watchman. The Association also pays for teaching material.



This photo proves it: Learning is fun!

## **Sustainable Educational Projects**



**Yalda - a former student, now teaches the younger ones.**

### **Bojasar Girls' School**

**A bridge connecting the "sweet valley" and Germany**  
**Building bridges, creating connections, learning from one another - these are the central aims of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association. A particularly successful example is Bojasar Girls' School, 35 km north of Kabul.**

The school was founded in 2012 in the district called "Shakardana – the sweet valley" – an agricultural and very poor district. The school is attended by girls from 22 villages. Thanks to donations from Germany tuition is free, as are pens and pencils, school books and uniforms.

Because it proved difficult to find good teachers for this out of the way region, the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association organised transport services for teachers living in Kabul. One aspect that proves that the standard of teaching is particularly high at the school is the following: in a competition with neighbouring schools Bojasar won in mathematics and chemistry. In the region the school is an important factor; pupils spread the knowledge they acquire into their families. Eight former students now work as teachers.

We are proud and happy that in 2016 74 new pupils were registered at the school. The number of pupils has risen to 508. 14 teachers (men and women) give them lessons from the first class to the eleventh.



**Schoolgirls in front of the Bojasar-School-Building**



**Schoolgirls leaving Bojasar Girl's School**

### **Nurzai Primary School**

**Education in rural areas is more important than ever. In Nurzai – an isolated village 25km from Kunduz the population consists mainly of impoverished smallholders. Education is particularly necessary in this area and in the battle against the prevalent poverty it is absolutely vital.**

For this reason the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association has supported the Nurzai primary school since its foundation in 2010 and paid for all expenses. The association pays the salaries of the six teachers, the cost of teaching material and the necessary pencils, exercise books and books.

In 2016 75 girls and 95 boys attended the Nurzai Primary School and they stay here until the end of the sixth class. They learn arithmetics, Dari, writing, art, religion and, from the fourth class onwards, English.



## **Learning Handicrafts – Becoming Independent**



**In the course of training lasting 12 months each woman learns to become a tailor At the same time she has lessons in reading, writing, arithmetic and Dari**

### **Roshani Training Center:**

**Start-up help to escape destitution and poverty**  
**In Ghazni, right next to Roshani School, the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association started up a dressmaking studio in 2002. Since then 30 particularly needy young women between 18 and 25 have been able to benefit from a programme of dual tuition which trains them for a more secure future.**

It is not only in Germany that artisan skills are a solid basis. This applies equally to Afghanistan and is auspicious for a future life set apart from the generally prevailing poverty. Most of the trainees share their newly acquired skills with family members. All in all the scheme is an investment in the future. Literacy combined with artisan skills helps these participants to become independent after their year's training.

In June 30 young women successfully completed their course and received a sewing machine and a pair of scissors from the association to help them set up their own business. Now 30 new trainees are already learning to sew school uniforms.



**Nasrin Malekjar (on the right), the head of the Roshani Training Center with one of the trainees**



## Ensuring Survival



The gratitude felt by the families we helped was overwhelming. Mahbuba, who fled from Pakistan with her family, wrote as follows: *We are overjoyed that my seven children aged two to sixteen do not have to go hungry and have warm blankets.*



Winter emergency aid in Gusfandara near Kabul in December 2016

### Emergency Aid

**Hunger, medical emergencies, lack of accommodation – these are fates that often strike the poorest hardest. The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association gives those families worst affected basic support that helps them survive.**

Whenever and wherever possible our staff in the field tries to buy food and other necessary goods locally. This saves the cost of transportation and supports local markets and traders.

### Winter Help for Refugees

**From December 2016 onwards the association supported 1300 refugees in Gusfandra, a village 15 km east of Kabul and also families living in Kabul in the "Karte Nau" district with urgently needed winter aid.**

Most of the refugee families who live here have left their domicile in exile because of the political tensions

between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Some of them have lived in exile in the region around Peshawar for up to 40 years. Back in Afghanistan they are destitute and have little or not access to help. There are also refugees from Afghan regions around Kunduz, Kandahar and Hilmand who have settled here. Kabul is often the destination for their odyssey. The city has the reputation of being one of the relatively safe areas in the country. Also there is some hope of finding work in the city, even if only on a day-to-day basis.

But winters in Kabul are hard. At night the temperature can fall as low as -10° Celcius. This is a perilous situation for those families who just live in simple tents or skeleton buildings without doors or windows. To particularly endangered families, the association distributed large woollen blankets, a total of 16 tons of flour, 1600 litres of cooking oil, 2240 kg of sugar and 320 kg of tea. This help was spread over a period of two months.

## Launching Assistance for a Better Future



**Our aim is to help children to smile.**

In 2016 102 families – approximately 800 people – received help for a better future in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

You too can help. With regular financial gifts you can help a family escape its poverty. Join our scheme today and become a sponsor. Make a gift for the future.



**Poverty in mud hovels**



**Early responsibility – siblings look after each other**

### **Family sponsorships**

**Where is the money for the rent supposed to come from? How am I supposed to feed my kids, send them to school? Such existential questions occupy many mothers when the main breadwinner of the family is absent.**

There are many reasons for this: sometimes it is an injury, for example from a mine, sometimes it is an illness, or it is - this is a problem as well - the family father's drug addiction.

The family sponsorship of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association gives hope to those affected. And more importantly, the whole family has the chance to make a fresh start. Starting from 25 Euro per month, you can help whole families to find a home, to feed themselves, to ensure medical care, and to give the children education and women vocational training so that they can make a living in the future. The family sponsorship is therefore above all a help

for self-help. It prevents families in need from moving in a downward spiral.

Our success proves us right. Consistently the families supported by us gain a foothold and are no longer dependent on our help. They then make room for the next family in need, which is on our waiting list.





## Refugees were Forced to Leave Pakistan



A family on its way to an uncertain future

### The situation in Pakistan

The fate of refugees is a hard one. Forced to flee through extreme hardship they must try to find their way in a strange country. This is a problem which many families in Pakistan were confronted with. The ongoing warlike situation in their homeland forced them to leave and settle in the neighbouring country - many of them fled 40 years ago.

The border conflict in 2016 made things very difficult for the approximately three million exiles from Afghanistan. At the Khyber Pass there were violent clashes between the two countries and quite a few soldiers lost their lives. As a result there was a major discord between the two states.

As a result many Afghan refugees were put under pressure by the Pakistan government to leave the country. The work of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association was affected by this development. Unfortunately we were obliged to give up a number of our projects.



Afghan children in Adezai-Camp, Pakistan



Fleeing to Afghanistan

### **The Marefat School:**

#### **A place of hope in Peshawar**

**Our Marefat School for girls was also affected by these political upheavals in Pakistan, as we were obliged to close the school last year. It was located in a poverty-stricken area and had been founded in 1994.**

It was among the first projects initiated by the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association. It provided poor refugee children with free schooling. Up until September 2016 twenty teachers taught 500 girls in the Marefat School.

Over the years this work had been very successful. In the over 20 years since its founding 175 students had passed their A-level examinations and in 2016 another 19 girls finished secondary school and were eligible for further studies at universities or colleges.

The teachers at the school were given coaching in computer skills so that they could use Word, Excel and Access programmes. The skills they acquired at these special courses enabled them to pass them on to their students.

All the pupils who had to leave the school when it closed were given a report to enable them to re-locate to another school. All the relevant documents and accounts were handed over to our office by the Principal, Mrs Azimi. The computers were sold.

Some of the teachers and students have returned to Afghanistan. In some cases staff salaries could be paid until the end of the year in order to facilitate their move and re-settlement in Afghanistan.

However, the work done by the Marefat School remains unforgettable. The school gave many girls a chance to lead a better life and gave them hope. It is not for nothing that the school was regarded a "fertile tree in the educational garden of the country". It is a legacy which we hope to carry on in Afghanistan. Many of our school leavers are now doctors or teachers.



**Basketball is a favourite pastime for the girls at break time**



**The Principal, Mrs Azimi, handing out school reports**



**Major project work at the school in December**



## Health Care in Refugee Camps

### Medical care for the poorest of the poor

Up until September 2016 the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association maintained a day clinic that helped refugees in three camps in Pakistan. Here medical prophylactic services were available and pregnant women and young mothers received support and help.

Whether in Mundapul or Utmanzai or Adezai, medical services were available to those living in these camps or the surrounding towns which were in an area approximately 60 kilometres from Peshawar.

Supported by an experienced medical team from Peshawar our staff in the area treated illnesses and injuries, provided immunisations and gave advice on health matters such as undernourishment among very young children, hygiene, prevention of diseases, family planning, HIV/Aids prevention and also helped women during pregnancy and after giving birth.

### Mundapul

Over a period of more than 40 years 13,000 people sought refuge in the camp near Mundapul situated in Charsadda district not far from Peshawar. They were among the most desperate. Bitter poverty meant that they could take only the most degrading work as coolies or selling smallest quantities of goods.

From April 2016 onwards the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association was responsible for providing medical services for the camp inmates after the United Nations Refugee committee (UNHCR) wound up their health projects for Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

Up to september seven full time personnel looked after the many patients and made it a priority to assist young women giving birth. During this time more than 11,000 patients were treated or received vaccinations.



Babies receive medical treatment



Training for healthcare workers in Mundapul



Patients queuing for treatment at the healthcare clinic at Mundapul





A baby is vaccinated in Mundapul



Administrative work in Mundapul



Our staff at the clinics in the refugee camps in Adezai and Utmanzai



Our doctor Dr Tuba examining a child in Utmanzai

### Adezai and Utmanzai

**In the refugee camps at Adezai and Utmanzai one team of doctors looked after the patients in a joint project. The clinic in Adezai, about 35 kilometres from Peshawar, was opened in 2009.**

There were 6,600 Afghan refugees living in Adezai. A team of twelve people and a doctor treated in total 12,792 people between January and September 2016. Mothers and their children were also vaccinated here.

The team had an out-patients unit, a mother-and-child clinic, a delivery room, a clinic for vaccinations, a pharmacy and a laboratory at their disposal. There was an ambulance that transported serious cases to Peshawar for medical care.

In order to achieve long-term progress, training was given priority. Midwives trained at the centre and preventive measures were explained. For sometimes just simple changes in observing hygiene help to prevent disease. Another important subject was family planning and contraceptive devices and medication were distributed.

The project in Utmanzai, situated some 60 kilometres from Peshawar, was taken on in April 2016. Up until its closure in September 2016, our doctor, Dr Tuba, was able to treat 3097 sick people and vaccinate a further 1167. Many patients had respiratory problems or skin diseases. Others suffered from tuberculosis, malaria, gastro-enteritis, venereal diseases or inflammation of the eyes.

## Creating Future – for Oneself and Others



Learning together for the future



Another mainstay: literacy



Samira can help to support her family as an embroiderer.

### Honar Training Center:

#### Two-fold training for a life of self-determination

**What can we do to help women and mothers have a better future for themselves and others?**

**An excellent example of what is possible is the training centre at Honar which was founded in 1997 by the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association.**

Up until the autumn of 2016, 100 women per year were taught embroidery and sewing by twelve teachers. Learning traditional work techniques and patterns helped to maintain regional traditions.

At the same time literacy courses were held. The subjects on the syllabus were reading, writing, mathematics and religion. At the end of the course all the participants were capable of attending school even though they were no longer young. This was a project that proved its long term worth over many years. After completing their course the students were given a portable sewing machine so that they could

earn a living. Among the students were a number of widows who were then able to support their families and relatives financially.

After we were obliged to close the Honar sewing school, the students who were still learning also received a sewing machine and were therefore given a basis with which they could work in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The remains of the inventory (such as teaching materials) were taken to Roshani School in Afghanistan for further use there. Up until March 2017 the remaining material was distributed among those embroiderers who still lived in Pakistan.

This had been a project with a signal effect: while learning at the Honar School the women acquired a degree of independence which they could pass on after their courses had ended. 1802 women were taught at Honar School..



## **The DZI Certificate for Donations**

**The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association was awarded the DZI Certificate for Donations. Anyone who donates money would like to be sure that their contribution is used for approved projects and activities. In order to confirm that this is so, organisations which receive donations are reviewed by the DZI.**

The DZI certificate is a seal of excellence for reputable organisations that has been in place since 1992. It attests that an organisation has used the money entrusted to it in a careful and responsible manner. The main aspects which are checked are the amount of administrative and advertising costs, the appropriate use of the donations, the transparency of the accounting and the financial annual report. The DZI Certificate for Donations is recognised as a reliable indicator of the efficiency of an organisation by public authorities such as the Ministry for Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Foreign Ministry in Germany.

The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association is proud of having fulfilled these criteria yet again this year – it has been awarded each year since 2005. The long-term experience our association has gathered over the years ensures that your donation reaches those for whom it is intended..

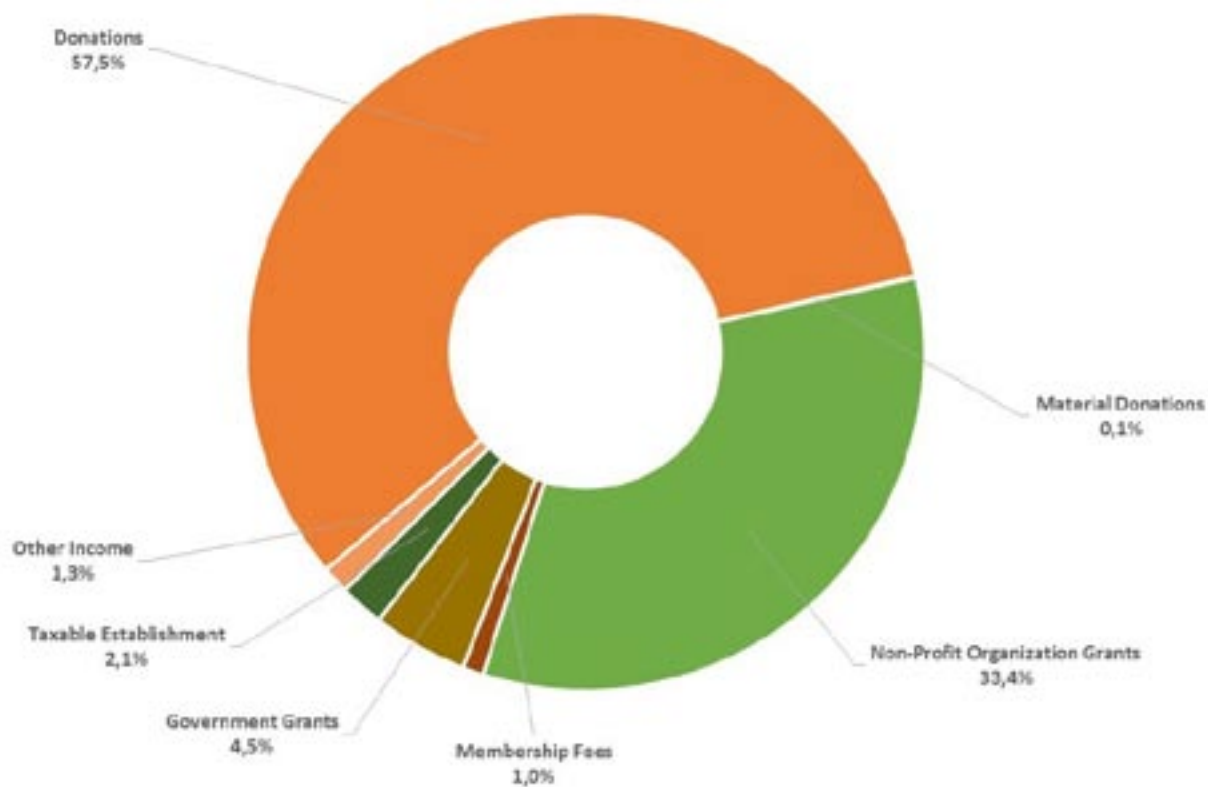


Tested and recommended:  
Das Deutsche Zentral Institut für Soziale Fragen  
(DZI) – the German Central Institute for Social Affairs  
- certifies with this seal that the Afghan Volunteer  
Women's Association has used the money entrusted  
to it carefully and in a responsible manner.

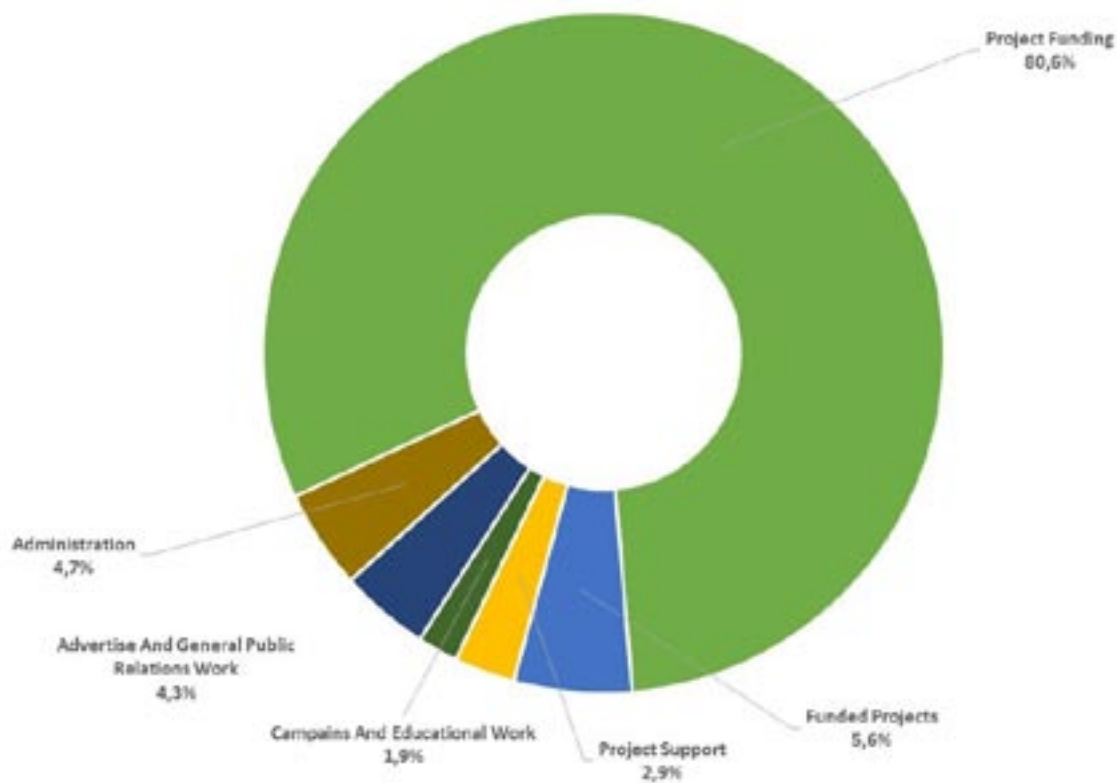


# Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: Financial Report 2016

## Income 2016



## Expenditure 2016



# Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: Financial Report 2016

## Income 2016

	2016	2016	2015	2015
	EURO	%	EURO	%
<b>Donations</b>	<b>365.170,44</b>	<b>57,5%</b>	<b>261.952,57</b>	<b>48,0%</b>
<i>Donation, general</i>	<i>172.918,11</i>	<i>27,2%</i>	<i>148.682,34</i>	<i>27,2%</i>
<i>Drinking-water supply</i>	<i>34.891,45</i>	<i>5,5%</i>	<i>39.618,67</i>	<i>7,3%</i>
<i>Emergency assistance</i>	<i>17.515,00</i>	<i>2,8%</i>	<i>11.699,30</i>	<i>2,1%</i>
<i>Inducements inheritance</i>	<i>50.000,00</i>	<i>7,9%</i>	<i>0,00</i>	<i>0,0%</i>
<i>Family sponsorships</i>	<i>51.796,72</i>	<i>8,2%</i>	<i>30.546,72</i>	<i>5,6%</i>
<i>Conveyor contributions</i>	<i>38.049,16</i>	<i>6,0%</i>	<i>31.405,54</i>	<i>5,8%</i>
<b>Material Donations</b>	<b>463,30</b>	<b>0,1%</b>	<b>979,99</b>	<b>0,2%</b>
<b>Non-Profit Organization Grants</b>	<b>212.111,39</b>	<b>33,4%</b>	<b>233.844,10</b>	<b>42,8%</b>
<b>Membership Fees</b>	<b>6.383,36</b>	<b>1,0%</b>	<b>6.779,18</b>	<b>1,2%</b>
<b>Government Grants</b>	<b>28.870,00</b>	<b>4,5%</b>	<b>21.870,00</b>	<b>4,0%</b>
<b>Taxable Establishment</b>	<b>13.471,04</b>	<b>2,1%</b>	<b>10.526,71</b>	<b>1,9%</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>8.353,10</b>	<b>1,3%</b>	<b>10.222,60</b>	<b>1,9%</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>634.822,63</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>546.175,15</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

## Expenditure 2016

	2016	2016	2015	2015
	EURO	%	EURO	%
<b>Project Funding</b>	<b>410.246,46</b>	<b>80,6%</b>	<b>373.319,52</b>	<b>80,9%</b>
<i>Drinking water supply / well construction</i>	<i>43.955,08</i>	<i>8,6%</i>	<i>46.296,37</i>	<i>10,0%</i>
<i>Vocational training and school education</i>	<i>176.343,28</i>	<i>34,6%</i>	<i>189.238,94</i>	<i>41,0%</i>
<i>Medical care</i>	<i>72.717,20</i>	<i>14,3%</i>	<i>65.935,33</i>	<i>14,3%</i>
<i>Family sponsorship</i>	<i>76.484,55</i>	<i>15,0%</i>	<i>39.260,00</i>	<i>8,5%</i>
<i>Emergency aid</i>	<i>21.032,00</i>	<i>4,1%</i>	<i>12.907,83</i>	<i>2,8%</i>
<i>Other expenses for project funding</i>	<i>19.714,35</i>	<i>3,9%</i>	<i>19.681,05</i>	<i>4,3%</i>
<b>Funded Projects</b>	<b>28.496,99</b>	<b>5,6%</b>	<b>15.282,41</b>	<b>3,3%</b>
<b>Project Support</b>	<b>14.714,85</b>	<b>2,9%</b>	<b>16.311,63</b>	<b>3,5%</b>
<i>Personnel costs included</i>	<i>11.803,06</i>	<i>2,3%</i>	<i>11.767,54</i>	<i>2,6%</i>
<b>Campaigns And Educational Work</b>	<b>9.809,90</b>	<b>1,9%</b>	<b>10.111,13</b>	<b>2,2%</b>
<i>Personnel costs included</i>	<i>7.868,71</i>	<i>1,5%</i>	<i>7.845,02</i>	<i>1,7%</i>
<b>Advertise And General Public Relations Work</b>	<b>21.723,44</b>	<b>4,3%</b>	<b>18.589,13</b>	<b>4,0%</b>
<i>Personnel costs included</i>	<i>7.868,71</i>	<i>1,5%</i>	<i>7.845,02</i>	<i>1,7%</i>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>23.982,28</b>	<b>4,7%</b>	<b>27.621,19</b>	<b>6,0%</b>
<i>Included costs for accounting, closing and auditing</i>	<i>7.284,22</i>	<i>1,4%</i>	<i>10.911,80</i>	<i>2,4%</i>
<i>Personal costs included</i>	<i>11.803,06</i>	<i>2,3%</i>	<i>11.891,53</i>	<i>2,6%</i>
<b>Asset Management And Purpose Enterprise</b>	<b>0,04</b>	<b>0,0%</b>	<b>0,77</b>	<b>0,0%</b>
<b>Entire Expenditure</b>	<b>508.973,96</b>	<b>100,0%</b>	<b>461.235,79</b>	<b>100,0%</b>

# Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: Financial Report 2016

## Income and Expenditure Account for the Period of the 1st of January to the 31st of December 2016

	EUR	2016 EUR	2015 EUR
1. Donations and grants			
a) Donations	517.212,08		450.664,68
b) Institutional grants	28.496,99	545.709,07	15.282,41
2. Income from the special-purpose business			
a) Sales revenue (special-purpose business)		14.654,54	10.526,71
3. Other income			
a) Other operating income		12.250,48	890,48
4. Material Expenditure (special-purpose business)			
a) Expenses for raw, auxiliary and process materials and for purchased goods		-7.225,58	-846,66
<b>5. Total</b>		565.388,51	476.517,62
6. Expences for			
a) Expences for project advancement	-414.966,46		-374.459,52
b) Expences for project support	-15.237,24		-16.732,23
c) Expences for campaigns, education and awareness-raising	-10.158,14		-10.391,53
d) Expences for advertising and general public relations	-21.566,19		-18.869,53
e) Expences for funded project	-28.496,99	-490.425,02	-15.282,41
7. Administrative expenses			
a) Expenses for administration		-37.624,77	-30.211,87
8. Other interest and similar income		0,15	2,90
9. Taxes on income and profit		0,04	0,77
<b>10. Revenue before changes and reserves</b>		37.338,83	10.572,66
11. Transfer in free reserve			
a) in free reserve		37.338,83	10.572,66
<b>12. Net Income per Year</b>		0,00	0,00



## Balance sheet of the 31st of December 2016

ASSETS in Euro	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
<b>A. Fixed assets</b>		
I. Property		
1. Other facilities, business and office equipment	558,00	760,00
	<b>558,00</b>	<b>760,00</b>
<b>B. Current assets</b>		
I. Supplies		
1. finished products and goods	2.789,22	8.905,50
II. Receivables and other asstes		
1. Accounts receivable trade	2.233,50	1.380,00
2. Other assets	59.019,11	29.262,00
	<b>61.252,61</b>	<b>30.642,00</b>
III. Cash on hand, bank balances	339.434,60	227.157,05
	<b>403.476,43</b>	<b>266.704,55</b>
<b>C. Deferred income</b>	<b>439,72</b>	<b>436,08</b>
	<b>404.474,15</b>	<b>267.900,63</b>

LIABILITIES in Euro	31.12.2016	31.12.2015
<b>A. Equity</b>		
I. Reserves		
1. Earmarked reserves	145.000,00	0,00
2. Free reserves (uncommitted)	88.270,52	50.931,69
	<b>233.270,52</b>	<b>50.931,69</b>
<b>B. Not yet used statutory consumed donations</b>	<b>132.088,90</b>	<b>158.722,49</b>
<b>C. Accruals</b>	<b>15.614,00</b>	<b>9.200,00</b>
<b>D. Liabilities</b>		
1. Liabilities from conditionally repayable donations, grants and grants	7.463,47	30.887,59
2. Accounts payable trade	1.971,00	4.388,32
3. Other Liabilities	14.006,26	13.770,54
	<b>23.440,73</b>	<b>49.046,45</b>
<b>E. Deferred income</b>	<b>60,00</b>	<b>0,00</b>
	<b>404.474,15</b>	<b>267.900,63</b>

## Auditor's certificate

An den Vorstand des Afghanischer Frauenverein e.V.

Wir haben den Jahresabschluss - bestehend aus Bilanz und Gewinn- und Verlustrechnung sowie Anhang - unter Einbeziehung der Buchführung des Afghanischer Frauenverein e.V. für das Geschäftsjahr vom 1. Januar bis 31. Dezember 2016 geprüft. Die Buchführung und die Aufstellung des Jahresabschlusses nach den deutschen handelsrechtlichen Vorschriften und den ergänzenden Bestimmungen der Vereinssatzung liegen in der Verantwortung der gesetzlichen Vertreter des Vereins. Unsere Aufgabe ist es, auf der Grundlage der von uns durchgeführten Prüfung eine Beurteilung über den Jahresabschluss unter Einbeziehung der Buchführung abzugeben.

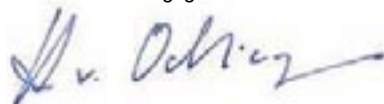
Wir haben unsere Jahresabschlussprüfung nach § 317 HGB unter Beachtung der vom Institut der Wirtschaftsprüfer (IDW) festgestellten deutschen Grundsätze ordnungsmäßiger Abschlussprüfung vorgenommen. Danach ist die Prüfung so zu planen und durchzuführen, dass Unrichtigkeiten und Verstöße, die sich auf die Darstellung des durch den Jahresabschluss unter Beachtung der Grundsätze ordnungsmäßiger Buchführung vermittelten Bildes der Vermögens-, Finanz- und Ertragslage wesentlich auswirken, mit hinreichender Sicherheit erkannt werden. Bei der Festlegung der Prüfungshandlungen werden die Kenntnisse über die Geschäftstätigkeit und über das wirtschaftliche und rechtliche Umfeld des Vereins sowie die Erwartungen über mögliche Fehler berücksichtigt. Im Rahmen der Prüfung werden die Wirksamkeit des rechnungslegungsbezogenen internen Kontrollsystems sowie Nachweise für die Angaben in Buchführung und Jahresabschluss überwiegend auf der Basis von Stichproben beurteilt. Die Prüfung umfasst die Beurteilung der angewandten Bilanzierungsgrundsätze und der wesentlichen Einschätzungen der gesetzlichen Vertreter sowie die Würdigung der Gesamtdarstellung des Jahresabschlusses. Wir sind der Auffassung, dass unsere Prüfung eine hinreichend sichere Grundlage für unsere Beurteilung bildet.

Unsere Prüfung hat zu keinen Einwendungen geführt.

Nach unserer Beurteilung aufgrund der bei der Prüfung gewonnenen Erkenntnisse entspricht der Jahresabschluss den gesetzlichen Vorschriften und den ergänzenden Bestimmungen der Vereinssatzung und vermittelt unter Beachtung der Grundsätze ordnungsmäßiger Buchführung ein den tatsächlichen Verhältnissen entsprechendes Bild der Vermögens-, Finanz- und Ertragslage des Vereins.

Montabaur, 10. November 2017

HvO von Oettingen GmbH  
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft  
Steuerberatungsgesellschaft



Helga von Oettingen  
Wirtschaftsprüferin



## On-going Projects for 2017



Afghanistan is mentioned only rarely in media reports now. Government and international help is diminishing. And so our duty and responsibility to help is increasing, we need to expand our projects and create new ones. For this, we need your help.



**Surveying the plot: This is where a new school is to be built**



**Young women who have been given a scholarship look forward to university life.**

### **In memory of Roger Willemssen:**

#### **A new school in Kabul**

**One new project that lies close to our hearts is the building of a new school in memory of Roger Willemssen.**

A few weeks ago we found a suitable plot for this new school in the northern part of Kabul. Our plan for this school is that some 1000 students, girls and boys, may have the chance to graduate at Secondary School level.

Our patron Roger Willemssen attached great importance to education. He used to say: Afghan children speak of literacy as if it were a profession. Their thirst for knowledge is all-consuming, their vision of their own life is filled with responsibility for the development of Afghanistan.

### **Scholarships for university education**

**Our newest project is the funding of 15 students who graduated from the Roshani, Bojasar and Khazani school who wish to go to university.**

They will receive a monthly grant which will cover the cost of learning materials and clothing, as well as travelling expenses and university fees. In particular for young women who live in rural areas this will be the first time they can have the opportunity of taking a degree course.

Most of those receiving a scholarship will take teacher training courses. The aim is that when they graduate they will be employed at our Bajasar School so that the level of education there can be improved and the rate of rural exodus can be reduced..



**Handicrafts help women to support their families and preserve traditional crafts.**

**A chance for those who have had to flee**  
**On account of the current political situation, many Afghan refugees have been forced to leave their Pakistan exile and return to their old home country.**

According to UNHCR approximately one million people have had to flee from Pakistan and Iran in 2016. In 2017 there were further hundreds of thousands. This is an enormous challenge for society and a further task which the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association had to face.

One answer to the challenge was to transfer the concept of the Honar tailoring and embroidery near Peshawar to Afghanistan. Ten women now produce handicrafts for the association in the Roshani School near Ghazni. Being employed and receiving wages helps these women and their families. At the same time traditional handicrafts are kept alive.



**Sponsored families continue to need your supporting!**



**Children in a refugee camp**

**Family sponsorships to alleviate great hardship**  
**Still the help in form of the family sponsorships is very important.**

Many of the families which had been sponsored through the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association when they were in Pakistan were forced to flee back to Afghanistan.

They need further support not least because the cost of living in Afghanistan is higher than in Pakistan. Apart from these measures we support destitute students in our school in Roshani and Bojasar. Altogether we now support 102 families.





The son of one of our staff receives medical treatment.



Charity run at the Gymnasium Carolinum Osnabrück



New teachers have been recruited in Bojasar School.



Bojasar students say thank you to their partner school Gymnasium Carolinum Osnabrück

### An increase in staff in Afghanistan

We now employ two further members of staff in our office in Kabul and additional teachers have been recruited for the schools in Roshani and Bojasar.

Furthermore we were able to fill the position of deputy head of the Khazani school with a lady teacher. In order to keep up with the rising cost of living the salaries of our staff have been increased.

In cases where medical treatment is needed but the patient cannot pay, we dispense with red tape in order to help. For instance, after a motorbike accident or serious leg injuries or an urgent operation or when one of our staff suffered injuries after a land mine exploded, we helped provide a young girl with a hand prosthesis. Such help is often very urgent and must be dealt with unbureaucratically.

### New school sponsorships

From 2011 onwards the Gymnasium Carolinum in Osnabrück has supported the Marefat girls' school in Peshawar.

On account of the border hostilities in 2016 the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association was obliged to close the Marefat girls' school in the early autumn of 2016. From then on the Gymnasium Carolinum became the new sponsors of the Bojasar girls' school near Kabul. In addition, the Schiller School in Frankfurt on Main has sponsored the Khazani school near Kunduz since 2014. The pupils of the Carolinum School and the Bojasar school exchange letters and news and we have encouraged the same exchange between the Khazani and Schiller schools. In this way both sides can get a personal and clear-cut impression of each other. Once a year the Carolinum School organises a fund-raising campaign and lectures about their partners in Afghanistan. mit Vorträgen über die Partnerschule.



## Activities

**There is a saying which goes: "One's true wealth is one's friends". This was once more illustrated in the 30 or so events that have been held in the whole of Germany and which were organised by or for the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association.**

One of these was a memorial for our late patron Roger Willemsen. It was called: Matters of the Heart – an evening for Roger Willemsen. This brought together many of his friends and fellow travellers in the "Alte Feuerwache" (old fire station) in Mannheim. His publisher, the S. Fischer Verlag, and the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association organised the evening. Texts were read and friends gave personal reminiscences – all of which were accompanied by music.

The „Lit. Cologne“ – an annual literary festival in Cologne – organised an evening called: Roger Willemsen, visionary, man of letters, political thinker“. The proceeds went to the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association.

Various bazars showed people what our work was about: at the "Festival of Cultures" in Osnabrück, and events in Frankfurt, Freiburg, Heidelberg, Hamburg, Bremen, Darmstadt, Stuhr, Bochum, Eutin and Bad Oeynhausen. There were also functions, lectures and discussions in Cologne, Osnabrück, Bonn and Iserlohn.

We attach great importance to working with young people. In this connection there was a charity race organised with great enthusiasm by the Carolinum Grammar School in Osnabrück in aid of their partner



**Staff at the AVWA-stand at the „Festival of Cultures“**

school in Bojasar. Lectures were held in Frankfurt and Osnabrück to give the pupils information about the situation in Afghanistan.

The 25th anniversary of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association was celebrated in Osnabrück in a festive event with music, a fashion show, readings and speeches. The aim was to say "thank you" to all our fellow campaigners who have accompanied us all these years. Our guests were overwhelmed by the announcement that Herbert Grönemeyer would be our new ambassador-at-large – their delight was unmistakable. A video message from Katja Riemann was shown – it was a sincere and dedicated speech. Other speeches recalled the work done in a quarter of a century. It was a record of success which would not have been possible without the help of our friends and sponsors.

We would like to thank all those involved in these events for their wonderful commitment. In Afghanistan we would say: „Taschakur“.



## Afghan Volunteer Women's Association (AVWA)



From left to right:

**Malahat Dinkelmann (member of the board)**

**Dr Qudsia Etminan (deputy chairwoman)**

**Rona Mansury (Treasurer)**

**Nadia Nashir (chairwoman)**

**Sarghuna Sultanie (secretary)**



**Working on our behalf:**

**Our project leaders and office staff in the provinces Kabul, Kunduz and Ghazni. This picture shows just 9 out of 105 dedicated local staff in Afghanistan.**

### **Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: Structure and Organisation**

**The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association has been a registered association since 1992. At present the executive board consists of five members. At the present time the association has 125 members and an additional 276 sponsors (status as at 30/10/2017).**

Any woman over 18 years of age of any nationality, any political allegiance and any religion can become a member. Once a year members are invited to an annual meeting where the work of the executive committee is submitted. The members' meeting approves this work and can elect a new executive every two years. This committee is made up of a chairwoman, a deputy, a treasurer, a secretary and one further member.

The executive committee and other members co-ordinate the work of the association on an honorary basis. Further there are two paid staff, 10 unpaid persons and apprentices, all of them working in close collaboration with our office in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The staff in our office in Germany are responsible for the management of on-going projects and administration. At present there are three part-time paid staff.

Our balance sheets are audited by two auditors. The confirmed that all invoices for 2016 were in order.

The executive committee and active members meet six times a year. The chairwoman of the association, who works in the Osnabrück office, regularly informs the other committee members about progress on on-going projects and consults with them on further planning.

We need more donations if we are to support women and children at the best possible level. In order to achieve this we use various methods. For example, we send out an annual report, we send out round robins, we have events, a newsletter, an internet page, we seek personal contacts and organise Christmas and school events. Important developments are covered in an annual report which is sent to sponsors, members and donors.



## How You Can Help



**Donate a well**

**Help women and children in Afghanistan. Give them hope for a self-determined and better life through education, drinking water, emergency aid and free medical treatment.**

Please support us in our work in any way you wish: a one-off donation or a monthly sponsorship. Here are some examples of how we use the donations:

- **8 Euros a month pay for a place in a school**
- **30 Euros a month cover a year's instruction for a mother to become a seamstress**
- **25 Euros a month cover a sponsorship for a family in need**
- **80 Euros a month pay a teacher's salary**
- **For 800 Euros you can donate a well which supplies approximately 200 people with clean drinking water for the rest of their lives!**

You can use your own parties such a birthday or a jubilee or a wedding to help us. Perhaps you could request donations to our projects instead of a gift. If you would like to help women and children in Afghanistan in this way, we can help you organise a fund-raising event!

Forms for sponsors and the options for online donations can be found at our homepage:  
[www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de](http://www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de)

**Our account for donations:**  
**Afghanischer Frauenverein e.V.**  
**Commerzbank Koblenz**  
**IBAN: DE28 570 800 700 680 850 500**  
**BIC: DRESDE33HAN**

All donations are tax-deductible.



## Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: Books by Roger Willemssen



### Roger Willemssen, »Afghanische Reise« (An Afghan Journey) (S. Fischer Verlag & Fischer Paperback Press)

In February and again in November 2005 Roger Willemssen 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 in 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 shepherds 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. An Afghan Journey is available in the original German, in English and in Polish. The English version has been recommended by PEN – the International Writers' Guild. (An Afghan Journey. Haus PUBLISHING).

**Hardcover: ISBN 978-3-10-092103-1, 16,90 Euro**

**Paperback: ISBN 978-3-596-17339-6, 9,95 Euro**



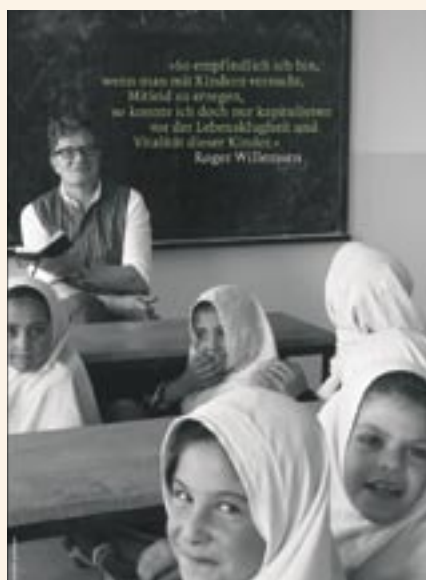
### Roger Willemssen, »Once upon a time. Afghan children and their world« (S. Fischer Verlag)

From his many trips around Afghanistan Roger Willemssen collected and brought home hundreds of children's drawing, essays and letters – moving documents portraying young people whose everyday life is influenced by war. On his last journey in 2012 that took him from Kabul to the Panshir Valley, Willemssen visited some of these children. His moving account of that journey draws up a true and often surprising picture of life in Afghanistan – not only the darker side but often its happier moments.

*Roger Willemssen observed life in Afghanistan very keenly. If one listens to the voices that he captured, one has a better understanding of the country. (Süddeutsche Zeitung)*

**Hardcover: ISBN 978-3-10-092108-6, 19,99 Euro**

**Paperback**



With the proceeds from the book **Roger Willemssen, "Once upon a Time - Afghan Children and their World"** (S. Fischer Verlag and Fischer Paperback Press) the S. Fischer Verlag supports our work and considers it a memorial to Roger Willemssen.

The entire royalties of the book are donated to the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association for its projects.

## **CD „Herzenssachen“ and World Children's Map**



### **CD „Herzenssachen“**

**Allow yourself to be fascinated by the gala programme “Matters of the Heart” with Roger Willemssen, Frank Chastenier, John Goldsby, Sophie von Kessel, Gert Scobel, Farhad Darya, Bastian Pastewka, Chris Tine Urspruch, Charlotte Roche and Christoph Waltz.**

Apart from musical items, texts by Ingeborg Bachmann, Robert Musil, Tommy Jaud, Ernst Jandl, Jürg Schubiger and Karl Kraus were read. The gala evening took place in the Opera House in Bonn. Everyone connected with producing the CD at Roof Music recording and publication company waived their fee. The CD costs just 10 Euro plus postage and packing..



### **World Children's Map**

**“This is where we live” – is what children call out to people looking at the World Children's Map „NeighbourChildren“.**

It makes no difference whether they live in Africa, Asia, America, Australia or Europe – the colourful and informative poster, donated by the publishing house Kruger and Schönhoff invites us all, children and adults, to explore our earth. Order this map: the size is 100 x 70 cm, it can be wiped clean and is available as a limited edition for just 19,90 Euro plus postage. and packing.



**With the proceeds from the map and the CD you can help Afghan schoolgirls to attend a school, receive a school uniform, pencils, exercise books and textbooks..**

### **Adress for ordering:**

**Afghanischer Frauenverein e. V.  
Katharinenstraße 32  
49078 Osnabrück**

**[www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de](http://www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de)  
[info@afghanischer-frauenverein.de](mailto:info@afghanischer-frauenverein.de)**

**World Children's Map for just 19.90 Euro (plus postage and packing) and CD “Herzenssachen“ for just 10.00 Euro (plus postage and packing)).**



## Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: Products That Help



### Handicrafts

**Afghan handicrafts have a long tradition which goes back to ancient times. Their impact was felt in the bazaars of the Silk Road and connected the Orient with the Occident. Cleopatra and Michelangelo were both fascinated by the brilliant blue of lapis lazuli. Today it is still being used to make jewellery. The multi-faceted Afghan crafts including textile products have been deemed worthy of protection by UNESCO.**

Traditionally, Afghan crafts were produced by women. This is a legacy that we are fostering and sustaining. The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association supports women by selling their products – for instance, scarves, embroidered material or high-quality clothing items.

This is a double success story for on the one hand traditional skills are kept alive and on the other hand the sale of these products improves the economic position of women who would otherwise be destitute. In this way they can be integrated into the labour market, they can support themselves and acquire a degree of independence.

The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association purchases most of its products in the province of Ghazni. Most of the embroidered work sold in Germany is made there. The items represent old cultural practices, traditionally produced fabrics and classical patterns.



**Coloured silk blouse with hand-embroidered patterns**

The prices depend on the size of the item and the effort and expense involved in its manufacture. For example: an elegant silk scarf may cost between 17 Euro and 35 Euro, whereas a key ring can be bought for 5 Euro..

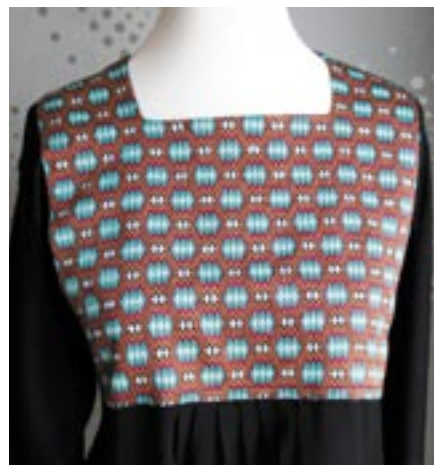
## Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: Products That Help



Key rings



Tablecloth (section)



Dress



### Ordering:

The items pictured here as well as further products can be ordered by telephone. For advice and information please contact Mrs Sultanie – she would be pleased to hear from you and to receive your order. Telephone number: 0049-(0)6742-81239. All proceeds from sales go to the women concerned without deductions.



### Cotton Bag:

For just 3 Euro you can buy a cotton bag printed with Afghan motifs. It celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association and was designed by our member Dr Issa.

The proceeds of the sale of this bag also go to the projects of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association.

## Afghan Volunteer Women's Association: We Say "Thank You!"



### **Our special thanks go to:**

**The late Roger Willemsen who was our patron for his inspiring, dedicated and brave involvement in our work and to Herbert Grönemeyer who will act as our new ambassador in order to give the people of Afghanistan a voice that may be heard.**

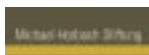
**Our heartfelt thanks go to all supporters, volunteers, members of our association, sponsors, institutions, schools and public backers who have gone along with us and supported us in the past 25 years:**

Götz Alsmann, Walter Aschmoneit, Barbara Auer, Mohammad Basir, Iris Berben, Henrike Bosse, Matthias Brandt, Angela von Brill, Agnes Bünemann, Frank Chastenier, Dr Gisela Danz, Farhad Darya, Karin Desmarowitz, Anke Engelke, Doris Eyl-Müller, Franz-Josef Feldhaus, Pegah Ferydoni, Annette Frier, Nadjib Gardezi, Nikolaus Gelpke, Franziska Grillmeier, Dieter Hildebrandt †, Franziska Hölscher, Klaus Hoffmann, Christina Ihle, Christian Irrgang, Mathias Janke, Gottfried John, Sandy Kaltenborn, Sophie von Kessel, Melanie Kizenna, Dr Knolle, Tatjana Knoop, Juliane Köhler, Joachim Król, Brigitte Kupke, Hela Lahrmann, Nina Lükenga, Walter Lükenga, Hakim Ludin, Felix Mauser, Christine Meierling, Franz Metzler, Tahir Mokhtar, Nangialai Nashir, Dr Turyalai Nassery, Grana Nawabi, Familie Noack, Prof. Günther Nogge, Bastian Pastewka, Erwin Pelzig, Andreas Rebers, Wahid Refahi, Katja Riemann, Charlotte Roche, Olga Scheps, Georg Schramm, Gert Scobel, Tobias Sunderdiek, Dr Regina Usbeck, Anna Thalbach, ChrisTine Urspruch, Mariam Wagner, Ahmad Wali, Christoph Waltz, Konstantin Wecker, Insa Wilke, Svenja Windisch, Julia Wittgens, Habib Yusof und Wolfgang Schiller.

Alte Feuerwache Mannheim, American Women's Club of Hamburg, Auswärtiges Amt, Büro für Friedenskultur der Stadt Osnabrück, Brücke der Hoffnung e.V., Cyclos GmbH, Camps International GmbH, Clifford Chance Deutschland LLP, Deutsch-Afghanische Initiative e.V., Deutsches Hilfswerk Bonn, Ev. Entwicklungsdienst e.V. Bonn, Ev. Kirchenkreis Gladbeck, Fielax Gesellschaft für wissenschaftliche Datenverarbeitung mbH, Förderverein Lions Club Köln-Vitellius, Förderverein Soroptimist Cuxhaven, Friedenskreis Eutin e.V., Gemeinnützige Stiftung Helfen, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GlZ, Grundschule Berlin, Gymnasium Carolinum Osnabrück, Gymnasium Parsberg, Inner Wheel Club Neuwied, Johanna-Löwenherz-Stiftung, Kinder Afghanistans e.V., Klax Grundschule Berlin, Lagerhalle e.V. Osnabrück, Lions Club Bad Salzuflen, Lions Club Lübecker Bucht, lit.Cologne GmbH, Malteser Hilfsdienst e.V., Malteser International, Michael Horbach Stiftung, Misereor Hilfswerk, MM-Cosmetics GmbH, Morgenland Festival Osnabrück e.V., Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung, Niedersächsische Bingo-Umweltstiftung, Rhein Zeitung, Roof Music GmbH, Rotary-Club Bonn, Rotary-Club Frankfurt am Main, Rotary-Club Herford-Widukind e.V., Rotary-Hilfe e.V. Ravensburg-Weingarten, Partnerschaft mit der Dritten Welt e.V., Reprografien Annette Hebbeler GmbH, S. Fischer Verlag GmbH, Schillerschule Frankfurt/Main, Schule Am Roten Berg Hasbergen, Schule Hagen a.T.W., Soroptimist-Hilfe Ravensburg, Soroptimist International Club Bad Oeynhausen, Stiftung Dr Saber Seleman, Stiftung Sternenstaub, Stiefels Buchladen Tuttlingen, terre des hommes e.V., Union Aid, Ursula-Schule Osnabrück, Verein für Afghanistan-Förderung e.V., Verein Niedersächsischer Bildungsinitiativen e.V., Verlag Krüger & Schönhoff, WDR 5, Zonta Club Hagen Area.



Afghan Volunteer Women's Association:  
We Say "Thank You!"







**» Your Help for Afghanistan Counts !«**



**Afghan Volunteer  
Women's Association**