



“Your Help for Afghanistan Counts”

Annual Report for 2017

Prospects for 2018



Afghanischer Frauenverein e. V.

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Foto: Ali Kepenek

I consider it an honour to support the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association as its ambassador. I do this out of a sense of deep solidarity with Afghanistan and with my friend the late Roger Willemsen who supported and advised the Association as honorary patron for more than ten years until his death.

Day by day members and employees of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association, often risking their own lives in the course of their work. They support those who have fled, who are hungry or wounded, and in particular women and girls who have suffered exclusion. They provide medical aid, school education and professional training. And they supply whole villages with clean drinking water.

The work of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association deserves our deepest respect and support. I wish to commit my own support to this work, please help us. Together we can help to improve living conditions in Afghanistan!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Herbert Grönemeyer'.

Herbert Grönemeyer

Ambassador for the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association



Roger Willemsen †

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

"If one stands on the roof of the school one can see how much progress is taking place all around. The fields on the mountain slopes have been tilled, one can hear the cockerels, workers are hammering in the distance, the farmers call to each other. At this hour of the day one can sense that it is autumn. One can barely believe that not so long ago this was one of the major areas of warfare. Now and again one can see a solitary white kite. One registers with relief – someone is playing."

Roger Willemsen: Once upon a time – or perhaps not. Published by S. Fischer Verlag 2015. Page 241.

"We look at this country from a military perspective. But we must re-think our attitude. There is nothing better than seeing the reality of this country through the eyes of its children.

The work I can do there makes me so exhilarated because one really has the feeling that one is achieving something."

Roger Willemsen (2013): Through the eyes of the Children

Roger Willemsen and the children of Afghanistan

Broadcast on 3Sat 26.08.2013 (Video): <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x2tm3yv>

Dear Readers,

In the past year we have been able to set important milestones for improving the living conditions of women and children in Afghanistan – we achieved this by working together as a strong team. This was possible only through your help, our loyal donors, patrons and partners and our hard working, never-weary honorary helpers, members and employees of our association. Supported by all these people we managed to extend our projects and launch new ones.

For this we wish to extend our sincere thanks to you all.

Our special thanks are due to the friends of our late patron Roger Willemsen who have continued to stay with us and give us their support all through the year. For ten years Roger Willemsen worked with great commitment and energy for Afghanistan. His humanitarian legacy will live on in Afghanistan. In Germany his friends are engaged in continuing his dedicated work. First and foremost I would mention Herbert Grönemeyer who supports the Association as its ambassador. We owe him our sincere thanks for his efforts.

We look back with pride: we supported approximately 21,000 people and their families in the past year. Some 15,000 of them participate in our programmes, attend our schools or vocational training schemes, receive continuous medical care through our association or have access to clean drinking water. We were able to give urgently needed winter aid to approximately 6,000 people.

These successful activities would not have been possible without the help of our courageous local staff, our teachers and students, who never falter in the face of considerable danger, who continue to go along the path of their convictions and thereby enable themselves and others to achieve considerable success.

And so we ask you to stay with us without hesitation. The women and children of Afghanistan need you. Let us continue to work together to help alleviate their need and to give them a chance of a better future. I assure you that your contributions and donations are used where they are needed and are effective in the long term.

With warmest greetings,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nadia Nashir', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Nadia Nashir

Chairwoman of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association



Our aims, our standards

To alleviate acute hardship, to provide opportunities, to secure life – for people in Afghanistan, especially for women and children, this is often difficult. In order to change this situation, the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association has sponsored the following measures since 1992:

- school education and literacy
- vocational training
- university scholarships
- access to safe drinking water by constructing well
- medical care and health education
- sponsorships for families in great need
- emergency aid

In connection with these measures we always pay special attention to sustainability. Our work in northern, eastern and southern Afghanistan is help towards self-help. Most projects are in rural area – those areas that are rarely reached by others.

Your donations to the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association can be used in those regions where they are most urgently needed thanks to our very low administrative expenses. Members of the Association and also the executive committee regularly travel to these regions to make sure that progress is being made in our projects and that they are economically efficient. These trips are made at their own expense.

We organize meetings in Germany to explain the situation in Afghanistan and also to help provide a better understanding of Afghanistan and its culture.



Thanks to your support and our 120 Afghan staff and colleagues in Afghanistan who carry out their work with great enthusiasm and in spite of the high level of risk involved, we are able to alleviate poverty and bring perspectives.

For all that owe you our heartfelt thanks. Each and every small gesture of help enables us to master great problems locally.

Please help us give women and children in Afghanistan perspectives for their future!



Providing a chance for a peaceful future



Afghanistan – a country under development

Families in Afghanistan wish to have a perspective. They hope for a chance of a better future, of peace, education, work and good health. Sustainable development is more important for them than ever. Particularly with a view to the perilous security situation it is essential that visible and positive developments are stabilized. Often just small changes can greatly improve the living conditions of the approximately 33 million people in the country.

Creating conditions for a healthy life

Since 1990 life expectancy has risen continuously. In addition, between 2002 when reconstruction began, and 2016, the mortality rate for children under five years of age sank from 122.2 per 1000 live births to 70.4. Even so, compared with a world-wide figure of 41 per 1000 births the number is still shockingly high.

Medical care for mothers and pregnant women is inadequate. One in fourteen women still die from complications that occur during pregnancy or after giving birth. Almost half the women in Afghanistan give birth without any medical supervision. The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association has set up emergency medical stations in particularly remote areas where there is virtually no provision for any supervision during pregnancy, and free midwifery and medical assistance.

By providing new sources of safe water we try to improve the inadequate provision of clean drinking water for the whole population. With our projects for new wells we help those living in remote villages to have access to germ-free drinking water.

Sponsoring women

Since 2001, which marked the end of the Taliban regime, millions of girls who would have had no access to education are able to go to school. Today 37 per cent of girls can read and write, as can 66 per cent of boys of the same age. That is a marked increase compared with the previous generation in which only 19 per cent of women and 49 per cent of the men are literate. And yet it is estimated that two-thirds of Afghan girls are still not attending school.

There are many reasons for this. In general children in Afghanistan have a long distance to cover in order to attend school - for example to state schools of which 41 per cent have no proper buildings and 60 per cent have no toilet facilities. In half the 34 provinces the proportion of female teachers is under 20 per cent. These structural deficits mean that particularly in rural areas parents refuse to allow their daughters to go to school. Furthermore the children in poor families are often made to earn money at a very early age. Chances of an adequate education for Afghan girls are further reduced when schools are closed and/or donors or sponsors withdraw their support. Many of the girls who attend schools funded by the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association stayed long enough to graduate from the highest class, went on to study and quite a large number of them felt a calling to become teachers. Our vocational training projects help women to earn money so that they can support their families and send their children to school.

Source: Afghan Demographic and Health Survey 2015, FAO 2015, Human Rights Watch 2017, UNICEF 2016, WHO 2015 World Bank.



⊙ In the areas marked we support a total of 12 projects in rural areas of Afghanistan.

Thanks to your financial and voluntary support we can offer women in Afghanistan the chance to make their contribution to the education of the next generation. **Let us continue to work together to give people in Afghanistan a better chance – your help counts!**

Supplying Safe Drinking water

Building wells



“All of us are as water from different rivers. That is what makes it so easy to meet.” A sponsor from Germany asked for these words to be chiselled on to a well which he had donated. He knows that water stands for life but also that often in Afghanistan access to clean and safe water is not ensured. In summer many springs dry up and in winter there is the risk that they freeze. Often routes that lead to water are not easily accessible or they are mined.

Approximately one-third of all diseases in Afghanistan are caused by polluted drinking water. According to a UNICEF report approximately 9500 children die from dysentery in Afghanistan every year. That is approximately 26 children every day. According to a survey by the World Health Organisation only about 31 per cent of people in urban areas and 5 per cent of people living in rural areas have access to clean and safe drinking water.

In a village building a well provides those living there with the best solution. Our late patron Roger Willemsen initiated our work on these projects in 2005. His commitment to this aspect of our work was indefatigable. Since then, and up to the end of 2017, almost 550 wells have been built with our association's help. In 2017 a further 48 new wells were built in the provinces Kunduz, Kabul and Pulkhumrie. They supply 7150 people with safe drinking water.

Sources: Diarrhoea: https://www.unicef.org/media/media_101445.html

Access to water: <http://www.germancooperation-afghanistan.de/sites/default/files/2017-Water%20KfW-EN.pdf>

Supplying Safe Drinking Water

Building Wells



From 1000 Euro upwards you can donate a well.



Now women and children can fetch water in safety.



Your personal well – a precious gift.

On the occasion of a birthday or a wedding or a special occasion many people wish to donate a well. Construction is carried out by a local building firm which gives a guarantee for its work.

School Education 2017

Bojasar Girls' School near Kabul



Bojasar School is bright with flowers. The school building which was inaugurated in 2012 welcomes visitors with its gardens. In autumn there are grapes hanging from vines and the girls have painted murals on the outside walls. It is an idyllic place.

At present 587 girls attend this school, from the first to the twelfth year. In the first year there are 123 new pupils who started school here in 2017. Some of them are refugee girls who came from Pakistan. We were able to increase the number of teachers to 20. In 2017, for the second year in the school's history, we were able to say farewell to a class of ten pupils with a high school diploma which entitles them to university education.



This is an excerpt from a letter from Zeinab and Fatima, both in the 11th class and from Schabna who is in the 6th class:

Our family consists of our parents, three sisters and one brother. Our mother is a paraplegic, so we do all the housework before we go to school. My father takes my sister Fatima and me to school every morning on the back of his motorcycle – it is a long way. In order to be able to buy basic provisions we sell grapes from our garden. Our cow provides us with milk and we sell some of that and yoghurt. We may be very poor but we are still a very happy family.



There is a school sponsorship between Gymnasium Carolinum in Osnabrück. Pen-friendships and other activities help us learn about each other's countries.



Sport is part of our curriculum. The most popular sport cricket – especially since Afghanistan qualified for the World Championship in 2014.



“We have to fight for our lives but also for school education. Both are the most valuable things we possess.” Mr. Abdullatif, the Rector of the Khazani School for boys and girls, refuses to be discouraged although the security situation in his home region near Kunduz is anything but easy. The school, which is in the village called Khoja Galtan, and is approximately 10 kilometres from Kunduz, is very popular.

In 2017 there were 12 classes and approximately 1200 boys and girls attended the school – some of the children were refugees who had to leave Pakistan and return to their original homeland. They were taught by 26 teachers. Girls attended the school in the morning and the boys in the afternoon. 48 girls and 58 boys started school in 2017. For the girls a new deputy headmistress was appointed. The school was founded in 2002 and in 2017 for the fourth year in succession a class graduated with university qualifications. These pupils are now studying law, educational science and agricultural and environmental management.

From December 2017 until March 2018 the school is closed and there are special courses which take place in winter. On six days a week four teachers give courses in the mornings on the following subjects: mathematics, calligraphy, speech and English. 230 pupils took advantage of this opportunity.

This appeal was made by an eight-year-old pupil at the Khazani School:

"My name is Umran and I am in the 2nd class at the Khazani School. I am top of my class. I have four brothers and I am the youngest in our family. Please listen to this message from a pupil at the Khazani School who implores everyone to hear it":

Who sees and cares about the beauty of books?

Who sees and cares about the future of children?

Is that what those who love war and weapons love?



Earning at an early age secures chances later on



The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association pays the teachers, provides transport and finances the teaching material such pencils, exercise books and printed books.



From 2014 onwards the Schiller School in Frankfurt on Main has sponsored the Khazani school.

School Education 2017

Roschani Girls' School in Ghazni



This is one of the oldest projects supported by the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association. The school was set up in 1999 and at the beginning there were 20 pupils.

By 2017 510 girls were being taught at this school and they were able to pursue their education through to the 12th class. In 2017 55 girls started school and 21 girls graduated with "Abitur" which is equivalent to university entrance qualification.

This is a great success story and literally a "light" in the whole region since the word roschani means light when translated into English. Since there has been a constant increase in the number of pupils who are now spread over 14 classes the premises of the school were stretched to their limits.

For this reason the Roschani School moved to a new and larger building in January 2017. 15 teachers receive constant further training in mathematics, physics and chemistry. There is a special "science week" and activities such as "teachers' day" which help the pupils to become really attached to the school.

From November 2017 onwards there has been a school sponsorship scheme between the Klax Primary School in Berlin and the Roschani School. The pupils of both schools have formed pen friendships.

School Education in 2017

Roschani Girls' School in Ghazni

Zohal, 9th class writes:

„I transferred to this school because I had heard so much praise and so many good reports from other pupils. Here discipline is good and there are good books and a uniform. The teachers are very competent. There is an excellent relationship between the teachers, the pupils and the directors, so that this school has a very good reputation. I would like to express my thanks for this. I wish all the teachers continued success and good health.”



The classrooms are light and friendly, there is new furniture sand a new library and laboratory. There are four storeys and plenty of room. New teaching materials have been purchased.





It is always a very special occasion when children in Afghanistan receive books, exercise books and pencils. This was the case when the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association distributed new supplies to the 91 boys and 76 girls at the Nurzai School in Chardara, approximately one hour's drive from the provincial capital Kunduz.

At the end of March 19 children were enrolled. The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association paid the major part of the salaries of the 6 male and 1 female teachers. Part of the cost of the salaries is borne by the Afghan state. The school educates children up to and including the 6th class. The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association ceased its participation in this project in August 2017.





The dual education scheme offers a further 30 women stability and economic independence.

Knowledge is power. In Afghanistan, as elsewhere, it is the most important access path to independence. For this reason we have been helping 30 young women between the ages of 18 and 25 to attend our literacy projects at the Roschani Sewing Centre each year since 2002.

For one whole year, six days a week, they learn to read and write on the basis of a specially prepared syllabus. In addition they learn mathematics and important aspects of religion and health care.

They are required to do some homework every day in order to consolidate what they learn in their lessons.

These young women are trained to run their own sewing business. Since they also learn the craft of sewing they are given a solid foundation for professional independence.



Some of those who finish the course can then attend a regular school for the first time in their life.

Vocational Training 2017

Roschani Sewing School in Ghazni



A success story: all the 30 trainees are able to run a dressmaking business from their own home and thereby feed their family.

Sewing machines rattle and scissors clatter. 30 young women aged between 18 and 25 years of age learn to sew in large, well-lit rooms in a newly equipped workshop.

What do I need in order to sew a dress? How can I repair damaged clothes? These are some of the questions dealt with in the lessons in our sewing centre in Roschani near Ghazni. At the same time the trainees make uniforms for the school children at the neighbouring Roschani School.

Three teachers give these lessons on six days a week. First of all the trainees participate in the literacy courses, later on they learn to sew.

Vocational Training 2017

Roschani Sewing Centre in Ghazni

Diljan – a former Roschani trainee writes:

„My husband works in the brick factory. In Winter there is no work there. I have a daughter and two sons who all go to school. We are poor. In the Roschani Sewing Centre I learned my trade, I was given a sewing machine and a pair of scissors. My brother sells the clothes I make. If I have a problem I can always ask for help at the school. The teacher is very kind and can always teach me something new. I earn approximately 2500 to 3000 Afghani a month (approximately 30 Euros). I have a quiet life. I am happy and content. May God protect you and may he also be satisfied with you.”



This is a concept which has long term success. Not only can these women earn their own income and ensure the welfare of their family but they also learn to be independent.

When these women graduate at the end of the course they are each given a sewing machine and a pair of scissors. They have good prospects of a successful profession future. The graduation certificate has a very good reputation in Ghazni.



Some of our scholarship students attending classes at University. Scholarships enable women to fill leading positions with considerable responsibilities later on.

Nazifa, 21 years old, tells us about her daily routine:

I live near Kunduz. I get up at 5 o'clock. In the morning I teach at the Khazani School, in the afternoon I attend lectures in education theory with emphasis on natural sciences.

Every day I travel the nine kilometres to school by bicycle rickshaw. When there is fighting going on I often take unpaved detours or hidden paths away from the main road, otherwise it would be too dangerous.

I get back home in the late afternoon. My mother has been widowed for eleven years. I help her and my four younger siblings. Until I have done all this I have no time for my own studies. I can go to bed at about ten o'clock."

And she adds: "Education is very important for our family. In spite of our poverty and the deprivations we suffer."

Vocational Training 2017

Projects for students with scholarships



Your scholarship holders look to the future full of hope

Since the summer of 2017 the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association has supported school graduates like Nazifa in the provinces of Kabul, Ghazni and Kunduz.

This scholarship pilot project helps 15 girls to pay for safe transport to further education schools, the fees and learning materials. It is an investment in the future: in this way we can train teachers with full pedagogical competence for our schools in rural areas where well-trained teachers are difficult to find. Strong women like Nazifa deserve our support.

Please support this scheme! Support these scholarship holders and Afghanistan's future.



25-year old Bibi Schahnaz walked for three hours through hilly terrain in order to consult Dr. Mudjib about her sick child. Medication and infusions were available for her badly undernourished child that suffered from diarrhoea.

Sickness can quickly become an existential threat, particularly in the poor and remote regions of Afghanistan. In general farming families are very poor and cannot afford treatment or medicines.

This is the situation in Qolab, a poor mountain village near Kabul. Here an emergency health care unit funded by the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association is able to offer help to many people. Some of them come a long way along hazardous routes for treatment.

Many illnesses and health problems are treated here: gastro-intestinal disorders, lung, eye, heart and skin diseases are frequently treated, as is rheumatism. There are also cases of depression and traumas among older people. By providing medical care we have been able to reduce mortality and improve the general level of health.



Dr. Qamar Kaltenborn, a member of the Association, checks medical supplies which have come from Germany.

Dr. Mudjib and his assistants work in the emergency care centre in Qolab. They also support 14 midwives who work in this area and who were trained locally. They receive the medical utensils which they need for their work.

It has been necessary to increase the budget for medicines as the number of patients has increased. Medicines are handed out free of charge.

Some of the equipment in the clinic has been renewed and improved. In 2017 the clinic was able to treat more than 4000 patients.



Family Sponsorships 2017

Fighting poverty



Family sponsorships indirectly helped 959 people towards better education and better health

Fahima (20 years old) wrote the following letter:

„We have lived in the province Nangahar for a year now. I now attend the seventh class at school and thanks to your financial support I can pay for transport, school equipment and the fees for an English course. I also support my four younger sisters and my brother who all attend school.”

At last: Fahima can look forward to a happier future in spite of many adverse circumstances. On account of the political situation Fahima and her family were forced to leave Honar near Peshawar in Pakistan. It was there that she attended our trainee workshop and learned to sew and to read and write.

Give people hope! Your donation towards self-help reaches people directly – people like Fahima and her family!

Family Sponsorships in 2017

Fighting poverty

Economic deprivation is not caused only by flight or poverty or sickness or injury. Sometimes a situation arises where one can no longer make plans for the future or pay for education.

In such cases the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association helps with a family sponsorship. If you donate just 25 Euros per month you can help women and children in particular to break out of the vicious circle of their poverty. In 2017 the Association was able to support 137 families in this way.



Emergency Aid 2017

Fighting poverty



Emergency aid supplies helped over 6000 people, like this family, survive the winter.

Nuragha wrote: “The supplies which the Afghan Volunteer Women’s Association gave us saved our lives.” In order to alleviate the immediate suffering of this family – the father, his sick wife and their four daughters - were given groceries to last for two months and a large blanket. The family had fled to Pakistan many years previously and the political situation there had forced them to leave at short notice. The father now works as a day labourer in the province of Ghazni.

In addition to those refugees who have come from Pakistan, there are currently hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons who suffer great hardship. They are on the flight from violence in their home regions and from extreme poverty. Frequently they have no shelter other than tents on open fields or they have makeshift accommodation between cement blocks. In winter they are exposed to bitter cold, and food and safe drinking water are always in short supply. Under these circumstances it is the children, the sick and the elderly who suffer most.

Emergency Aid 2017

Fighting poverty



"Without your food supplies my five children and I would not have been able to survive the hard winter in our tent. Many thanks. Our best wishes to all your helpers."

*Sabrina, 30 years old, widowed.
Refugee camp Alilala, Ghazni.*



Emergency aid for internally displaced refugees

In 2017 the Association organised four emergency aid programmes in order to help these people. In the spring the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association distributed supplies to 630 people in the Alilala Camp near Ghazni. In the provinces of Laghman and Jalalabad another 2480 people received aid. In December 350 people in Khara-baqi near Ghazni and 2000 people in Alilala received food supplies and winter aid. The following aid was distributed to 5820 people:

40.75 tons of flour, 9.125 tons of rice, 6.93 tons of sugar, a whole ton of tea, 6.325 litres of oil, 1540 blankets, 900 gas cylinders of 5 litres each and 630 kilogrammes of beans.

In order to save on transport and storage costs the relief supplies were purchased locally – in this way we were able to support the local economy.

This emergency aid saved lives! Help us to help others!



Helping where help is needed!

This is the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association's maxim.

Special emergency situations require specific support. In 2017, as so often in the past, various individual activities were able to do good.

Our local staff have access to protection

By means of an emergency fund they are covered for treatment such as important medical operations or emergencies, for instance cancer treatment, accidents or injuries sustained through mines.

Homa Abass, a member of the Association, travelled from Germany to Kabul with her daughter Dr. Rahil who is a doctor.

In Kabul they worked for several days with a medical team and treated 300 women and children in refugee camps and distributed medical supplies.



Homa Abass, a member of the Association, helps her daughter Dr. Rahil, during treatment.

Individual Aid Programmes 2017

Fighting poverty



Before the operation



After the operation

They can write again and are happy. Samir (10 years old) and Mohamad (six years old)

At last they can write and grip normally!

This was the most heartfelt wish that two sons of one of our local members of staff had: their fingers were deformed and partially conjoined.

In two operations which were paid for by the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association these handicaps could be rectified.

We were able to ease 17- year-old Rahina's fate.

She lost a hand in an accident. In an operation paid for by the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association she was fitted with an artificial limb.

Support for schools:

Kochkeen School is near Kabul and has 800 pupils, both boys and girls. We put up a further three classrooms. At another school in Kalakan District, about 30 kilometres from the capital, we were able to repair the roof and parts of the interior equipment.



Rahina (17 years old) with her new artificial limb



Progress!

2018 was characterised by growing tasks.

For example, we recorded a growing number of pupils and patients. All the running costs of the schools which we operate were covered by the Association. In addition to these costs we donated teaching material as well as sports equipment.

News from Bojasar School near Kabul:

The construction of three additional classrooms was necessary to accommodate the growing number of pupils. Children of nomad families, who generally miss out on school education, are attending Bojasar School.

In 2018 approximately 50 new wells are providing water.

In part costly excavations proved necessary for technical reasons and we now have wells in areas which are difficult to access.



Good news from Roschani School in Ghazni:

This year, for the second time running, we were able to organise a course lasting one year in English and in computer technology for 80 pupils in the classes six to nine.



In the course of a series of major winter aid actions 5000 people in the refugee camp Hussain Khel near Kabul and in the province of Ghazni received supplies of urgently needed goods. We distributed blankets, gas bottles, flour, oil, sugar and tea intended to last for two months.



In our medical centre in Qolab there is an ever-increasing number of patients, some of whom come from distant villages. In August 2018 the medical team opened the centre for a second day each week in order to improve the quality of treatment.



Construction of a new school in Kabul in memory of Roger Willemsen

It was one of Roger Willemsen's major concerns to give children in Afghanistan access to education. In memory of our late patron who died in 2016 the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association is making plans to build a new school in Kabul. Construction was due to start this year. Unfortunately there have been delays

caused by the process of obtaining planning permission but we are determined to realise our plans. We shall keep you informed continuously on the progress of this project on our homepage.

Help us to realise this project! Help us give Afghan children a better future!



From left to right:

Back row: Malahat Dinkelmann (Member of the Executive Committee), Homa Abass (Deputy Chairwoman), Nadia Nashir (Chairwoman)
Front row: Rona Mansouri (Treasurer), Sarghuna Sultanie (Secretary)

Successful work for more than 25 years!

The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association has been a registered association since 1992..

The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association currently has 120 members and 310 sponsors (as of 30.9.2018). At present the executive committee has five members.

Anyone over the age of 16 can join the Association regardless of their nationality, or of their political or religious affiliation.

Once a year all members are invited to a general meeting where the work carried out by the Association and the Executive Committee is outlined. The members then approve these reports. Every other year a new Executive Committee is elected, which consists of a chairman/woman, his or her deputy, a treasurer, a secretary and one further member. The Executive Committee and a few members of the Association co-ordinate the work to be done – all this is done on a voluntary and unpaid basis.



The picture above shows the staff of our office in Kabul and some of our project managers in Afghanistan. All the 122 project managers in Afghanistan are Afghan nationals.

In addition to the Executive Committee there are two full-time members of staff and 20 others, including some interns, who work closely with our office in Kabul/Afghanistan on a voluntary basis.

The staff who work in our German office in Osnabrück are responsible for publicity, administering the donations, managing the projects and general administrative matters. At present two further persons have a part-time contract.

The Executive Committee and the members of the Association generally meet up to six times a year. The Chairman/woman of the Association informs those present about on-going projects and is keen to involve them in future planning.

In order to support women and children in Afghanistan as effectively as possible more donations are urgently needed. To achieve this goal we have a number of additional activities apart from our annual report: we have an electronic newsletter, we send out letters with current information, we organise events to draw attention to Afghanistan as a country (concerts and sales of Afghan handicrafts), we have an internet page, personal conversations and special activities in schools and at Christmas.



The “World Music Ensemble, Dorsten” played to an enthusiastic audience at a charity matinee.

Building bridges between Afghanistan and Germany –

An important goal for the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association.

Every year we have approximately 30 such events throughout Germany.

In the past twelve months our members and friends have organised interesting lectures, lively bazaars, information stands and other activities to encourage donations. All these activities are organised on a voluntary basis and are an important link between our countries and nations.

An afternoon concert “In Memoriam Roger Willemsen” took place in the city theatre in Osnabrück in November. There were carefully selected and movingly rendered excerpts from his literary work. We also had an information stand and stands with handicrafts for sale. The theatre foyer was well attended and the atmosphere was underscored by well chosen background music.



At a fund-raising event organised by the “Soroptimist International Club” in Bamberg



Mrs. Simin Heiderfazel, a member of our Association, informing visitors at a charity fair in Heidelberg

Another event which attracted a lot of attention took place in Bamberg on 7th March (International Women's Day). It included a lecture on the current situation of women in Afghanistan and a bazaar at which Afghan handicrafts were on sale. This event was organised with great energy and commitment by the Soroptimist International Club in Bamberg.

We are very anxious to encourage young people to be aware of the need for a world where social justice is created and upheld. So we were very pleased when the Klax primary school in Berlin and the Roschani Girls' School in Ghazni formed a partnership in November 2017. In addition to this the pupils at the Carolinum Grammar School in Osnabrück support pupils at the Bojasar School near Kabul. There are pen friendships which help these pupils learn about life in each other's countries.

Our young interns are trying to form a youth group and to encourage new members to join in. Our intern Marie Puttkammer says: “I love being a member of the team. I enjoy the work and it is so worthwhile.”

“Thank you” to everyone who supports our work and encourages us to carry on without respite.

Handicrafts from Afghanistan

Help and support us!



Afghan textile art has always been an important part of trade along the Silk Road and UNESCO has declared it to be a cultural heritage worthy of protection.

Filigree silk foulards, woollen scarves, delicately embroidered tablecloths or children's bedlinen -these are just a few examples of the colourful Afghan handicrafts which are made within our projects and which you can buy from us. The articles are made from high quality materials and display an excellent standard of skill. Each piece is unique.



The articles shown here and many others can be ordered by telephone. Mrs. Sultanie can advise you and give you any information you may require.

She will be delighted to hear from you at the following number:
(0049) – (0)6742 – 81239

Please support us!

Handicrafts from Afghanistan

Help and support us!



„Looking smart and doing a good deed.“

When you buy an item of our handicrafts selection you are supporting those women who create these textiles and items in the province of Ghazni in a traditional way. Most of them are destitute so you are not only helping these women but also keeping alive ancient traditions going back many centuries. The proceeds of the sales go entirely to these women.

A key ring costs just five Euros, silk scarves can be bought for 15 Euros and upwards and a table runner costs 35 Euros.

Convince yourself that these handicrafts are of very high quality!



Wonderful embroidered chiffon scarves in various sizes



Your help can have a great effect!

Please help women and children in Afghanistan

Please help them to achieve their dream of an improved standard of living and a degree of self-determination by giving a one-off donation or a monthly sponsorship. Here are some examples of how donations are used:

- 8 Euros a month enable a child to attend school
- 30 Euros a month enable a mother to attend a dressmaking course over a period of one year
- 25 Euros or more sponsor a family in need
- 80 Euros a month covers the salary of a teacher
- 1000 Euros (or sometimes more) is what it costs to build a well which supplies 100-200 people with clean drinking water.



Forms for sponsorships or the option of online donations can be found under:
www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de

Our account for donations is:
Afghanischer Frauenverein e. V.
Commerzbank Koblenz
IBAN: DE28 570 800 700 680 850 500,
BIC: DRESDEFF570

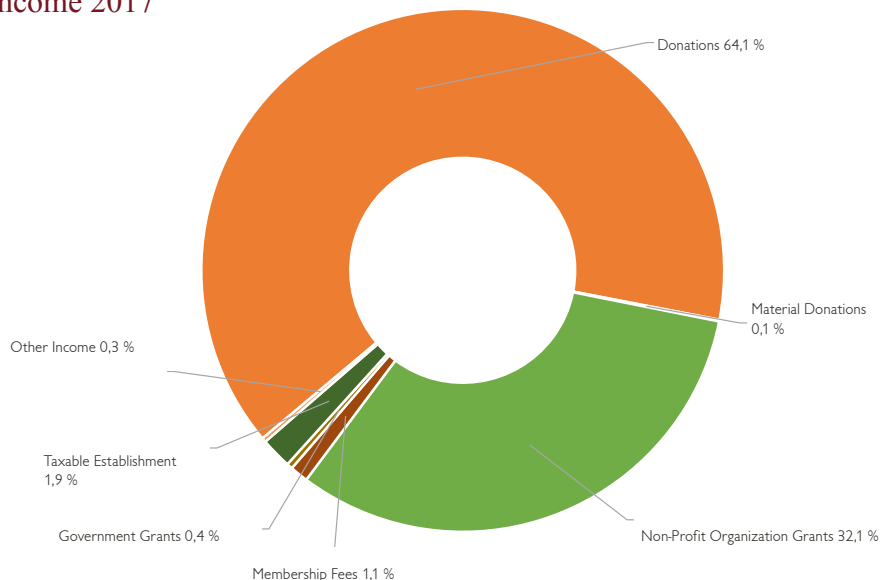
All donations tax deductible.

Income and Expenditure Account

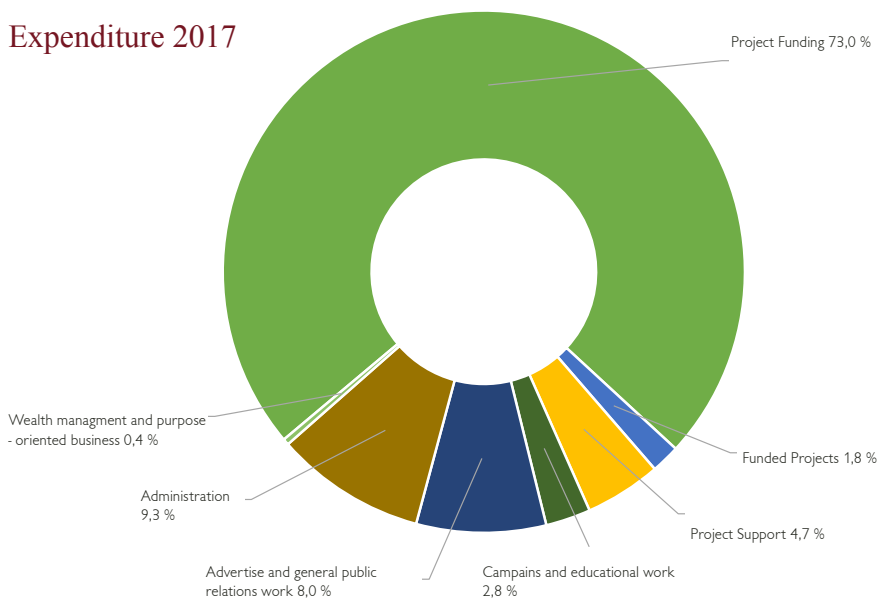
of the period from 1st January to 31st of December 2017

	EUR	2017 EUR	2016 EUR
1. Donations and grants			
a) Donations	481.275,79		517.212,08
b) Institutional grants	8.737,26	490.013,05	28.496,99
2. Income from the special-purpose business			
a) Sales revenue (special-purpose business)		12.049,56	14.654,54
3. Other income			
a) Other operating income		616,88	12.250,48
4. Material Expenditure (special-purpose business)			
a) Expenses for raw, auxiliary and process materials and for purchased goods		1.260,94	7.225,58
5. Total		501.418,55	565.388,51
6. Expenses for			
a) Expenses for project advancement	-360.034,75		-414.966,46
b) Expenses for project support	-23.738,59		-15.237,24
c) Expenses for campaigns, education and awareness-raising	-14.032,38		-10.158,14
d) Expenses for advertising and general public relations	-40.440,46		-21.566,19
e) Expenses for funded projects	-8.737,26	-446.983,44	-28.496,99
7. Administrative expenses			
a) Expenses for administration		-41.387,41	-37.624,77
8. Other interest and similar income		0,00	0,15
9. Taxes on income and profit		0,00	0,04
10. Revenue before changes and reserves		13.047,70	37.338,83
11. Transfer in free reserve			
a) in free reserve		13.047,70	37.338,83
12. Net Income per Year		0,00	0,00

Income 2017



Expenditure 2017



Income 2017

	2017 EURO	2017 %	2016 EURO	2016 %
Donations	362.331,72	24133,4%	365.170,44	57,5%
<i>Donation, general</i>	185.320,41	12343,4%	172.918,11	27,2%
<i>Drinkin-water supply</i>	38.328,67	2552,9%	34.891,45	5,5%
<i>Emergency assistance</i>	32.273,11	2149,6%	17.515,00	2,8%
<i>Grants by inheritance</i>	10.000,00	666,1%	50.000,00	7,9%
<i>Family sponsorships</i>	48.092,27	3203,2%	51.796,72	8,2%
<i>Donor contributions</i>	48.317,26	3218,2%	38.049,16	6,0%
Material Donations	607,00	40,4%	463,30	0,1%
Non-Profit Organization Grants	181.206,26	12069,4%	212.111,39	33,4%
<i>containing: Emergency aid grants</i>	104.828,78	6982,2%	46.923,00	8,2%
Membership Fees	6.365,24	424,0%	6.383,36	1,0%
Government Grants	2.039,40	135,8%	28.870,00	4,6%
Taxable Establishment	10.855,06	723,0%	13.471,04	2,1%
Other Income	1.501,37	100,0%	8.353,10	1,3%
Total Income	564.906,05	100,0%	634.822,63	100,0%

The table sheet contains rounded values. This may lead to rounding discrepancies.

Expenditure 2017

	2017 EURO	2017 %	2016 EURO	2016 %
Project Funding	358.064,75	73,0%	410.246,46	80,6%
<i>Drinking water suply / well construction</i>	47.062,77	9,6%	43.955,08	8,6%
<i>Vocational training and school education</i>	110.841,29	22,6%	176.343,28	34,6%
<i>Medical care</i>	7.123,66	1,5%	72.717,20	14,3%
<i>Family sponsorship</i>	54.292,51	11,1%	76.484,55	15,0%
<i>Emergency aid</i>	116.262,46	23,7%	21.032,00	4,1%
<i>Other expenses for project funding</i>	22.482,06	4,6%	19.714,35	3,9%
Funded Projects	8.737,26	1,8%	28.496,99	5,6%
Project Support	23.193,43	4,7%	14.714,85	2,9%
<i>Personnel costs included</i>	17.237,43	3,5%	11.803,06	2,3%
Campaigns And Educational Work	13.668,96	2,8%	9.809,90	1,9%
<i>Personnel costs included</i>	11.491,62	2,3%	7.868,71	1,5%
Advertise And General Public Relations Work	39.403,23	8,0%	21.723,44	4,3%
<i>Personnel costs included</i>	11.491,62	2,3%	7.868,71	1,5%
Administration	45.779,44	9,3%	23.982,28	4,7%
<i>Included costs for accounting, closing and auditing</i>	22.876,65	4,7%	7.284,22	1,4%
<i>Personnel costs included</i>	17.237,43	3,5%	11.803,06	2,3%
Asset Management And Purpose Enterprise	1.859,96	0,4%	0,04	0,0%
Entire Expenditure	490.707,04	100,0%	508.973,96	100,0%

The table sheet contains rounded values. This may lead to rounding discrepancies.

Balance sheet of 31st December 2017

ASSETS in Euro	31.12.2017	31.12.2016
A. Fixed assets		
I. Tangible assets		
1. Other facilities, business and office equipment	485,00	558,00
	485,00	558,00
B. Current assets		
I. Supplies		
1. finished products and goods	3.541,24	2.789,22
II. Receivables and other assets		
1. Accounts receivable trade	3.818,00	2.233,50
2. Other assets	85.304,76	59.019,11
	89.122,76	61.252,61
III. Cash on hand, bank balances	412.736,31	339.434,60
	505.400,31	403.476,43
C. Deferred income	439,72	439,72
	506.325,03	404.474,15

LIABILITIES in Euro	31.12.2017	31.12.2016
A. Equity		
I. Reserves		
1. Earmarked reserves	145.000,00	145.000,00
2. Free reserves (uncommitted)	101.318,22	88.270,52
	246.318,22	233.270,52
B. Not yet used statutory consumed donations	203.563,33	132.088,90
C. Accruals	16.000,00	15.614,00
D. Liabilities		
1. Liabilities from conditionally repayable donations, grants and subsidies	28.662,74	7.463,47
2. Accounts payable trade	10.960,88	1.971,00
3. Other Liabilities	759,86	14.006,26
	40.383,48	23.440,73
E. Deferred income	60,00	60,00
	506.325,03	404.474,15

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 2017 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, 5. Oktober 2018

HvO von Oettingen GmbH
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft
Steuerberatungsgesellschaft



Helga von Oettingen
Wirtschaftsprüferin

Report of the Executive Board

Financial and Management Report 2017

With the year 2017, The Afghan Volunteer Women's Association e.V. has concluded its 25th business year since its foundation in 1992.

It finances its work through donations from other non-profit organizations and foundations, public and private grants, church subsidies, as well as donations, funding contributions, membership fees and revenues.

Its statutory tasks include humanitarian aid for Afghan women, children and their families. Other important goals of the association according to our statute are school and vocational education, the promotion of the health service, individual case assistance, women's promotion, emergency assistance measures and drinking water supply.

Above all, we are trying to enable women and children to live a life that corresponds to human dignity.

Status and Development

The revenues of the Afghan Volunteer Women's Association amounted to EUR 564,906.05 in the reporting period 2017 (2016: EUR 634,822.63) and were thus below the level of the previous year. The simultaneous decline in expenditure on project funding is mainly due to the closure of projects for Afghan refugees in Pakistan at the end of 2016.

In 2017, AFV again generated a positive annual result of Euro 13,047.70 (previous year: Euro 37,338.83).

This is mainly the result of the surplus of the purpose-oriented business and was allocated to the free reserves for fulfilling the statutory tasks.

The donations not yet used in accordance with the Articles of Association at the end of the reporting period (EUR 203,563.33) are available to finance the projects of the following year.

As of 31 December 2017, the association's assets including reserves amounted to EUR 449,881.55.

Returns

Grants from other non-profit organizations fell to EUR 181,206.26 (minus EUR 30,905.13). General donations in cash and goods decreased by EUR 2,695.02 to EUR 362,938.72.

Expenses

Expenses for project funding fell by 12.4 percent to EUR 358,064.75 compared with 2016. In 2017, expenditure on emergency aid measures for the immediate care of people in need rose more than fivefold to 116,262.46 euros.

Due to their return from Pakistan and internally displaced persons, the need of many people is extremely high in Afghanistan; therefore, an additional winter emergency aid, financed by Malteser Hilfsdienst International e. V., and carried out at the beginning of winter 2017.

At the same time, we expanded our portfolio to include new projects such as scholarships for female students.

Reserves and liquid funds

The reserves increased to EUR 246,318.22 (+ 5.6 percent) on the reporting date, mainly due to the surplus from purpose-oriented business. Our liquid funds increased by 73,301.71 euros to 412,736.31 euros. The continuation of the statutory tasks in 2018 is thus guaranteed.

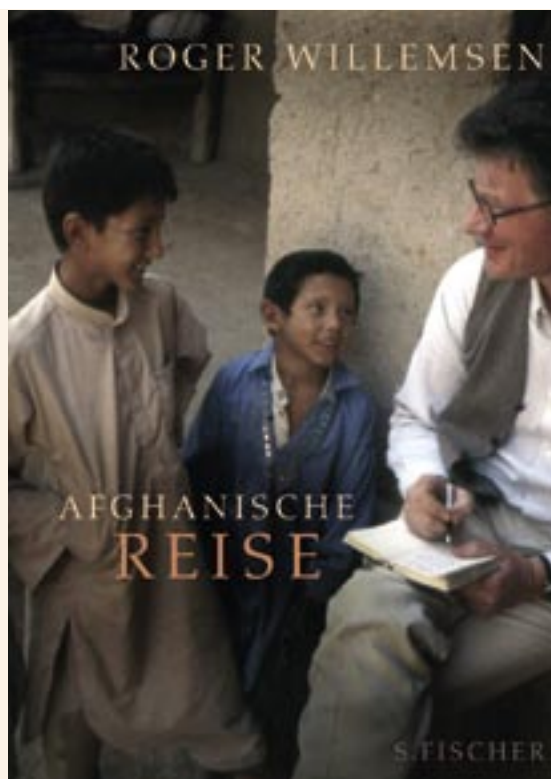
Opportunities and risks

During the period under review, we were able to continue our work at a high level, raise the necessary funds to finance our activities and build up additional reserves. For the future, we expect rising costs to finance our ongoing projects, which will be related, among other things, to an increase of living costs and thus rising wage costs. We are also continuously working on the expansion of our projects as the demand increases. More and more pupils want to attend our schools, the demand for medical care is increasing and the number of refugees is increasing. We therefore expect further investments and an increase in current costs in the future.

Another positive aspect is that the number of members has remained at the same high level for many years and that the number of sponsors and supporters of the association is constantly increasing.

Books by Roger Willemssen

»Afghanische Reise« – “An Afghan Journey”



Roger Willemssen

„An Afghan Journey“

Book cover

Published by S. Fischer Verlag
& Fischer Taschenbuch Verlag

Hardcover

ISBN 978-3-10-092103-1

16,90 Euros

Paperback

ISBN 978-3-596-17339-6

11,00 Euros

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 978-3-10-092108-6

19,99 Euros

Paperback: ISBN 978-3-596-19809-2

9,99 Euros

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.



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)

Forms of sponsorships

Please support us with your donation!

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

in the amount of _____ Euros.

☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ half-yearly ☐ yearly

beginning on: _____

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

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

BIC, Name of the Bank: _____

IBAN: _____

Account holder: _____

My adress: _____

Name, First name: _____

Street: _____

Postal Code, Location: _____

Date of birth: _____

Profession: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

- ☐ Yes, I would like to be informed about the work of the AFV.
- ☐ I accept the privacy policy and agree to the collection and processing of my data. (www.afghanischer-frauenverein.de/datenschutz). Personal data will not be passed on.

Location, Date

Signature

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

All donations tax deductible.



We say “thank you”

Imprint

We are deeply grateful to all our supporters, voluntary helpers, members of the Association, sponsors, interns, institutions, schools, public backers and our partners:

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Ihre Spende kommt an!

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