DVV International is the Institute for International Cooperation of the Deutscher Volkshochschul-Verband e.V. (DVV), the German Adult Education Association. DVV represents the interests of the approximately 930 adult education centres (Volkshochschule-vhs) and their regional associations, the largest adult education providers in Germany.

As the leading professional organization in the field of adult education and development cooperation, DVV International has committed itself to supporting Lifelong Learning and non-formal education for more than 45 years. The Institute provides worldwide support for the establishment and development of sustainable structures for youth and adult education. DVV International cooperates with more than 200 civil society, government and academic partners in more than 35 African, Asian, Latin American and European countries.

We create life perspectives for young people and adults through education. We advocate for the education of disadvantaged people.



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Education for Everyone. Worldwide. Lifelong.

Adult Education in Afghanistan – Shaping the Future











Better chances from school to working life

DVV International has been involved in the education and training of young adults in Afghanistan since 2002. Along with the jointly established Afghan National Association for Adult Education (ANAFAE), DVV International operates 22 education centres, mostly in the Northern provinces.

Despite the preceding success in the building of the Afghan education system, well over 30 % of children are not enrolled in school. Less than 3 % of the population have completed a certified formal vocational training. The future of the country highly depends on the training opportunities, on skills and the qualification of the younger generation. More than half the population is under 25 years old.

Supplements to school and university

The education centres of DVV International and ANAFAE support students in grades 9–12 to successfully complete school through complementary instruction especially in the natural sciences. University students can supplement their knowledge and attain additional qualifications.

Promote employability among youth

The education programmes of DVV International and ANAFAE open new opportunities for young people in transition from school to

working life. Here young people

gain new skills and competences for the Afghanistan of tomorrow. They increase their employability in various fields, like in IT, office and database software, server installation, web design, Office English, as well as in finance,

business and office work related spheres. Cooperation with companies and internships contribute to the success of the programmes. With new qualifications and competences, young people make important contributions to economic

growth and social change.

Community-based education programs

Seven education centres are run in cooperation with local communities. These Community Learning Centres provide a platform for collaborations with other public institutions and support local development. In close association with the local councils, they establish accepted and secure places of

learning, especially for girls and young women.





Qualified education services

350 teachers from the education centres and literacy programs improve their methodological and didactic skills yearly through more than 130 further training measures.

Organisational development processes support the institutional capacities and the financial autonomy of the education centres.

Literacy for empowerment

Around ten million adult illiterates make Afghanistan one of the world's hotspots of illiteracy. In many rural areas only about eight percent of women can read and write. In the literacy programs of DVV International, participants learn reading, writing and numeracy, reflect on their role in the family and community, deal with the topics of health and hygiene and develop ideas for their own economic activity. Learning has a direct, positive effect on family health and school attendance of children.

Make literacy a national priority

DVV International, ANAFAE, the National Literacy Department and other stakeholders work together for better conditions in literacy as well as for the integration of literacy into all relevant national development strategies.

Targeted cooperation with media partners promote sensitisation for the role of literacy and make evident the dramatic underfunding in this area of education.