Partner for Quality Education

Network

Partnerships at different levels

We work in close partnership with the local ministries of education, teacher training institutions and other actors in formal education. Good education is the responsibility of governments. So we support the ministries of education, teacher training institutions and organisations focusing on professional development so they can more effectively carry out their work.

We work at various policy and implementation levels, from national and regional governments to the implementing institutions. We also need contact to individual schools, school leaders, teachers and pupils as we want to inspire policies adapted to local needs and the context in general.

Our teams of experts are supported by an extensive network of Flemish structural partners: teacher training institutions, universities, departments of the Ministry of Education and educational service providers. We can also call on international organisations (e.g. FAWE on gender in Africa).

Financial partners

The local governments finance the implementation of education pursued through our programmes with their own budgets.

Our interventions strengthen our partners so that they can achieve their own goals. This is done through funding from national and international donors including the Belgian and Flemish governments, the European Union, the British government and foundations (e.g. The ELMA Foundation). VVOB’s annual budget is approximately 11 million euros.

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With our LITLE programme in Zambia, we have trained 8 principals, 60 lecturers of teacher training institutions, and 90 government officials responsible for early childhood teacher development. They in turn reached 540 teachers and school leaders in early education and will also have an impact on the quality of 210 new early education teachers yearly from 2016 onwards. This results in 140,000 children entering primary school with better pre-school experience.

Quality education for equity and sustainable development

VVOB vzw

Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance

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A ‘LITLE’ example of impact
Education is a fundamental human right, but nearly 57 million children still do not attend primary school. More than 250 million children never reach the fourth grade or have insufficient levels of literacy and numeracy. Poor quality of education plays a major role that has serious implications for health, economic empowerment and society as a whole.

**Our story**

**Education for development**

VVOB is a Belgian non-profit organisation. We have more than thirty years’ experience in sustainably improving the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of education. This leads to better health, higher income and a more democratic society, and ensures equal opportunities in life. Our interventions should be especially beneficial for kids and teens from disadvantaged groups.

**Where we work**

**Four continents, three education subsectors**

We have long-term structural partnerships and cooperation activities in ten countries across four continents. We sometimes conduct short assignments in other countries.

**Education subsectors**

- **Early education**
  Our work in early education improves the quality of formal pre-primary education and the transition to primary school, enabling children to get an equal start in primary education. This way we minimise early grade repetition and drop-out, support parents and boost female employment.

- **Primary education**
  Access to primary education has significantly improved over the past decades; however, simple access to education is not enough. The quality of education is often substandard. Our interventions in primary education therefore focus on the improvement of literacy and numeracy, as well as life skills.

- **Secondary technical and vocational education**
  Increasing the quality of technical and vocational education contributes to decent employment opportunities, a major challenge all around the world. By aligning it with the labour market we amplify its relevance even more. Our third focus in this subsector is the integration of the development of entrepreneurship.

**What we do**

**Expertise in education**

Our specialisation is based on the most important education needs as identified in international research and on the education strategies and priorities of VVOB’s partner countries. Our operational focus is on improving the professional development of teachers and school leaders. We do this by strengthening local education actors in these areas, empowering them to improve the quality of education themselves. This is what we call capacity development.

- **Teachers and school leaders**
  In addition to students’ socio-economic backgrounds, the quality of teachers and school leaders has the biggest impact on children’s educational achievement. Consequently, we are strongly committed to the professionalisation of teachers and school leaders.

**In Europe,** we also work on strengthening public support for development cooperation, specifically in Flanders. These activities are connected to where we work and what we do and have a strong focus on equity in education.

As a fundamental principle, VVOB firmly believes that quality education can only be achieved if equity, and particularly gender equity, is achieved within the education system.

In order to develop the capacity of these partners, we offer practical and technical education expertise as well as process support. We use a wide range of methodologies for capacity development, from classical training and workshops to mentoring, coaching, peer learning, etc. In addition, we make sure that our partners increasingly take the lead throughout the development of the programme, guaranteeing its sustainability.