

# Our network

Quality education is the **responsibility** of governments. We support the policy implementation of governments so they can take on this responsibility even better. In each country, we work on various education **policy and implementation levels**: from national and regional governments to the implementing structures. Government policy should be in line with the local context and needs. For this reason, we create linkages between the government and schools, school leaders, teachers and learners.

VVOB counts on scientific input and advice from, and exchange and learning with, a **global network of valued expertise partners**. These expertise partners include: universities, teacher training colleges, and educational service providers for teacher and school leadership development; the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) for gender in education;

UNESCO on the teaching profession; the Brookings Institution for policy issues; the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) and Pratham for evidence-based programming; and the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre at Cambridge University for learning and research on teacher performance.

## Recognised partner of international donors

VVOB receives core funding from the Belgian Development Cooperation and the Flemish Government. Leading financial partners include (until date – in alphabetical order): Belgium, Brookings Institution, DFID, the DR Congo, Dubai Cares, Ecuador, The ELMA Foundation, Enabel, the European Union, Flanders, J-PAL, Mastercard Foundation, Porticus, Save the Children, Schneider Foundation, UNESCO, UNICEF and USAID. Grants range up to 40 million euros, adding up to an **annual budget of close to 14 million euros**.



*Quality education is the foundation for development. VVOB contributes to an equitable world in which governments are capacitated to respect, protect and fulfil the right to quality education for every learner, without any form of discrimination.*



*Education is a human right; yet more than 260 million children are out of school. An additional 330 million children who do attend school, barely learn anything.*

*The global learning crisis is undeniable. This has serious implications for a child's life prospects in terms of health and economic empowerment, and for societies as a whole. Quality education is a catalyst to successfully achieving these and all other Sustainable Development Goals. VVOB – education for development contributes to quality education by empowering teachers and school leaders to stimulate the full development of all learners' potential.*



## Our story

### Education for development

VVOB is an international non-profit with over 35 years of experience in improving the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of education systems. This leads to better health, higher income and a more democratic society, and ensures equal opportunities for all. Our interventions especially benefit learners from disadvantaged groups.

### We achieve sustainable results by:

- aligning our activities with, and embedding them in, our **partner countries' education policies**.
- developing the **expertise** of education institutions with know-how from, and through exchange with, our **staff** and **network** of expertise partners.
- stimulating **cooperation** between educational institutions across borders, and between the private sector and the education sector.

## Our focus

### Four continents, four education sectors

#### Early childhood education (ECE)

Our work in ECE focuses on improving the quality of pre-primary education and easing the transition to primary school. This ensures all children get an equal start in primary education, minimising early grade repetition and dropout. ECE also serves as daycare, which means parents, and women especially, can participate in the world of work.

#### Primary education

Access to primary education has significantly improved in the past decades, but access alone is not sufficient. The quality of education is often substandard. Our interventions in primary education focus on the development of literacy, numeracy, and life skills of learners, and ensuring no one is left behind.

Equity, and **gender equity** in particular, is a common thread in all our activities.

#### General secondary education

Equity is our focus in secondary education, and in the transition phase from primary to secondary education. With more learners than ever before completing primary education, the pressure increases on already struggling secondary schools, teachers and school leaders. Vulnerable students bear the brunt. We capacitate teachers and school leaders to make sure everyone stays on track.

#### Secondary technical and vocational education and training (TVET)

Improving the quality and relevance of TVET contributes to decent youth employment opportunities, a major challenge faced by every country. By aligning TVET with the world of work and advancing students' entrepreneurial competencies, we amplify those opportunities even more. As TVET often reaches more vulnerable adolescents, our third focus in this education sector is on enhancing student wellbeing and developing their soft skills.

We support the professionalisation of **teachers** by strengthening the institutions tasked with their initial training and continued professional development, and those institutions responsible for the mentoring and coaching of new teachers. This allows us to reach both current and soon-to-be teachers.

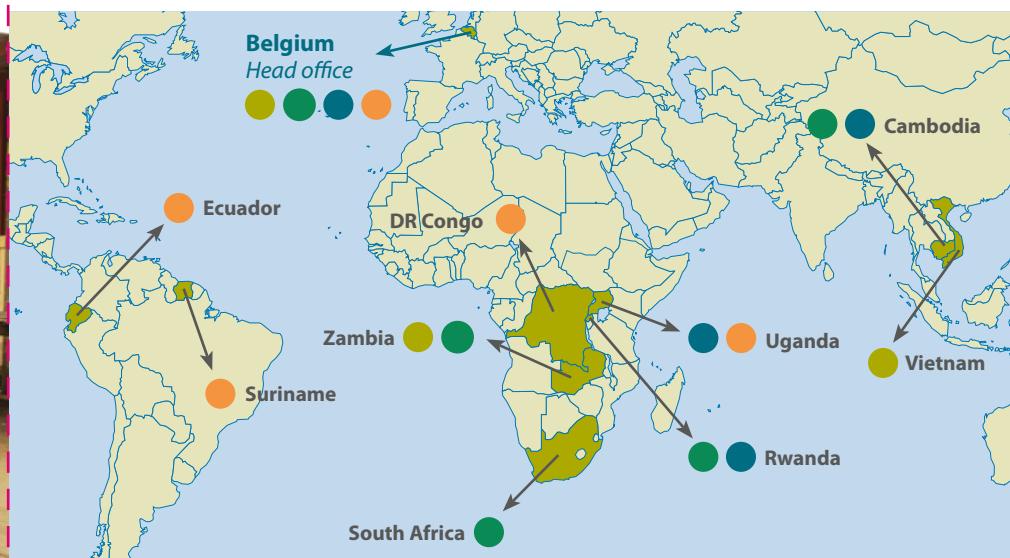
We are also committed to the professional development of **school leaders**. Effective school leadership creates an environment in which teachers provide quality work. The guidance and support of teachers by school leaders is crucial in giving learners ownership of their own learning process.

## What we do

VVOB develops its expertise and portfolio based on international research and on the education priorities set by VVOB partner countries. Our operational focus is the **professional development of teachers and school leaders**. We strengthen the relevant education actors in a given partner country to improve the quality of education on their own account. This is known as **capacity development**.

### Capacity development

We offer structural solutions in the form of **technical assistance** that reinforces the capacities of the government and local education authorities. This mainly concerns departments in the ministries of education and institutions that provide professional development opportunities to teachers and school leaders.



### Teachers and school leaders

Of all school-related factors, competent teachers and school leaders have the greatest impact on student wellbeing and learning outcomes. Therefore, VVOB is strongly committed to the **professional development** of these important actors.

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, varying from classical training and workshops to mentoring, coaching, peer learning and so on. We ensure that our partners increasingly take the lead as the programme progresses. This guarantees the **sustainability** of results.