

Violence prevention through sport in a refugee context

Sport for Development in Kenya

The challenge

Millions of people are still being forced to flee their homes on account of war, persecution and climate disasters. Kenya has received around 500,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. The refugee camp at Kakuma is a meeting point for people from a wide range of ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds. Coexistence of refugees often leads to conflict among each other as well as with the Kenyan population. Opportunities for personal development among young people at the refugee camp are limited. There are just 20 primary schools to cater for the approximately 73,000 young people at the Kakuma refugee camp. A similar shortage of educational measures exists in the neighbouring town and administrative sub county of Turkana West. This is where the non-formal educational measure 'Sport for Development in Africa' (S4DA) has a role to play, by improving educational activities and creating opportunities for meaningful use of leisure time.

Our approach

The United Nations recognises sport internationally 'as a means to promote education, health, development and peace'. German development cooperation also uses the opportunities offered by 'Sport for Development'. Sport allows children and young people to lead healthy lives, and it teaches them to take on responsibility, behave fairly and resolve conflict peacefully. These are key skills that will later help them gain a foothold in the working world. German development cooperation trains coaches for this purpose. They are role models and figures the young people can trust.

Project title	'Sport for Development in Africa' (S4DA) Regional Project
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project regions in Africa	Multi-state project in Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Namibia and Togo, as well as individual smaller-scale measures in other African countries.
Project regions in Kenya	Kakuma/Turkana West, Nairobi, Alego, Marsabit, Kitale, Kilifi
Partners	streetfootballworld gGmbH, Trans-Nzoia Youth Sports Association (TYSA), Moving the Goalposts (MTG), Horn of Africa Development Initiative (HODI), Auma Obama's Sauti Kuu Foundation, Don Bosco Mondo e.V., Football Kenya Federation (FKF), Lotus Kenya Action for Development Organization (LOKADO), Seeds of Peace Africa (SOPA)
Overall term	2014 to 2018

The coaches give the children and young people a stronger sense of self-esteem and help them develop prospects for the future. During training, they address health-related topics such as HIV prevention and alcohol abuse. Sport is not just physical exercise, it is part of their education.

Together with local and international partners from the fields of policy-making, civil society, business and academia, German development cooperation has built up a sustainable sport portfolio that also helps strengthen civil society and promote democracy. In this way, sport serves as an innovative instrument that drives change and sustainable development – for each individual child and for society as a whole.



Sport fosters solidarity: young people from various cultural backgrounds at the refugee camp learn how best to deal with conflict – both on and off the sports ground.



Sport needs role models: Trained coaches regularly organise 'Sport for Development' activities at schools and in their sports clubs.

The project

The S4DA project began establishing sport as a tool for achieving development goals in selected African countries in 2014, when the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). S4DA makes an important contribution to implementing 'More Space for Sport – 1,000 Chances for Africa', the initiative launched by Federal Minister Dr Gerd Müller in 2014.

The project's focus in Kenya is on using sport to promote basic skills to prevent violence. This approach is being implemented in Kakuma/Turkana West not just in relation to refugees and the host population, but also to strengthen non-governmental organisations (NGOs) throughout Kenya. Sports educational measures facilitate participation and create a sense of solidarity that transcends ethnic and social boundaries. In collaboration with partner organisations, concepts are being developed to teach violence prevention through sport and integrated into regular coaching measures. 'Sport for Development' is thus becoming an intrinsic part of the everyday lives of young people. At the same time, existing sports grounds are being rehabilitated and new ones constructed, thus creating access to sports. Based on demand and in line with the 'do-no-harm'-approach, selected schools are being provided with sets of sports equipment (including balls, cones and bibs). In Turkana West, S4DA works closely with the German development cooperation project 'Support for refugees, especially voluntary returnees, and host communities in Kenya' (SIF). With context-specific expertise and in coordination with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), SIF ensures that measures are implemented in a conflict-sensitive manner.

In addition, the two projects jointly implement activities with young people that combine 'Sport for Development'-activities and the training of mediators.

Results achieved so far

Results achieved to date in collaboration with partners include the following:

- Methodologies that use football for violence prevention have been developed and published in both a comprehensive methodological handbook for coach education and a pocket edition that provide assistance for coaches on the sports grounds.
- Based on these methodologies, advanced training was provided to over 57 coaches, 40 per cent of them women. A further 38 coaches were trained as 'Sport for Development'-instructors who pass on their knowledge to other teachers and coaches.
- Group sports activities create space for encounters between local people and refugees. In the 2016 school holidays, 162 children and young people from the local and refugee communities took part in weeklong sports camps led by trained coaches and geared to violence prevention. The participants learned to treat each other with respect and therefore strengthened their competences for cooperation and a non-violent coexistence.
- Two sports grounds at various locations in Kenya have so far been newly constructed and another one has been rehabilitated. In total, these benefit around 9,000 children and young people.
- In cooperation with the Football Kenya Federation (FKF), the 'Sport for Development'-approach has been integrated into nationally implemented coaching courses.
- The project advises and supports various schools and NGOs with the procurement and effective use of sets of sports equipment (including balls, cones and bibs) for football, volleyball and basketball.

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