

‘Sport for Development in Africa’ (S4DA) Regional Project

‘More space for sport – sports grounds with concepts!’

The challenge

Africa is the world’s youngest continent, with an average age of around 18. It will soon be home to more than two billion people, one third of the global population. Africa’s sub-Saharan countries remain the poorest region in the world. The many violent conflicts of recent years have hampered development, weakened civil society and diminished the prospects of young people. Yet many African countries can build on a robust economy, natural resources, and a young and growing population, which offers great potential for sustainable development.

The great enthusiasm for sport on the African continent also creates opportunities for the German development cooperation. However, the potential to reach development goals, such as education, violence prevention, good governance, gender equality, promotion of health as well as environmental awareness through sport, is not sufficiently used so far. Sports grounds and targeted educational sports measures, especially for disadvantaged children and young people, are often lacking. To successfully and sustainably implement inclusive, sports-related development projects, viable concepts and trained local staff are required in addition to grassroots sports grounds. This is where ‘Sport for Development in Africa’ (S4DA) has a role to play through its development-oriented educational and youth work and therefore through sport contributes to personal and social development.

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| 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 Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia and Togo, and individual measures on a smaller scale in other African countries (Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, DR Congo). |
| Partners | National and regional Ministries of Education, Youth and Sport; (vocational) schools; municipalities; national sports federations; local non-governmental organisations; <i>Don Bosco Mondo e.V.</i> ; <i>SOS-Kinderdörfer weltweit</i> ; <i>streetfootballworld gGmbH</i> ; Auma Obama’s Sauti Kuu Foundation and many more. |
| Overall term | 2014 to 2018 |

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. The coaches give the children and young people a stronger sense of self-esteem and help them develop prospects for the future.



In Ethiopia and Kenya, too, sports grounds and locally procured sets of sports equipment (with balls, cones, etc.) are a prerequisite for sporting activities in line with the ‘Sport for Development’ approach.

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.

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.

Info box ‘More Space for Sport – 1,000 Chances for Africa’

The initiative ‘More Space for Sport – 1,000 Chances for Africa’ offers partners from the worlds of politics, business, organised sport and civil society a framework in which they can work together to support disadvantaged children and young people in Africa. With the involvement of S4DA, sports grounds are newly constructed or rehabilitated in selected African countries. Thus, positive and sustainable changes, such as social capacities for a peaceful coexistence and local development, are initiated through sport.

Key measures

In conjunction with several partners, the following measures are implemented to achieve development objectives through sport:

- In selected locations such as municipal establishments, youth centres, vocational schools and educational institutions, in refugee camps and host communities and in rural regions, grassroots **sports grounds** are being rehabilitated and new ones constructed. This provides safe places to meet and spaces where coaches can offer sporting activities in line with the ‘Sport for Development’ (S4D)-approach.
- S4DA strengthens the capacities of local partners to enable them to operate and use the sports grounds sustainably – in terms of both technical maintenance and the activities offered. After all, the rule of thumb is: ‘Sports grounds with concepts!’. Through corresponding **training measures**, the required management capacities of those responsible on the ground are strengthened.
- Coaches trained by S4DA and by the partners offer **sporting activities** that aim to promote social competences. Therefore, children and youth gain key competences that prepare participants for the labour market, contribute to peaceful conflict resolution and support positive personal development. The sporting activities and training measures for coaches are based on methods developed in conjunction with local partners. The young adults who train to become coaches serve as role models for children and teenagers and also in the communities. They pass on their knowledge and act as multipliers.

Sustainable embedding of the ‘Sport for Development’-approach

To sustainably embed the S4D-approach in the African countries, S4DA fosters the broad-based participation of key stakeholders. These include relevant lead executing agencies (such as Ministries of Education and Sport) and local expert groups. The targeted inclusion and integration of the S4D-approach into the relevant sectors in the partner countries – such as (vocational) education, good governance and displacement/migration – strengthens these sectors and promotes long-term ownership of S4D. This lays the foundations for mainstreaming and upscaling of measures implemented by S4DA.

S4DA develops and uses standardised products. These include implementation concepts for the S4D-approach of partners, sport-pedagogical handbooks for a practical implementation of the S4D-approach in trainings, and standards for the rehabilitation and construction of sports grounds and for the procurement of sets of sports equipment (training sets). These standards are developed collaboratively by local partners, the project itself, other experts and German development cooperation, and are applied in all project countries. This procedure enables to trans-nationally use experiences and makes a substantial contribution to the economic efficiency of the measure.

This approach forms the basis for sport increasingly being used as a tool to achieve development goals.

Results achieved so far

Results achieved so far in collaboration with more than 150 partners in nine countries include the following:

- More than 72,000 children and young people are benefiting from the 44 sports grounds already rehabilitated or newly constructed.
- A total of around 230 coaches have already been trained in how to incorporate the S4D-approach into their coaching. They serve as role models, both on and off the field.
- Over 100 people have been trained as S4D-instructors who pass on their knowledge to other teachers and coaches.
- S4DA promotes gender equality. For example around one third of all trained coaches are young girls and women. In Kenya, the topic of gender-based violence is addressed in the training of coaches and in the north of Namibia, the construction of an additional netball court for the first time created the opportunity for girls and young women to play netball at the vocational training centre. Furthermore, a checklist for a gender-sensitive construction of sports grounds was developed.
- In Ethiopia, the 'Sport2Work' method was developed to promote vocational education through sport. It serves as a basis for training coaches and is used in private and public vocational schools in Ethiopia.
- In Mozambique, the Pedagogical University of Maputo has integrated the S4D-approach into its sports teacher training. Graduates of the university are able to apply their new-found knowledge directly through internships in schools and communities.
- Together with the *Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)*, the German Football Association (DFB) and the Namibian Football Association (NFA), S4DA is implementing the international cooperation project on 'School Sport in the Oshana and Karas Region'. The project is co-funded by private funds and aims to newly construct or rehabilitate sports grounds in the north of Namibia, in order to create access to sports activities at cluster schools. Thanks to a close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Sport, S4DA together with these partners supports the embedding of the S4D-approach in the Namibian school system.
- In Kenya, the Football Kenya Federation has incorporated the S4D-approach into its coaching courses, with a view to rolling out the approach nationwide.

- In Togo, the established municipal committees support citizen orientation and participation. Citizens are involved in decision-making on the construction and use of new sports grounds or the distribution of sets of sports equipment. This facilitates better dialogue between local governments and civil society.
- The project seeks and generates synergies with established German development cooperation projects in partner countries. These include projects in the fields of vocational education (Ethiopia and Namibia), good governance and decentralisation (Mozambique and Togo) and support for refugees (Kenya).

Supraregional cooperation

Ethiopia

Promoting vocational education through sport

In Ethiopia, measures focus on promoting vocational education through sport. More than 20,400 children and young people in Ethiopia are benefiting from the 24 sports grounds that have already been rehabilitated or constructed at vocational schools and from the adoption of the S4D-approach at schools. Key skills relevant to the labour market, such as the ability to work in a team, to take responsibility and to develop a sense of purpose, are being developed through sport. Organising sport events independently provides a platform for the youth to demonstrate their skills and helps them to gain vocational orientation. In the course of the cooperation with state agencies, staff at vocational schools is being trained in using the S4D-approach, which thus is being sustainably embedded in the vocational education system.

Kenya

Violence prevention through sport in a refugee context

In Kenya, S4DA focuses on the use of sport to prevent violence in a refugee context. The training methods developed for this purpose enable refugees on the one hand and children and young people from host communities on the other to meet on equal footing. They create a sense of solidarity that transcends ethnic and social boundaries. Sport strengthens self-worth and self-confidence and fosters tolerance and respect. Around 60 coaches are now helping children and young people learn how to resolve conflicts peacefully through sport – both on and off the field. The Football Kenya



Qualified trainers not only ensure that the 'Sport for Development'-approach is implemented on the ground like here in Kenya and Ethiopia; they also serve as important role models for children and young people who come to them for advice.



Sport is fun and – if used properly, as is the case in Namibia and Ethiopia – can contribute to the achievement of development goals.

Federation is integrating the S4D-approach into its nationwide coaching courses. In Turkana West, S4DA is working closely with a German development cooperation project that provides support for refugees and host communities (SIF). In the Kakuma refugee camp, group sporting activities create space for encounters between local people and refugees – for example, at one-week sports camps on the prevention of violence for children and young people.

Mozambique

Strengthening municipalities and promoting democracy through sport

Together with the Sports Science Faculty of the Pedagogical University of Maputo, S4DA is committed to strengthening civil society and is therefore harnessing synergies with another priority area of German development cooperation, namely good governance. To achieve this, it is focusing on the implementation of sports programmes in line with the S4D-approach in the municipality of Matola and at selected vocational schools in Maputo province. The Pedagogical University of Maputo has incorporated the S4D-approach into its curriculum and teaches sports coaches how to use this method. S4D-activities in the communities promote relevant capacities for social participation and improve the general understanding of democracy, for example through transferring knowledge on democratic rights and processes.

Namibia

Promoting reproductive health and education through sport

In Namibia, S4DA aims to improve the quality of educational services at general and vocational schools in the rural region of Oshana. An implementing agreement on the intensified embedding of the S4D-approach into the Namibian education system was signed with the Namibian Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Sport and Youth. Teachers are instructed on how to incorporate the S4D-approach into sports coaching. Issues such as reproductive health can thus be addressed during sports lessons in a manner that is both engaging and age-specific. The aim is to help young women and girls in particular to lead healthy and self-determined lives. To support this objective, the first four sports grounds have been rehabilitated or newly constructed at schools, vocational schools and youth centres in northern Namibia.

Togo

Strengthening civil society and promoting social and political participation through sport

In Togo, social and political participation is being improved and local civil society strengthened by adopting the S4D-approach in municipal youth work. In cooperation with the German development cooperation project on decentralisation (ProDeG), democratic participatory structures are being strengthened in municipalities. Five sports grounds have already been rehabilitated or constructed, benefiting around 12,000 children and young people. Municipalities and citizens work together in participatory bodies to develop concepts for such sports grounds, which are used by both schools and initiatives. Some 42 coaches and teachers from local communities who have been trained in the S4D-approach now offer sporting activities designed to promote key social skills.

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