

Peace promotion and violence prevention through sport in forced displacement settings

Sport for Development in Kenya

The challenge

Millions of people are still forced to flee their homes on account of war, persecution and climate disasters. Kenya has received around 500,000 refugees from neighbouring countries. In Kakuma town and refugee camp people from different ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds live together. Resource scarcity, difficult living conditions and the aftermaths of displacement cause tensions and conflict among refugee and host community members. 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 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 project '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

One billion people live in Sub-Saharan Africa. More than half are children and youth. Often, they have only limited access to qualitative, participative formal and non-formal education offers and development opportunities. The United Nations recognise sport internationally 'as a means to promote education, health, development and peace'. The German Cooperation uses the potential of 'Sport for Development'. Sport provides an innovative approach for increasing attractiveness, quality and outreach of

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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 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 2019 |

educational and development offers for children and youth. As a holistic approach, sport facilitates access to disadvantaged groups and promotes life skills such as leadership, fair play, the ability to work in a team, or how to deal with defeat. Despite the huge enthusiasm for sports among children and youth, there have been few efforts to use sport as a tool for promoting development in many African countries.

The project

Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in 2014, S4DA establishes



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



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

sport as a tool for achieving development goals in selected African countries. S4DA also contributes to 'More Space for Sport – 1,000 Chances for Africa', an initiative launched by Federal Minister Dr Gerd Müller in 2014. In close collaboration with governmental and non-governmental partner organisations, with the private sector and academia, S4DA consults partners, builds sports infrastructure, and qualifies coaches in fostering sustainable development through sport.

In Kenya, the project focuses on promoting peace and violence prevention through sport. S4DA applies the approach in schools and youth centres in refugee camps and host communities in Kakuma/Turkana West as well as with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) throughout Kenya. The effect of sport for peace and violence prevention trainings is threefold: they foster positive encounters, cohesion and a sense of belonging; they build skills relevant for conflict prevention and they foster the psychosocial wellbeing of children and youth affected by war and displacement.

In collaboration with partner organisations, a methodology to promote peace and violence prevention through sport is developed and integrated into regular trainings and sports classes. S4DA builds and renovates sports grounds to provide safe spaces for peaceful encounters and 'Sport for Development' trainings in both refugee and host communities. Moreover, selected schools receive sports equipment sets including balls, cones and bibs. In Turkana West, S4DA works closely with the German Cooperation project 'Support for refugees, especially voluntary returnees, and host communities in Kenya' (SRHC) to ensure that all measures are implemented in a conflict-sensitive manner. In addition, the two projects jointly qualify young people as mediators and 'Sport for Development' facilitators.

Results achieved so far

- Methodologies that use football for peace promotion and violence prevention have been developed and published in both a comprehensive methodological handbook for coach education and a pocket edition for coaches on the sports grounds.
- Based on these methodologies, advanced training was provided to 117 coaches, 44 per cent female. Additionally, 72 'Sport for Development'-instructors were qualified to pass on their knowledge to other teachers and coaches.
- 15 sports grounds in six regions were renovated or newly built, providing safe spaces at schools, youth centres and non-governmental organisations. They are available for regular use by 47,450 children and youth.
- Verifiably, 2,085 children and youth from refugee and host communities, 47 per cent female, regularly take part in 'Sport for Development' trainings.
- In cooperation with the Football Kenya Federation (FKF), the 'Sport for Development' approach has been integrated into FKF's coaching courses.
- Habiba Ramadhan, 'Sport for Development' coach in Kakuma, reports: "In my team, for instance, sometimes when a Somali kid injures a Sudanese, the other players gang up in solidarity, and this would turn into a big fight. Through the new 'Sport for Development' style that teaches about the role of coaches as mediators in conflict resolution, the number of cases has decreased considerably – not only on the field, but also in the community. When you see your children mingle with friends and teammates from the other tribes, you wonder why this should not be possible among adults."

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Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
'Sport for Development in Africa' Regional Project
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5
65760 Eschborn, Germany
www.giz.de/Sport-for-Development-in-Africa

Contact Hannes Bickel
Hannes.Bickel@giz.de

Editor Kathrin Schmid

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BMZ Bonn
Dahlmannstraße 4
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 228 99 535 - 0
F +49 228 99 535 - 3500

BMZ Berlin
Stresemannstraße 94
10963 Berlin, Germany
T +49 30 18 535 - 0
F +49 30 18 535 - 2501

poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de