Youth empowerment and sport for sustainable development
GIZ: an innovative partner for the global challenges of tomorrow

The comprehensive range of services offered by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH are based on proven regional expertise, wide-ranging technical know-how, and professional project management. As a federally-owned enterprise, GIZ offers its commissioning parties field-tested solutions that are sustainable and effective in supporting the processes of political, economic and social change. The company implements a large proportion of its commissions on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It also undertakes commissions on behalf of other German ministries, the European Commission, and public and private sector clients both in Germany and abroad, supporting these organisations in achieving their goals.

Youth empowerment and sport for development as a core area of GIZ's competence

GIZ offers wide-ranging technical, managerial and system-related expertise in the areas of youth empowerment and the use of sport for development as a cross-sectoral thematic field and as a tool for achieving development goals. Its expertise and experience are reflected in its broad portfolio.

It also provides comprehensive advice and support in the areas of education and science. Its particular strength lies in the holistic approach of various areas and needs- and practice-based implementation.

Youth empowerment

- Developing and implementing innovative approaches to protecting, empowering and promoting the participation by children and young people
- Advising on, planning, implementing and assessing cross-sectoral instruments, including plans for youth legislation and policy as well as action plans, at local, municipal, national and international level
- Developing concepts for systemic strengthening and long-term networking of youth organisations and their umbrella organisations
- Advising decision-makers
- Providing initial and in-service training for youth experts
- Advising on target-group oriented approaches and methods for skills development and fostering the employability of young people
- Supporting and advising on youth violence prevention approaches and methods, including in the context of conflict management
- Developing and delivering measures to raise young people’s awareness and develop their skills in the area of environmental protection and sustainable development

Sport for development

- Analysing and providing experiences, methods and instruments from the area of sport for development
- Evaluating and developing approaches of sport for development, particularly as a cross-cutting area (e.g. in the field of education, health, gender equality, prevention of violence, and conflict resolution)
- Promoting coordination and networking of German and international actors from the sport sector, governmental and non-governmental organisations, the academia, etc.
- Developing manuals as well as teaching and learning materials on the use of sport for development
- Qualifying trainers, teachers, and social education experts
- Monitoring and evaluating sport-related development projects
- Using major sporting events to raise public awareness of development issues
- Establishing long-term development partnerships with the private sector between sport and business
GIZ is involved in empowering young people in more than 20 countries around the world, using sport as an instrument to achieve development goals in selected partner countries.

GIZ operates in more than 130 countries around the world. GIZ has more than 85 representations around the world.

**Afghanistan**

School sports for girls

School sports remain the only way that girls and young women in Afghanistan are able to be physically active. We therefore work with our partners, for example within the BEPA programme on basic education, to train sports teachers.

**Timor-Leste**

Involving young people in the peace process

This project develops skills and strengthens networks actors involved in youth work, equipping young people to manage conflict in a non-violent manner and to participate in shaping social policy.

**Burkina Faso**

Informing young people about their rights and protecting them against exploitation

The aim of this project is to protect children and young people against sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, child trafficking as well as child labour and to promote their long-term development. Tailored awareness raising measures, including campaigns, family dialogue, school clubs and drama projects, are equipping children and young people to assert their rights.

**Mozambique**

Organisational development through sport

Implementation of a pedagogical sports programme, including life skills approaches and HIV prevention measures, is a component of our work in Mozambique. It is accompanied by support measures on advice and skills development for the national partners in relation to their methodological skills and organisational and structural development.

**Palestinian Territories**

Helping to shape social change

Young people are being trained as youth promoters. Local youth action plans, dedicated budgets and youth centres are embedding participation by young people at local and municipal level, while at national level, the government is receiving advice on implementing an effective youth policy.

**Palestinian Territories**

Promoting vocational education and training

In this context sport is used as a tool to promote vocational education and training as well as employability, particularly among young people. This is achieved for example by linking organised sport camps with employee training opportunities.

**Burkina Faso**

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Why our clients commission us

1. Our practice-oriented expertise and holistic approaches
2. Our efficient project management and methodological skills in a range of cultural and political contexts
3. Our promotion of dialogue with our partners and long-term involvement of local actors
4. Our comprehensive regional know-how and wide-ranging local and global networks
5. Our outstanding skills in advice and capacity development, including fragile states and contexts
6. Our ongoing linkage of international standards and global agendas with local needs
7. Our innovative and participatory approaches and methods for youth-specific and/or sports pedagogy
8. Sport provides an easier access for children and young people to education and health measures

Serbia - Structurally embedding participation by young people

Since 2005, GIZ has been supporting the Serbian Government in putting in place a normative and structural framework for an effective youth policy. The involvement of young people is now institutionally embedded through nationwide school parliaments and support for the development of more than 90 youth offices with their own action plans. Mediation programmes in more than 200 schools are also enabling young people to contribute to building peace.

South Africa and nine further African countries - Youth empowerment through football

The ‘Youth Development through Football’ (YDF) project, implemented by GIZ on behalf of BMZ and the European Union in Africa, demonstrates how sport can be used for a country’s development. Research by the University of Johannesburg shows that around two thirds of the total 110,000 children and young people involved in the project have become more self-confident and that violent behaviour has fallen. A wide-ranging concept on train the trainer has also been developed and has, since 2011, been sponsored by UNESCO.

Our partners and commissioning parties

[Diagram showing various partners and commissioning parties connected to the central theme of youth empowerment and sport for development]
1. **Youth empowerment contributes implement children’s and young people’s rights**: as part of the implementation of international agreements on the rights of children and, young people are protected against violence and exploitation, empowered to achieve their potential, and invited to participate in society.

2. **Youth promotion recognises and uses the potential of young people**: approaches to youth work reflect the special role youth has to play in society, empower them, and support societies in investing in their future.

3. **Youth empowerment promotes equal rights**: young people are empowered and given equal opportunities for education, health, political involvement and employment regardless of gender, origin or religion.

4. **Youth empowerment promotes the participation by young people**: young people are listened to, taken seriously by policy-makers and involved in the processes of reforming society.

5. **Youth promotion raises awareness of relevant social issues**: young people gain access to information and processes that raise their awareness of key social issues, such as the prevention of violence, health, gender equality, and the environment.

1. **Sport for development creates access**: sport is a particularly effective way of reaching disadvantaged children and young people, and gives them access to education and empowerment through pedagogical sports programmes.

2. **Sport for development is a valuable communication tool**: it is particularly useful in disseminating knowledge – for example, about HIV/AIDS – among children and young people and their social environment; and in making available suitable advisory services.

3. **Sport for development builds perspectives**: life skills and other valuable competencies learned through sport help young people to take a more confident part in shaping their everyday lives, tackling difficult situations, and building perspectives for their future.

4. **Sport for development develops core competencies**: through sport, children and young people also develop their ability to handle challenges and to cope with defeats.
For further information what GIZ offers in these thematic areas, please follow the links below

Youth empowerment
www.giz.de/expertise/html/11000.html

Sport for development
www.giz.de/sport-for-development
sport-for-development@giz.de

For further information on related areas in GIZ’s portfolio, please follow the links below

Science
www.giz.de/higher-education

Education
www.giz.de/education-and-youth

Vocational education and training

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Sector Programme ‘Sport for Development’

Establishing Sport as an Instrument for Achieving Development Goals

Background and Goals

German development cooperation as well as state and civil society organisations worldwide are increasingly seeking and utilising new instruments to achieve development goals. Sport is one of these instruments, as was also internationally acknowledged by the 2003 UN Resolution 58/5, which describes sport as ‘a means to promote education, development, health and peace’. The United Nations has also emphasized the role of sport in attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

The tremendous potential of ‘sport for development’ to achieve the German government’s development goals has been little utilised to date. Alongside its importance in the field of education, sport can also serve as an overarching theme and tool in areas such as health promotion, HIV prevention, gender equality, violence prevention, conflict resolution, good governance, inclusion and the environment. It is the declared goal of German development cooperation to place greater emphasis on ‘sport for development’ and to utilise sport as a vehicle for attaining its development goals.

By tasking the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH with implementing the ‘Sport for Development’ sector programme, the BMZ has taken an important step towards meeting this goal.

The ‘Sport for Development’ Approach

By its nature, sport encourages participation and brings people together. It contributes to the health and well-being of children and youth, is enjoyable, and transmits values such as fairness, tolerance, respect and discipline. When utilised in a pedagogically correct manner, sport enhances self-esteem and self-confidence and promotes responsible behaviour. By taking part in sport, children and young people learn to manage victory, as well as defeat. They acquire life skills that help them deal with challenging situations and improve their long-term prospects. As one of the most developed aspects of civil society, sport is an engaging and effective tool for social mobilisation and an important vehicle for participation, sport brings people and communities together, bridging national, ethnic, social and religious divides.

As a tool in development cooperation, sport can serve as an impetus for social transformation and change, on both the individual and the social level.
Success factors

As is the case with all such endeavours, development programs that take a ‘sport for development’ approach must take into account social, cultural and economic conditions in the partner country.

In general, this entails a focus on mass sports that do not require expensive equipment, and that are already well-rooted in the partner country. The training and further education of coaches and trainers is also an important factor. Finally, programmes for utilising sport as a tool to achieve development goals must be developed jointly with local partners.

The ‘Youth Development through Football’ (YDF) project is a joint endeavour of German development cooperation in Africa. Its impressive success has been documented by the University of Johannesburg, which has served as an academic partner throughout the project. Approximately two-thirds of the 110,000 participating children and youth demonstrated gains in self-confidence, and a reduction in violent and discriminatory behaviours. The YDF programme also developed and implemented a comprehensive plan for trainer education, which has been under UNESCO patronage since 2011.

German Engagement in Overview

The sector programme ‘Sport for Development’, which will allow the BMZ to introduce the topic of sport into German development cooperation, encompasses four main areas:

Expert Advice

The GIZ sector programme will serve as an expert consultant for the BMZ. It will also develop and make available to the BMZ lessons learned, methods and instruments utilised by existing and completed programmes within the field of ‘sport for development’.

Promoting Networking

The GIZ sector programme will also promote coordination and networking of German and international actors from the world of sport and development cooperation. This will help build upon existing synergy and promote the ongoing incorporation of existing experience and expertise. The GIZ sector programme will support the BMZ in establishing German engagement in the sphere of ‘sport for development’.

Implementing Pilot Programmes

On behalf of BMZ the GIZ sector programme implements pilot programmes in partner countries, which will evaluate and develop a variety of approaches. Ongoing academic and research support for these pilot initiatives will provide expert feedback regarding the most successful methods for utilising sport in development cooperation. Using a scaling-up process, this feedback will be employed in additional regions and countries in which Germany engages in development cooperation.

The target group for the German development cooperation actors are mainly children and youth, particularly those from regions affected by poverty. These children and youth often face additional challenges due to social, political and cultural conditions in their home countries. Special attention will be paid to girls and young women, who often have fewer opportunities to participate in sports and limited access to educational and social programmes.

Utilising Major Sporting Events

German development cooperation utilises major sporting events as a platform to raise public awareness for development issues. To accompany major sporting events, the GIZ ‘Sport for Development’ sector programme implements measures to promote mass and leisure sports in a socially effective and sustainable manner.

Cooperation Partners

Collaboration with partners is essential to ensuring the success of sport-related development cooperation. To this end, German development cooperation works closely with non-governmental organisations, sports clubs and associations, political decision-makers and international research and economic organisations. This collaboration also requires establishing strategic partnerships with industry, along the model of the partnership with the Nike sporting goods manufacturer (the ‘Designed To Move’ campaign.)

Some existing partner organisations who are working together with German development cooperation in the sector of ‘Sport for Development’ are the:

- German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB)
- German Football Association (DFB)
- German Sport University Cologne (DSHS)
- International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE)
- United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP)
Pilot Programmes

Afghanistan – School Sports for Girls

The pilot programme in Afghanistan focuses on targeted measures aimed at girls and young women. School sports remain the only opportunity for girls and young women to take part in sports in Afghanistan. Together with local partners, the programme qualifies sports teachers, who will utilise their training in schools. The pilot programme is collaborating with the Basic Education Programme for Afghanistan (BEPA). The focus is on football and volleyball, which are especially popular with Afghan girls.

Pilot programme partners:
- Afghan Ministry of Education
- Afghan Football Federation (AFF) and other national sports associations
- German Football Association (DFB)

Brazil – Football, Violence Prevention, and Youth

German development cooperation in Brazil is collaborating with local trainers, coaches, teachers, social workers and educators to develop a new training concept. The focus is on the integration of social competencies and life skills in football training. The concept is targeted at schools and public projects in disadvantaged areas.

Pilot programme partners:
- Municipal administrations in Rio de Janeiro, Salvador da Bahia, Fortaleza and Recife
- Local non-governmental organisations, including Bola pra Frente
- German Football Association (DFB)

Mozambique – HIV Prevention, ‘Life Skills’ & Organisational Development

Building upon the YDF project carried out in Mozambique, German development cooperation is utilising sport to raise awareness about HIV among young people and to transmit life skills that will enhance their daily lives. The pilot programme is also providing expert advice and training to national partners in key areas of competency, as well as organisational and structural developmental support. Additional goals include incorporating modules on life skills and HIV prevention in the training curricula for sports teachers. The programme has engaged in ongoing collaboration with the German development cooperation programme focused on HIV/AIDS prevention.

Some pilot programme partners include:
- Pedagogical University Maputo, Faculty of Sports
- Associacao Desportiva de Albazine (ADA) and additional sports associations/community projects
- German Football Association (DFB)
- Bavarian Football Association (BFV)

Namibia – Strengthening the Position of Girls and Young Women

Building on the positive experience of the YDF project in Namibia and the activities of the partners listed below, this pilot programme focuses on girls and young women. Its first aim is to develop a pedagogical sports programme that will include sports for girls with measures aimed at HIV/AIDS prevention, health promotion, and life skills training. These will be implemented in a variety of spheres, including in a new centre for the promotion of sports for girls, and within specific counselling services offered to girls and young women. The pilot programme has been collaborating closely with the German development cooperation ‘Multisectoral HIV and AIDS Response Programme’.

Pilot programme partners:
- Ministry of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture in Namibia (MYNSSC)
- Namibian Football Association (NFA)
- ‘Galz and Goals’ project of the NFA Women Desk
- German Football Association (DFB)
- Fussball- und Leichtathletik-Verband Westfalen e.V. (FLVV)
- UNAIDS Namibia
Colombia – Promoting Peace and Preventing Violence

For years now the Colombian government has been using football to promote peace in the country. One such programme is ‘Colombia Joven’, which is sponsored by the Office of the President. In follow-up to the German programme to build peace by promoting cooperation between the State and Civil Society (CERCAPAZ) and the prevention of recruitment of minors (Child Soldiers) in Colombia (KISO) programme, in late 2014 German development cooperation began focusing on local partners to improve existing sports education. In addition, the pilot programme is developing a model to utilise sports for the promotion of peace in conflict regions.

Pilot programme partners:

- Fundación Pies Descalzos (the ‘Shakira Foundation’)

Palestinian territories – Promoting Career Training

In late-2014, German development cooperation began supporting the economic development of Palestinian territories through sport, and using sport to help prevent violence among young people. In this pilot programme, sport is utilised as a tool to promote vocational training and work skills. In close collaboration with the ‘Technical and Vocational Education and Training/Labour Market’ (TVET/LM) programme, the ‘sports for development’ approach is being integrated into the curricula of non-governmental technical and vocational training centres. In addition, the training centres are taking part in organised sport camps and tournaments along with civil society organisations and private industry in order to promote vocational training and traineeships for young people.
The challenge

Timor-Leste is a post-conflict country with a fragile statehood. Over two-thirds of the population are under 30. High levels of youth unemployment, insufficient job opportunities and poor educational prospects in both the formal and informal sectors mean that young people have limited perspectives for social advancement. Violent encounters in the public arena and their personal experiences of violence at home and at school increase their acceptance to resort to violence themselves. The institutional structures for youth work are weakly connected and poorly networked. Those involved in promoting young people often-times lack the proper skills for this work, since there are currently virtually limited opportunities in Timor-Leste to obtain formal qualifications or receive further training. Established mechanisms for coordinating the youth work carried out by state and non-state institutions are rarely available at both national and decentralised level. The conditions for non-violent conflict resolution among young people are underdeveloped, and there are only a few measures in place to address this.

Our approach

Together with our implementing partners at the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports (SSYS) and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), the project provides training for state and civil society institutions geared to promoting young people and equipping them to resolve conflict peacefully in their everyday lives. The project targets young men and women aged between 16 and 30 in rural and urban areas. Particular attention is paid to girls and young women to ensure they benefit from measures to the same extent as their male peers.

In terms of methodology, the project adopts a multi-level approach. It both includes measures to develop the capacity of state and non-state partners and uses financing for organisations and local initiatives to support measures to promote young people. In addition, in four districts of the country, youth promotion measures agreed as part of youth networks are being implemented by actors as pilot initiatives prior to evaluation and preparation for roll-out nationwide at a later date.

The benefits

The current phase of the Peace Fund project builds on the work of the preceding phase (2008–2013). Over 40,000 young people in Timor have been reached by projects and training programmes promoting peace, with young women accounting for more than 40 % of them. Over 90 % of the 4,000 participants surveyed said...
that the measures had in each case made a tangible contribution to peace promotion in their communities.

The current project phase is increasingly implementing measures geared to capacity development among state and non-state partners (NGOs) in the youth sector. In addition, selective support is provided for local initiatives for young people through financing for organisations. In the rural districts of Ermera, Aileu, Manatuto and Baucau, in particular, the actors involved pool their planning for youth promotion measures through networks. The measures are then implemented as pilot initiatives, starting with selected youth centres.

Success factors

The current project phase is able to draw on previous experience and aims to scale up results achieved to date with a multilevel approach involving the following actions:

- transfer of know-how from GIZ fund management to the forthcoming new National Youth Fund;
- networking youth leaders at district level so that they can work together to create and implement crosssector action plans;
- developing and providing a national training programme for state and non-state youth workers;
- supporting the awareness-raising work of the Anti-Corruption Commissions.

An example from the field

The nationwide film campaign ‘Superwoman for Peace’ has had a huge response. In an interview, the lead actress commented: ‘People increasingly recognise me in the street. When they see me, children shout out either ‘Superwoman!’ or the catchphrase from our films, ‘Attack the problem, not the person!’ That’s really special. I notice that people not only recognise me, they also understand the message we are trying to get across’ (see picture on the left).

The following example is typical of many of the NGO measures supported by the Peace Fund in showing how young people from Timor can be encouraged to actively foster peace. One training course participant was known to be the leader of a violent gang. After taking part in the training course he initiated a series of discussions with the local authorities to broker a peace agreement between rival groups of youths. He was then asked by the local youth coordinator to convince young people of the value of his initiative and to pass on to other young people the basic peace-mediating skills he had learned. His initiative is seen throughout the district as an example of how targeted training measures to promote peace can have a significant impact on young people.

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PROSAD – Human rights, combatting child labour and child trafficking, sexual and reproductive health in Burkina Faso

Successfully combatting female genital mutilation in schools – Burkina Faso as a case study

The challenge

140 million women and girls around the world are victims of female genital mutilation (FGM). FGM breaches human rights, violates human physical integrity and frequently damages women’s health.

Although FGM was banned in Burkina Faso in 1996 and a national council was set up to combat it, the traditional practice persists.

Nevertheless, a joint commitment by the Burkina Faso Government and national and international partners is beginning to make progress, with surveys showing a downward trend in the number of women and girls being subjected to FGM. However, there is still resistance to the ban, and new challenges are emerging, such as the trend towards cutting very young girls or babies. Efforts to eliminate the practice in the long term are being hampered by concealment and clandestine cutting in neighbouring countries where FGM is not illegal.

Our approach

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is working to combat female genital mutilation in Burkina Faso.

With support from German development cooperation, the country’s Government has developed teaching materials to train school students both as multiplicators to share knowledge with their parents and their wider families, and as future parents themselves. Support from a range of donors has enabled these materials to be introduced in a number of pilot regions. Since 2013, a national campaign run by non-governmental organisations, the government, prominent public individuals and donors has been working to ensure that the materials are used in schools in Burkina Faso and integrated into national curricula.
The benefits

Female genital mutilation is a traditional practice that is deeply rooted in Burkinabe society, which considers that a woman is really a woman and socially acceptable only when she has been cut. The traditional view, therefore, is that female circumcision is a positive phenomenon.

However, issues such as physical integrity and gender equality are increasingly important in modern Burkinabe society. Traditional practices such as female circumcision are associated with the repression and control of women and no longer have a place, in modern society of Burkina Faso.

Success factors

The following activities to combat female genital mutilation have been implemented as part of GIZ's regional project and the PROSAD programme:

- 289 teachers have been trained in issues relating to FGM
- 155 schools have integrated awareness measures in their curricula
- 46,661 school students have received teaching to raise awareness of these issues
- 10,000 parents have also had their awareness raised and are supporting the integration of a unit on FGM in the curriculum

An example from the field

Integrating education on female genital mutilation into national curricula is a lengthy process. GIZ started this process back in 2000, when it conducted an initial survey designed to analyse people's awareness of, views on and attitudes towards FGM. The survey was aimed at school students, teachers, head teachers and representatives of parents' associations in selected primary and secondary schools in urban and rural areas.

The findings of the survey prompted the Ministries of Education to work with GIZ to instigate a pilot phase during which specific education measures were integrated into teaching in selected schools. Together, the ministry and GIZ have developed teaching materials and trained teachers, while awareness campaigns have been run in schools and aimed at the parents of girls. The pilot phase was evaluated after three years.

At the request of the ministry, the approach was then rolled out nationally, because the intervention had secured a reduction in the incidence of female genital mutilation within a very short time.

Teaching materials were financed and teachers given the necessary training with funding from the World Bank, PLAN and GIZ.

In the final phase, the priority is now not just to revise curricula but also to formally integrate teaching on FGM into them. This process was completed in early 2014 for the primary sector; integration is planned for the next revision of secondary curricula early 2015. Once teaching has been formally integrated into curricula, it will be important to continue to support the Ministries of Education: the country’s teachers need training, while teaching materials require regular updating and re-publication.

The staff of GIZ’s regional programme and PROSAD can be satisfied with the outcomes to date: intensive awareness-raising activities in schools and local communities and among the population more generally have substantially reduced the incidence of female genital mutilation in the selected regions to below the national average.
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PROSAD – Human rights, combatting child labour and child trafficking, sexual and reproductive health in Burkina Faso

Education is a human right – promoting school enrolment rates

The challenge

Education is compulsory throughout Burkina Faso, and the country has a national plan to implement the ‘Education for all’ initiative, yet only 34% of boys and 24% of girls nationwide completed primary education in 2010. The figure is even lower in rural areas – just 11% of boys and 7% of girls. The major reason is that many families simply cannot afford to send their children to school or to buy the necessary materials. Children are also required to work at home and on the land.

Burkina Faso comes bottom of global league tables for literacy: poverty, rapid population growth and a scarcity of resources mean that the literacy rate is just 28.7%. A fundamental human right – the right to education – is far from being a reality in the country.

For large numbers of girls and boys, living conditions are precarious. 42% of 5 to 17-year olds have to work to earn their own living or support their family; 5% of 6 to 15-year olds are labour migrants and live apart from their parents, while 5% are forced to do work that damages their health. Almost half of all girls – 48% – are married before the age of 18, putting an end to their education or training. The national dropout rate from primary school was 43% in 2011, with girls making up substantially more than half of the total.

Our approach

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) is promoting school enrolment for all children and particularly for girls. The Human Rights/ Sexual and Reproductive Health’ (PROSAD) programme works to protect the rights of children in German development cooperation’s two priority areas in the south-west and the east of Burkina Faso, with an emphasis on promoting children’s rights, combatting child labour and child trafficking, boosting the school enrolment rate, and reducing the school drop-out rate.
The benefits

Increasing the literacy rate is vital if Burkina Faso is to escape the vicious circle of poverty in the long term. ‘Education for all’ is therefore also one of the goals of its national strategy for faster growth and sustainable development (Stratégie de Croissance accélérée et de Développement durable 2011–2015, or SCADD).

Success factors

The project has already had a number of successes. For example, the school enrolment rate for girls has risen in the target regions, from 20% in 2004 to 43.9% in 2013 in the east and from 30% to 58% respectively in the south-west.

Meanwhile, the school dropout rate in the east has fallen from 52% in 2004 to 33% in 2013 in the east and from 50% to 42% over the same period in the south-west.

Increasing the school enrolment rate and cutting the drop-out rate has been achieved through grassroots initiatives, tailored communications, and the creation of school clubs and mothers’ and parents’ associations.

A further success is that these associations take an active part in ensuring that children attend school. They make direct contact with parents and the wider family and persuade them of the benefits of sending their children to school by engaging them in discussion.

To improve these families’ economic situation, a fund has also been set up to implement income-generating measures. With this additional income, families can now afford to send their children to school and pay for teaching materials.

Examples from the field

A second chance for Wali

Wali, a girl from Diapaga in eastern Burkina Faso, has been able to return to school as a result of the PROSAD programme’s awareness-raising work. Wali wanted to drop out of school after two years, and her parents saw no need for her to continue her education. However, the mothers’ association at the school in Diapaga was able to persuade them of the importance of attending school. Wali is now in her fourth year at school.

Madame Tankoano is able to send her children to school

Madame Tankoano has been able to send her five children to school thanks to a fund set up by the PROSAD programme. The Tankoano family was unable to afford the cost, but the fund provided start-up capital of around EUR 38 to enable the mother to start a small business. Madame Tankoano brews and sells local beer and is happy with what she earns. She has already repaid the start-up loan, and the money she earns is enough to enable her to send her five children to school.
Prospects for youth

One of the keys to development for young people in Kyrgyzstan

The challenge

Akylai (21) and Chynara (20) both wish for the same thing: ‘We need people to understand us and give us more opportunities. People always say that young people like us have no ideas. But it’s not true. People just have to believe in us and listen to us.’ That is, though, all too rare in the Kyrgyz Republic. Twenty years after independence from the former Soviet Union, this Central Asian country is still in a transitional phase. The population has a low standard of living, while unemployment is high. Many people feel they have no prospects.

Particularly young people aged between 14 and 28, who make up around one third of the population, are the most affected. They face unemployment, poverty and an education and training system that is ill equipped to meet their needs. Youth promotion structures developed during the Soviet era have long since collapsed. Since then, opportunities to exercise their rights and get involved in the country’s political and social life have been sadly lacking for young people. The magnitude of frustration became evident in 2010, when young people played a prominent role in the violent clashes that erupted.

It was a wake-up call for politicians. The authorities responded by setting up a Ministry of Youth Affairs, which has since been renamed the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Youth. The aim is to develop regional structures geared to youth work, set up youth centres, and actively promote participation by young people in the social and political life of the country. However, the Ministry needs substantially more technical and human resources. Coordination between state and non-state actors is poor. Furthermore, the country as a whole suffers from a shortage of pedagogically trained youth workers.

Our approach

The programme aims to develop sustainable youth work in Kyrgyzstan. For this reason, GIZ works not only directly with young people but also in collaboration with local state and non-state partners to develop sustainable structures in the youth sector. Technical expertise at the Ministry is boosted by the involvement of GIZ experts, who support our partners in developing the necessary infrastructure for youth work and improving cooperation between those responsible at national, local, state and non-state level.

The GIZ programme also provides training for specialists working in the state sector and in non-governmental organisations geared to promoting young people. Training courses and workshops teach future youth experts the basics of modern inclusive youth work. This includes certain standards such as socially integrative,
gender-sensitive approaches, intercultural skills and violence prevention. In the practical sessions, the participants learn how to draw up and implement youth strategies and promotional programmes. The project also supports the ‘Youth work organiser’ course at the Kyrgyz State University of Construction, Transportation and Architecture (KSUCTA) in Bishkek.

The benefits

The programme uses an interactive and participatory learning methodology to establish and promote sustainable youth work. This is a quite new experience for many of the participants in Kyrgyzstan. ‘Our professor took part in the exercises along with us. That never used to happen!’ says one student, Jypara, enthusiastically. Her ambition is to work in the Ministry of Youth herself. To ensure that future youth work is adapted to real-life circumstances in Kyrgyzstan, the GIZ project also exploits South-South cooperation. The training courses involve trainers from another post-socialist country, Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had to overcome similar economic and social crises and conflicts.

In collaboration with state and civil society actors, such as the NGO Institute for Youth Development, pilot projects for modern and needs-based youth work are also being developed. Here, the municipalities have a particularly important role to play, since they know best what the young people who live there really need. The self-governed municipality of Majevka, about half an hour’s drive from the capital Bishkek, is a good example. It has a youth expert who works directly with the mayor. With her assistance, the youth centre will be offering a wide range of attractive services.

Success factors

The project is still in its infancy, but there is already much greater awareness of the needs of young people among those responsible at government, administrative and organisational level, and the shift in thinking has begun. The young generation is seen as the key to the country’s economic, social and political development.

Initial results are already in evidence across the project’s 10 partner municipalities. The mayors and administrative department leaders have agreed to continue providing training in youth work for their employees, who then campaign for the needs of young people as youth experts in their municipalities. They develop activities and also coordinate their work with local youth organisations. Some mayors have set aside a budget for youth work in their respective municipalities.

By working with municipalities, local authorities and youth organisations, the partner organisation – the Institute for Youth Development – is developing new and attractive pilot measures. A youth information office has opened in Karakol and is run by a youth expert, who is taking part in the new training provision. Meanwhile, in Naryn, in the north-east of the country, a youth centre is home to 12 local youth organisations. From here, a youth TV channel will broadcast to 57 municipalities and the town of Naryn itself.

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Strengthening of Structures for Youth Empowerment and Participation, SoSYEP

The challenge

Young people between the age of 15 and 30 in Serbia constitute more than 20% of the entire population. The lack of participation of young people in improving the conditions they live in is the consequence of the situation in the country influenced by various disadvantages. For that reason, vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, people with disabilities or young people with learning difficulties don't have opportunities for adequate political and social participation in solving problems related to them. A separate youth sector only exists since the establishment of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2007. Therefore, supporting the social and political participation of youth in Serbia, on the national, regional and local levels is the general objective of the project.

Our approach

Since 2005, the project has been especially engaged in the areas of conflict transformation and youth policy development nationwide. It advises the ministry of Youth and Sports and its regional offices to develop and implement Serbian youth policy. This implies development and revision of local youth action plans, national standards for youth offices and competencies of local youth office coordinators and trainings to improve technical and management skills. All this is aiming to improve opportunities for young people to strengthen their political and social participation and promote democratic action and tolerance.

Our Partners

The main partner is the 'Ministry for Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia'. Other supported partners: The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, schools, professional organizations and the civil society organizations whose activities encourage promotion of youth policy.
Success factors

The mediation programmes and programmes on school parliaments are accredited and implemented in about 200 schools. In the survey, participating students claim that their skills in resolving conflicts constructively together with their peers had improved with vital support from the pedagogues and psychologists of their schools.

- Out of 140 established local youth offices, 108 have now developed local youth action plans based on the project’s methodology. 91 municipalities directly supported by the project implemented the planned activities after the revision of action plans. In the survey, youth coordinators confirmed the usefulness of the method for preparing action plans as a key strategic document for lobbying with other donors and within the local community. That further guarantees orientation and transparency in the youth sector.

- National Association of local youth offices is developed national structure which gathers 56 municipalities and towns as founders of the Association. Main aims of the Association are strengthen of the institutional development of youth policy on the local level and networking of youth offices in order to improve National Youth Policy. This model of alliance of municipalities and towns is a model of good practice for dealing with one public policy.

- For the inclusion of the vulnerable groups the project has set up cooperations with 17 organizations of civil societies that work with representatives of vulnerable groups (children and young people with development disorders, young people with physical disorders, Roma, LGBT-population, HIV-infected young people, victims of human trafficking, children living on the street, people with diabetes, single parents and young people in poverty). The project has taken part in a series of sensitization workshops and actions in order to empower members of the vulnerable groups for social inclusion. This will help to raise awareness for the problems of these groups.
Preventing youth violence in Central America (PREVENIR)

The challenge

Central America, and in particular the ‘Northern Triangle’ of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, is one of the most violent regions in the world. This violence takes a number of different forms and particularly affects young people, at home and at school, in the neighbourhood or in the local community. Its causes range from the break-up of family and community structures to the influence of the international drugs trade. Extreme violence leads to the social and economic exclusion of large parts of the population and the emergence of marginalised urban neighbourhoods that lack basic social amenities.

Cooperation between the state and civil society, between government institutions in various sectors (such as security, youth-work, education and employment), and between national and local government is inefficient, and the capacity needed to tackle the issues is lacking. The Central American states rarely share their experiences with one another, while tried-and-tested practices are seldom documented for subsequent use.

Our approach

PREVENIR aims to strengthen regional, national and local key actors by building capacity in the area of violence prevention and to introduce tools and methods that improve cross-sectoral cooperation, thereby helping to reduce levels of violence.

The benefits

PREVENIR promotes cooperation between a range of sectors and between government, civil society and the private sector, encouraging them to develop and successfully implement joint approaches to prevention. For example, the project advises on options for cooperation between actors at national, regional and local level (multi-level approach) with the aim of supporting decentralised implementation of prevention strategies at local level and promoting the feeding back of local experience at national level.

In this context, PREVENIR is pursuing a systemic approach to preventing youth violence, working primarily with mediators and key carers, who have influence in the lives of young people. This is why the project involves teachers and parents, for example.

PREVENIR focuses on prevention methods that have proved effective in practice (evidence-based approach).
PREVENIR has three components:

- Municipal prevention strategies involving young people
- Measures to increase the employability of socially disadvantaged young people
- Measures to prevent violence in school and non-school based education

Our partners

The lead executing agency for the project is the General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA), with PREVENIR assisting in the implementation of the Central American Security Strategy. PREVENIR conducts regional activities involving all eight SICA member states, as well as working at national level with the security, education and labour ministries, police forces and youth institutions of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. At local level, meanwhile, PREVENIR is being implemented in cooperation with municipal administrations, schools, youth networks and organisations, and municipal associations.

PREVENIR also works with civil society organisations involved in violence prevention and with companies. There is a particular focus on cooperation with universities and other educational institutions that are considered to be key actors in embedding the project’s training measures in the partner countries in the long term.

Success factors

A pedagogical approach to preventing violence in schools (Miles de Manos) has been developed and successfully tested in pilot schools. Observable physical violence against young people has been reduced by 20% in these schools over a period of six months. Communication between teachers and students has improved, and learning and behavioural issues are being resolved in a spirit of partnership. Miles de Manos was rolled out to another 200 schools and school networks in 2014 with the support of the education ministries of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

Youth employment plans are also being put together in local communities. So far, the project has brought all the relevant local actors together to draw up 11 of these plans, which provide the strategic basis for delivering funding to local communities and selecting training provision. To date, a number of courses for young people have been adapted to market requirements and 3,000 young people have undergone training.

A modular in-service training system in systemic intersectoral violence prevention for government servants and NGOs has been developed and successfully tested in cooperation with partner institutions. The system is designed to empower local actors to work together to draw up and implement inter-sectoral prevention plans. Nine teams of multipliers (160 individuals) have been trained in El Salvador and in Honduras, with another 5 groups (190 individuals) currently undergoing training in Guatemala and Nicaragua. Following training in El Salvador, multipliers have set up prevention councils in 17 local communities and are helping these councils successfully to implement their prevention plans.