

Towards an inclusive society through sport in Tunisian municipalities

Inclusion and urban development

Sustainable development must reach all population groups. Inclusion is therefore a fundamental principle for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It covers all aspects of life – cultural, economic, generational, gender, political and social – and plays a crucial role in addressing inequalities. Targeted local action is essential to create inclusive cities and communities. For instance, some Tunisian municipalities have launched initiatives that use sport as a driver for inclusion and social cohesion. These initiatives have involved organising an inclusive sport festival, training local “multipliers” in sport for development, and setting up urban sport facilities.

The regional project “City-to-City Cooperation Maghreb-Germany” (KWT II), commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), was implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in cooperation with the Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW) of Engagement Global gGmbH, from March 2020 to February 2024. Among other activities, the regional project supported project partnerships between German and Maghreb cities. The good practices highlighted in this factsheet have been developed by the partner cities Kairouan and Darmstadt, Kasserine, and Munich, El Guettar and the district of Böblingen, Jendouba and Wolfsburg, Gabès and the region of Hannover, Midoun and Fürth as well as Tozeur and Geestland. These practices will be scaled up as part of the follow-up regional project “Urban Adaptation to Climate Change in the Maghreb”, running from March 2024 to February 2027.



The Inclusive Sport Festival in Kairouan

In Tunisia, the regional project KWT II was implemented in collaboration with the Directorate-General of External Relations and Decentralised International Cooperation within the Ministry of the Interior.

In June 2022, following a delegation visit from Kairouan to Darmstadt and their participation in the 44th edition of the “Sport for All” festival, Kairouan launched an initiative to promote inclusion through sports. These efforts led to the city’s first ever inclusive sport festival in October 2022, marking a significant milestone for Kairouan. A delegation from Darmstadt attended the event to explore various innovative approaches to inclusive sport.

The highlight of the festival was an inclusive marathon that brought together professional athletes, amateur runners and people with disabilities. This event underlined Kairouan’s commitment to promoting inclusion within its sporting community. The main aim was to create a more inclusive sporting environment where everyone feels welcome and valued.



‘Sport for Development’ Training

With support from a special BMZ fund for COVID-19 response, the project KWT II and its Tunisian partner municipalities – Kairouan, El Guettar and Gabès – organised two training sessions on “Sport for Development” (S4D) for local sports coaches. The sessions aimed to train S4D multipliers within their communities by equipping them with the skills to design and implement S4D activities while promoting gender equality, health and the role of sport in sustainable development.



Installation of urban sport equipment

As part of efforts to promote urban community sports and public health during the COVID-19 pandemic, KWT II and its Tunisian partner municipalities installed outdoor sports equipment in public spaces. These installations provided accessible opportunities for residents and athletes to engage in outdoor physical activities, encouraging active lifestyles and supporting mental and physical health after the lockdown.



Left: ‘Sport for All’ inclusive sports festival in Kairouan, June 2022.

Right: ‘Sport for Development’ training course, December 6, 2021.

Approaches and actions

The methodology for organising the inclusive sports festival in Kairouan was based on the following steps (diagram 01):

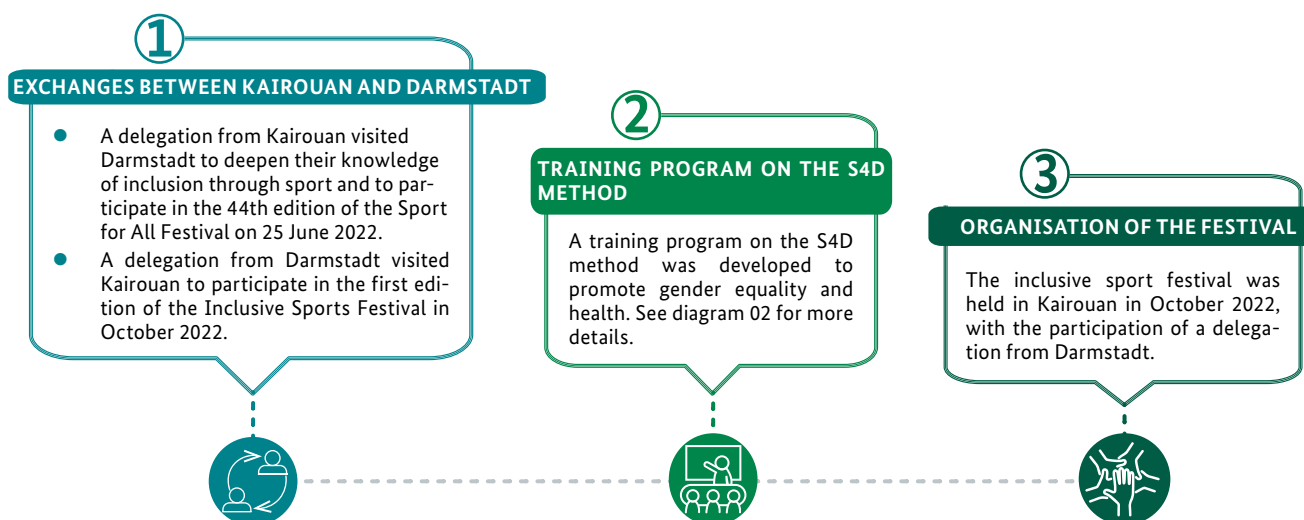


Diagram 01: Methodological approach for the inclusive sports festival in Kairouan. © GIZ

Concerning the Sport for Development training, two 5-day sessions were organised (diagram 02):



Diagram 02: Methodological approach for the "Sport for development" training. © GIZ

The implementation process for installing urban sport equipment followed these steps (diagram 03):

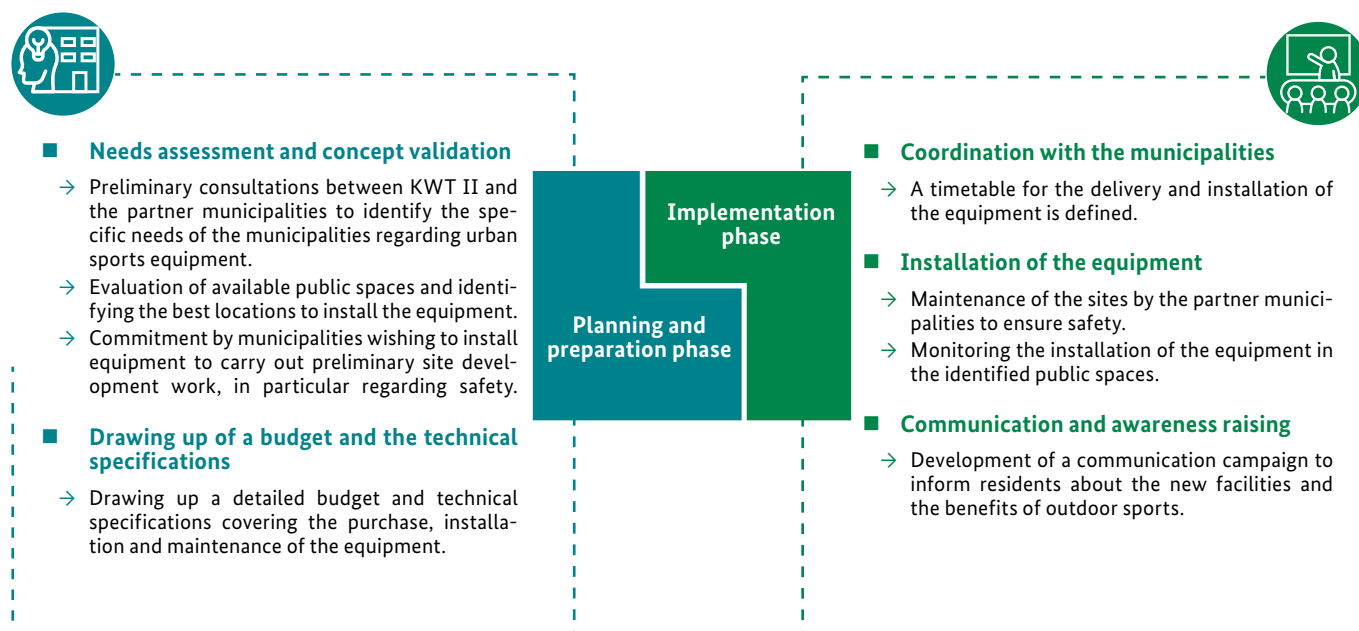


Diagram 03: Methodological approach for urban sports equipment. © GIZ

Achievements

The various initiatives to promote inclusion through sport have led to the following results (diagram 04):

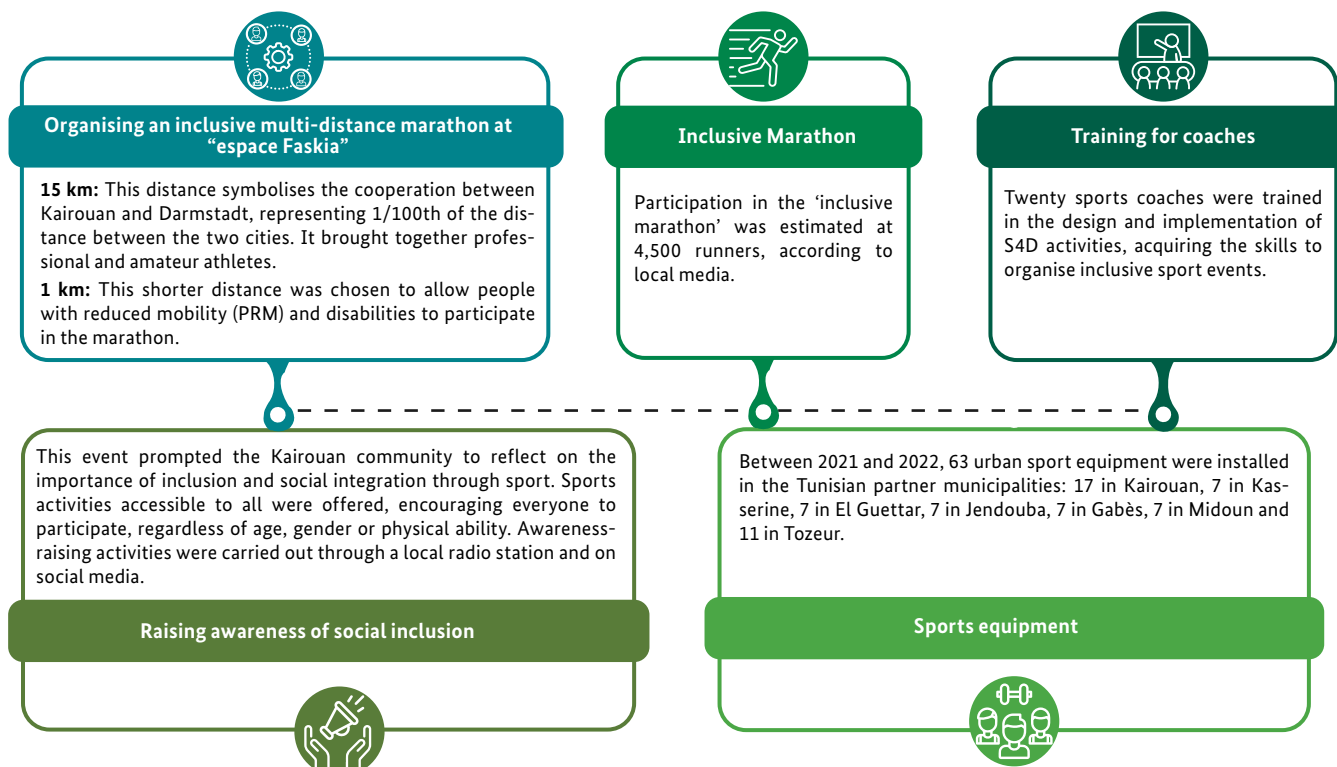


Diagram 04: Achieved and expected results. © GIZ

Challenges

A major challenge was encountered in organising the sports festival in Kairouan, requiring a specific solution (diagram 05):

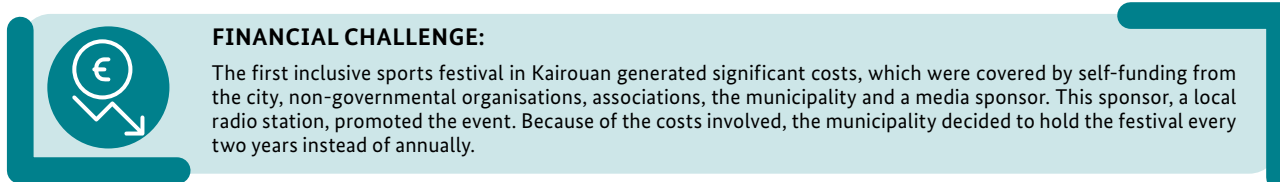


Diagram 05: Challenge encountered. © GIZ

Innovative aspects and strengths

The various initiatives stood out for their strengths, reflecting a commitment to promoting inclusive sport and health (diagram 06):

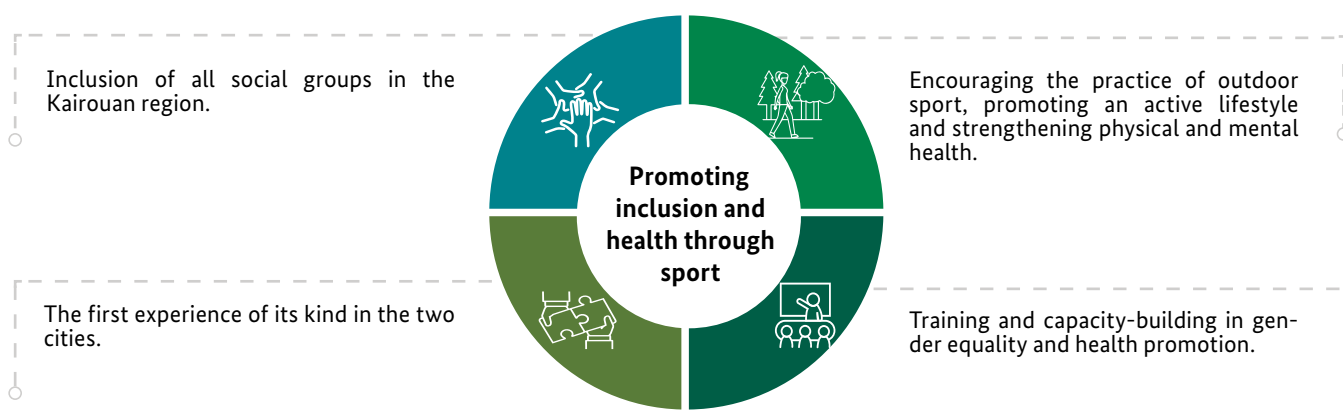


Diagram 06: Innovative aspects and strengths. © GIZ



Left: 'Sport for All' inclusive sports festival in Kairouan, June 2022.

Right: 'Sport for Development' training course, December 6, 2021.

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Good practices, lessons learnt and advice

Several important lessons have been learnt and good practices identified from the experiences in the Tunisian municipalities, which should be considered when implementing similar initiatives (diagram 07):



Making sports events more inclusive to ensure access to a wider target:

Initiatives like the one in Kairouan should be rooted, shared and replicated in all cities.

Creating spaces for physical exercise:

Allowing people to exercise outdoors for free strengthens public health and social cohesion. Despite the difficulties of consulting citizens during the COVID-19 crisis, their opinions were taken into account in the selection of safe and popular locations. In Kairouan, the success of this initiative prompted the municipality to extend it to the whole city.



Durability and affordability:

Galvanised steel equipment is protected from corrosion by its zinc coating, reducing maintenance requirements and costs for local authorities. It offers protection against accidental or deliberate damage, ensuring a long service life. In addition, installation costs remain affordable while ensuring reliable long-term performance.

Holistic development of training sessions:

The S4D training aims to promote the physical, social, emotional and cognitive development of participants. Their active involvement helps to maximise the impact of this training in their local contexts.



Modularity of the equipment to be installed:

Galvanised steel urban sports equipment is designed to be modular, so that it can be assembled and installed without the need for specialised technical skills.

Deterring vandalism:

The sturdiness of galvanised steel equipment discourages vandalism, offering natural protection against attempts to destroy or damage it.



Raising awareness of sustainable urban development issues:

Mass events, such as the inclusive sports festival in Kairouan, can be ideal opportunities to raise awareness of sustainable urban development.

Diagram 07: Good practices, lessons learnt and advice. © GIZ

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