



Footprints of a Journey Together

**“Exchange, Education, and Conflict Transformation
through Sport for Development (S4D)
in Jordan and Northern Iraq”**

Welcome Message

The journey of the Sport for Development (S4D) Project in Jordan and Northern Iraq is ending after 7 years, starting in 2016. It was a pleasure for the team to walk this way, although we were also facing turbulences during COVID time with the social restrictions, but many positive changes have been achieved and initiated. I felt privileged to have the opportunity joining on its last year. I was very impressed by the power and energy the project had, with a highly committed team and extremely dedicated partners in the ministries, Sports federations, universities, and NGO partners, already having sports as part of their lives. Our instructors, for example being active or former national players, coaches, and PE teachers,

having the charisma to inspire people, being the sparks who may light the fire of passion with coaches and youth leaders in using sports to support children and youth not only in maintaining their health, but also in developing their personalities and bringing people together.

We have left footprints on our journey that we like to briefly highlight in this documentation. We also invite everybody to continue the journey in Jordan and Iraq and taking your own pathway. Instructors will be happy to give an orientation and support. The manuals are available on the S4D resource kit platform in different languages available to everybody. I like also to encourage partners in development cooperations to include sport in your approach. use the resources that we have created and engage our partners, S4D is a lively instrument in enhancing life skills, supports gender equality and respect, as well as promotes social cohesion.

I wish you happy reading, and maybe we can inspire you as well.



Stefan Schmid

Project Manager
Sport and Development (S4D)
Jordan and Northern Iraq

Acknowledgments

We as GIZ-Sport for Development Project extend our heartfelt gratitude to our stakeholders, partners, colleagues, instructors, and Youth leaders for their unwavering commitment to fostering positive change through sports. The past 7 years were a transformative journey, and it would not have been possible without the collaborative efforts of our esteemed partners.

We express our sincere thanks to those whose dedication and support have been instrumental in the success of our Project from (2016-2023):

Jordan Partners

- Ministry of Education (MOE)
- Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC)
- Jordan Paralympic Committee
- University of Jordan
- Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF)
- Jordan Handball Federation (JHF)
- Asian Football Development (AFDP)
- West Asia Football (WAFF)
- Palestine Association for children's encouragement of sports (PACES)
- Generation for Peace (GPF)
- Jordan Flying Disc Federation (JFDF)
- Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF)
- The German Sport University Cologne
- The German Olympic Committee
- DFB - Deutscher Fußball-Bund e.V.
- Madrasati Initiative
- Right to Play
- Reclaim Childhood

Iraq Partners

- Ministry of Education
- Friends of Waldorf Education
- Youth Center Duhok
- Ministry of Youth
- Qandil/SWEDO
- Tearfund Germany HOCA
- War Child

Together, we have created a powerful alliance that goes beyond boundaries, using the universal language of sports to capacity building, empower, and uplift communities.

Special appreciation goes to the all-team members in Jordan and Iraq who has worked at GIZ-Sport for Development, their passion for sustainable development and belief in the power of sports have been catalysts for meaningful impact. Their expertise, guidance, and continuous collaboration have enriched our project and amplified their reach.

We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the Jordanian and Iraqi communities, GIZ projects, and individuals who actively participated in our projects. Their resilience, enthusiasm, and openness to change have fueled our collective efforts, turning aspirations into tangible achievements.

To all our partners, stakeholders, and beneficiaries, your shared commitment to using sports as a tool for positive social change has created a legacy of lasting impact. Unfortunately, as our project is coming to an end, we are sure you are going to continue this journey, breaking new ground, and building a future where the transformative power of sports knows no bounds.

Thank you to every individual, organization, and institute for being integral to the success of our shared mission.

Sincerely,
GIZ S4D Team



S4D ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE YEARS



Capacity Building

Over the years, S4D team along with 45 instructors introduced the S4D approach to more than 1,600 PE teachers, trainers, and coaches to enhance their knowledge, skills, and competencies to effectively integrate S4D activities into the programs and training sessions. More than 210,000 children and youth (45% female, 16% Refugees and IDPs) have been reached in Jordan and Iraq.



Manuals and Educational Materials

Various resources, manuals, and training plans in English, Arabic and Kurdish languages were offered to showcase the potential of sports to promote personal and social development. Such materials were created and developed by national experts and will still be available online.



Building Partnerships

S4D was a cooperation with a diverse range of partners, including ministries, sports associations, non-profit organizations, schools, universities, and community leaders, who share similar values and goals. Together we succeeded in tailoring the S4D approach to the region using sports as a tool for positive social change.



4 Main Sports

S4D core revolves around the strategic integration and utilization of (Football, Handball, Basketball, and Ultimate Frisbee) as catalysts for positive change and development. By leveraging the unique attributes of each sport, S4D aims to create a holistic and sustainable impact that extends beyond the playing field, contributing to the overall well-being and advancement of the communities involved.

Grassoorts Centers Concept

Creating a safe, friendly, and supportive atmosphere as well as offering equal opportunities and possibilities for locals and refugee children of various age groups, regardless of their gender, and social and cultural background to participate in sports of different types.



S4D ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE YEARS



Youth Leadership Programme

Equip the youth with coaching and leadership skills to enable them to organize and lead sports activities, Emphasize the importance of teamwork, cooperation, and conflict resolution through sports activities, and consequently enhancing their life skills.



International Days and Fairplay Tournaments

Promote fairplay and adhere to the main S4D principles (respect, tolerance, discipline, empathy, fairplay, and self-confidence) through UN International days along with special occasions covering wide areas within the countries.



International and Regional Exchange

S4D emphasizes the importance of fostering cross-cultural understanding, promoting social inclusion, and contributing to the overall development of individuals and communities through international and regional exchange.



Regional and International Awards

- In 2017, the international organization **Peace and Sport** awarded GIZ- S4D for their special work in the area of promoting peace through sport.
- In 2022, **Fatima Bint Mubarak Women's Sports Award** has awarded Jordan Women's Football Association for the joint Grassroots Project for the Best Youth Development Program.

Impact Reserach

Adherers the importance of monitoring and evaluation as a system, S4D has worked on impact research to prove the long-term impact and effectiveness of sport for development approach.

Capacity Building & S4D Tools

"S4D Resource Package: Empowering Instructors and Coaches for Sports Development in Schools and Local Clubs

Over the years, manuals and guidebooks for sports development, along with educational posters and tools were created to assist Sport for Development (S4D) instructors in delivering content to physical education teachers and coaches. These resources have been developed and designed together with different partners including local experts, building the basis to apply S4D in schools and local clubs.



Diversity and Accessibility

S4D commenced in 2017 with a primary manual, which was complemented by each subsequent year with specifications for the main sports (Football, Basketball, Handball, and Ultimate Frisbee).

In 2020, a concise manual titled "Let Us Play" was introduced to provide fun games and a hands-on facilitation guide. It served as a valuable resource during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The latest edition of the S4D manuals emphasized sport and gender equality as well as sports and inclusion.

In addition, the "Development of Player" poster was a primary tool for illustrating the different stages during the adolescent years with their physical and social qualities during different age groups and the recommendations for conducting training sessions.

The "Concept of grassroots" poster has been developed to elucidate the strategy of collaboration with national bodies, aiming to establish a solid foundation for the sport and create more opportunities for children nationwide to participate in sports. These resources are still available and accessible online.

[Get the manuals by visiting the link](#)

YALLA RIYADA BUS

The sport bus toured through all parts of Jordan. It visited schools and communities upon requests by teachers, coaches, and youth leaders. It was equipped with everything you need for a sport festival with fun activities for the kids as well as practical tips for organisers.



Support teachers and coaches

Teachers and coaches host the event in their school or community centre (sport club, youth centre, ...) together with the GIZ instructors and the volunteers. They experience how to apply the S4D methods in an age-appropriate, fun-oriented and participatory sport programme that focusses on both sportive and social skills. They are provided with adequate sport equipment to maintain regular sport activities in their communities.

Promote sport and a healthy lifestyle

Local partners (teachers/coaches, youth volunteers, principals, other decision-makers, and local authorities) are introduced to the GIZ S4D programme in Jordan in an information session after the event. Debriefings after the activities clarified open questions. Teachers and coaches as well as youth volunteers have been informed about further qualification programs of the GIZ and partner organisations.

Inspire children and youth!

The sport festivals included diverse exercises to get the kids active and discover new sport disciplines. Local youth volunteers were engaged to organise and run the events. Their participation was essential to achieve an impact: young role models can take over responsibility and demonstrate their skills.

For more information visit [the link](#)

Youth Leadership Programme

Engaging Youth in Sport and Play for Social Change

Established in 2018, the Youth Leadership Programme supported motivated girls and boys to be coaches and role models for fellow children and youth. The one-year program trained Youth Leaders to apply knowledge and skills from the Sport for Development (S4D) approach in self-initiated sport and play-based activities within their schools and community centers.



Every young person has access to positive experiences with sports and play activities.

More than 140 youth aged 15-19 got involved and received mentorship in sports through the programme, achieving the goal of promoting social inclusion, preventing conflicts, and improving the health and well-being of young people from all social, ethnic, and religious backgrounds.

Even though the programme cycle only lasted for one year, the impact and youth engagement has extended beyond that. Some youths have been exposed to job opportunities with the scope of social work and humanitarian aid others have succeeded transferred their knowledge and experience within their local communities and organizations.

[For more information visit the link](#)

IMPACT RESEARCH

Impacts of Sport for Development on Gender Equality, Psychosocial Wellbeing and Social Cohesion in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

An Impact study was conducted in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in collaboration with the global program “Sport for Development”, the German Sport University Cologne, the University of Dohuk, and the NGO Friends of Waldorf Education.

The aim was to evaluate whether GIZ’s S4D approach is a meaningful tool to promote gender equality and prevent gender-based violence from strengthening psychosocial well-being and fostering social cohesion. The study involved children and youth between the ages of 10 and 19 in camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.



Sport creates Change!

Sport in general and S4D in specific provide a framework in which topics of social cohesion and the breaking down of stereotypes can be addressed. Especially when sports activities are designed to encourage participation, essential competencies such as critical thinking, respect, tolerance, cooperation, and problem-solving can develop. Furthermore, S4D activities require interaction and can thus help challenge stereotypes and break barriers of mistrust between young people.

By experiencing the realities of others, S4D can serve as a connecting element. The results in the KRI demonstrate the inclusive character of S4D and show that S4D contributes to inclusive behaviour and social cohesion.

Read the full study by visiting the link

Joining hands with other projects

The collaboration between Sport for Development and other projects involves a concerted effort to benefit from the positive impact of sports-related initiatives harnessing the unique capabilities of sport in promoting social, economic, and health-related objectives.

For instance, the close cooperation with Qudra 2 – Resilience for refugees, IDPs, returnees, and host communities in response to the protracted Syrian and Iraqi crises project, were both projects aimed at the same goal. S4D also helped other projects in enhancing social cohesion with specific targeted activities.



"Embracing collaboration and utilizing sport as a powerful tool in development magnifies our impact, fostering resilience, unity, and positive change in the face of challenges."

S4D TEAM

Highlights

Every single day in the previous 8 years has been a special day for me because the S4D Programme was implementing its content directly on the ground and everyone participating could see, feel, and experience immediately the tremendous positive effects as a single person or as a group member participant.

I sometimes felt like a magician making small miracles come true without using a magic stick but only by implementing real S4D content.

Ulrich Martin Klar - Advisor



For me, participation in the project was driven by a belief in the power of sports for positive change. It goes beyond the cultural boundaries, Fosters values, and promotes inclusivity. Witnessing a shy, disabled child find their voice and confidence through sports was truly unforgettable. It highlighted the project's ability to sustain individual growth and unlock hidden potential. Additionally, observing a group of children from diverse backgrounds coming together, breaking barriers, and forming real connections through the shared language of sport confirmed the project's potential to unite communities and create positive change.

Tareiza AlOudat - Education & Youth Advisor

After more than five years, "Sport for Development" comes to end in Iraq. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who was part of this journey that aimed on strengthening the psychosocial well-being of boys and girls in KRI and Federal Iraq, and to foster gender equality and social cohesion through sport.

As Nelson Mandela already said "Sport has the power to change the world" – We hope that we were able to contribute a little. I would like to thank the S4D team in Iraq, who have worked tirelessly for five years to develop the program, to keep it on a firm administrative footing and who stayed motivated even in difficult times. You made S4D what it was! Thanks a lot also to all S4D colleagues in Jordan for their support.

Mareike Broermann - Programme Component Leader



PARTNER ORGANIZATION

Highlights

I was pleased with the great cooperation between the Ministry of Education and (GIZ) through the Sports for Development program, which was implemented in the Ministry of Education over the years. The participants, male and female teachers of the Ministry of Education, and students of the participating schools, gained many life skills through their sports practice, which had a positive impact on them and their schools. It was a fruitful program in all fields and also gave the students leadership skills that contributed to the development of their personalities and abilities. The excellence of those working in the program by (GIZ) and their high professionalism had a great impact on the program achieving all its desired goals.”

Lara Habbabeih - Ministry of Education, Activities Department



The Partnership between Jordan Handball Federation and the Sport for Development project is one of the most important approaches that has been implemented for the last two years, specifically for the youth, and the coaches. It had a huge impact on playing handball around Jordanian governorates. It has achieved many positive impacts, as the 29 Grassroots centers have been equipped and actively promoting handball as a sport for the younger generation. This made me happy, and proud that I took part in giving such opportunities to more than 500 children (girls & and boys) nationwide. I enjoyed the cooperation and the transparency of this program shared with us! The guidebooks that have been developed, are being distributed for trainers to be as a reference for them!

We are sad that this project has come to an end, as there are always more opportunities to educate youth about the importance of sport.

Dr. Tasyir Mansi - Head of Jordan Handball Federation



I joined the S4D program to help uplift communities using sports as an effective tool. Witnessing children gain confidence in mastering new skills (whether technical skills or life skills) became a memorable moment. This involvement enhanced my leadership and teamwork skills, leaving a positive impact on my personal and professional life.

Rawan Messad - Program Supervisor, PACES

COACHES & PE TEACHERS

Highlights

Since my childhood, I have been passionate about sports, particularly playing and watching football, when I excelled in my studies, I ended up being a physical education teacher at Al-Azraq School, as well as a player in one of Jordan's football clubs. It was a wonderful feeling to be a teacher and a player at the same time, I worked hard on myself by enrolling in many football training courses to increase my training efficiency. and by participating in GIZ- Sport For Development I have a prominent role in refining students' personalities and the ability to develop their sports and social skills, which reflected positively on my practical and personal life, my advice to future generations is to trust yourself and believe in achieving your dream and to take every opportunity that can help you to reach your goal.

Talal Hwaitat - Jordan



My experience with GIZ – Sports for Development program was important because it added some much of learning opportunities to my practical and professional life throughout the courses and workshops that were held in rural areas in the Rusefeih governate, we have succeeded in establishing a solid foundation, and most importantly we were able to empower girls and transfer the S4D approach using football which led them to participate in the official local clubs and the national teams.

Hanaa Taha - Jordan

My participation in the Sport for Development program was a turning point in my life, it has changed my preservative completely and given me a new vision of the physical education curriculum, I have used it in my daily plan lessons in physical education. S4D has provided various opportunities for all our students from diverse backgrounds to participate in the classes.

I can say that my participation in S4D has affected my personal and professional growth.

Karwan Azad - Iraq



S4D INSTRUCTORS

Highlights

I still remember when I visited a school near the Syrian border in a city called Al-Ramtha. I saw some Syrian students enjoying their training session along with their Jordanian sisters. I asked one of the students about her thoughts about the sport session and how she feels in general, and she said, "I miss our home, which is not far from the border, sports is the only thing that helps me to forget the pain of being away from my home and my family."

I noticed then how much joy we brought into the hearts of those young students, particularly refugees.

Talal Qasqas - Jordan



I was always interested in sports and I am a strong believer in the importance of active involvement of locals to ensure that the project aligns with the community's needs and reflects a realistic approach.

-Being a part of the entire project was so meaningful to me. However, the highlight was our collaborative effort on the Gender Equality Builds Generation booklet. This valuable resource came to life through the contributions of local organizations, GIZ, and the joint efforts of S4D in Kurdistan colleagues.

Throughout my journey as an instructor, I had the opportunity to re-engage with the sports community. I had the privilege of meeting incredible individuals and gaining a wealth of knowledge during this experience.

Jihan Sinjari - Northern Iraq

Through my experience in S4D-GIZ, I learned the importance of effective communication and collaboration. This experience not only resulted in a successful project but also honed my leadership skills. It underscored that fostering a supportive team environment is crucial for turning ideas into impactful projects, emphasizing the value of teamwork in achieving common goals.

Rahaf Smadi - Jordan



YOUTH LEADERS

Highlights

In the S4D project, I gained experience managing exercises for youth, focusing on inclusivity and safety. I developed skills in communication, leadership, and time management. Responsibilities included planning activities for positive impact, and collaborating with specific groups like refugees and sports teams.

As an S4D youth leader, I guided, organized events, encouraged leadership, and mentored youth to achieve personal goals. The program increased my confidence, affirming my ability to make a positive difference in the community through sports.

Mohammed Matroud - Jordan



Engaging in the Sports for Development program not only enhanced my personal relationships but also provided physical and psychological benefits, fostering a strong sense of teamwork. It significantly improved my skills, cultivating happiness and satisfaction, leading to a greater appreciation for life's simplicity and strengthening social bonds. A memorable moment at the American University initiative was connecting with inspiring individuals like Rahaf Smadi and Teresa Aloudat, whose spontaneity, creativity, and style positively influenced our sports journey. "We need movements, not feet."

Rania Almayaa - Jordan



Throughout my journey with S4D Project, I have noticed a big improvement in my communication skills, physical and mental abilities, and overall self-development. Through interactions with diverse individuals, I gained valuable experiences. One memorable incident occurred in Karak camp, This incident significantly impacted my life, accelerating my thinking, response speed, and risk assessment, while also making me more socially adept.

Rawan Alshgoor- Jordan











Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Programme/project description:
Exchange, Education and Conflict Transformation through
Sport for Development

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Photo credits/sources:
GIZ

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On behalf of German Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development
(BMZ)

Amman, 01/2024