



SPORT FOSTERS GENDER EQUALITY AND PREVENTS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS



Study confirms impact of «Sport for Development» in Northern Iraq

Background

In Iraq, **gender-based discrimination against women and girls** is heavily impeding their opportunities for social and political participation as well as their access to education, health care and employment. This discrimination is based on the **patriarchal structure of society, gender stereotypes and unequal power relations**. Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is thereby the most extreme expression of gender inequality. War and displacement are also negatively affecting the security situation and safety of women and girls.

Sport provides a platform to question traditional gender roles and to change these in the long term. Team sport promotes social skills like fairness, tolerance, and mutual understanding through communication, and it helps players **overcome cultural gender boundaries**. Players are also given the opportunity to develop **healthy, respectful relationships** amongst different genders. Sport, when implemented in a **pedagogically and socially appropriate manner**, can provide a **safe and protected environment** in which sensitive issues can be discussed freely and without prejudice—with both girls and boys. The **empowerment of girls** and women, strengthening the self-worth and self-confidence is an important prerequisite for achieving gender equality

The Project

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH supports introducing **gender sensitive** sports activities into camps for **internally displaced persons (IDP)** and **Syrian refugees** as well as **host communities** in **Northern Iraq** and **Jordan** to foster **psychosocial well-being** and a **peaceful coexistence**. The project has started its work in Jordan in 2016 and in Iraq in 2018, training local coaches to identify and exploit the potential of sport for children's development. Until now, over **30.000 children and youth** have been reached through 370 trained sport coaches in Iraq. To prove that GIZ's S4D approach is a meaningful tool to promote **gender equality** and to **prevent VAWG**, to strengthen **psychosocial well-being** and to foster **social cohesion**, the project has joint forces with the **GIZ Global Project S4D**, the **German Sport University Cologne**, the **University of Dohuk** and the NGO **Friends of Waldorf Education**.

Intervention Design

Children and Youth between 10 and 19 years old (28% female) in 25 sport teams participated in regular gender sensitive **Football** and **Ultimate Frisbee** sessions (2x/week), **“Fair-Play”- Leagues** and **Game Festivals**. The activities were conducted in three **IDP camps** (Chamishko, Bersive I, Bersive II) in Zakho District, Duhok Governorate and the **host community** of Zakho City. 20 sport coaches (two per team) implemented the activities for a period of eight to nine months. All coaches received previous and continuous technical, methodological, and pedagogical training and supervision to be able to implement sport in a way that fosters psychosocial support, gender equality and prevention of VAWG as well as social cohesion.

Data collection and study design

- Quasi-experimental study design; mixed-method approach with quantitative and qualitative elements
- Standardized digital questionnaire (> 60 items) via tablets and focus group discussions
- 636 children and youth interviewed (317 intervention group, thereof 28% females; 319 comparison group, thereof 35% females)
- Baseline: November 2021
- Endline: May/ June 2022

Characteristics of the intervention group

- Football:** 253 children and youth
- Ultimate Frisbee:** 64 children and youth
- IDP camps:** 253 children and youth
- Host communities:** 64 children and youth
- Mixed sports teams:** 220 children and youth
- Same-sex teams** (mainly boys): 97 children and youth

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5 GENDER EQUALITY

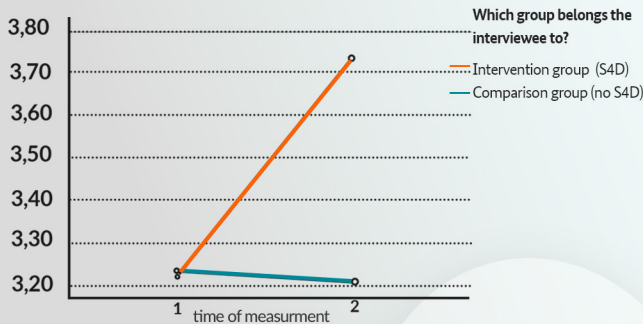


Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



THE STUDY RESULTS ARE STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT AND CAN BE GENERALIZED TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10 AND 19 IN NORTHERN IRAQ FROM THE S4D INTERVENTION CONTEXT.

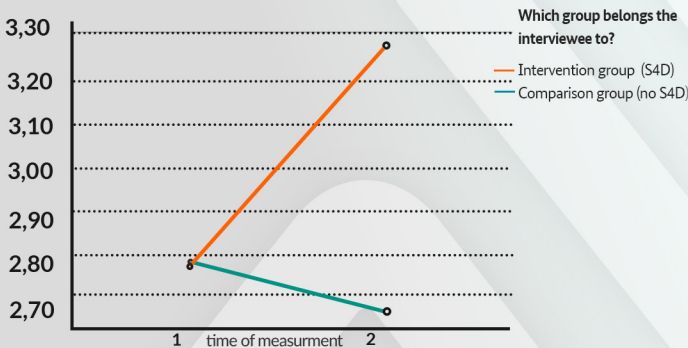
SDG 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere



Scale from 1 (misogynistic attitudes) to 4 (egalitarian attitudes)
 Statistical significance: < 0,001
 (< 0,1% probability that the observed effect arose by chance in the sample)
 Effect size: strong

S4D measures in Northern Iraq improve attitudes towards gender equality.

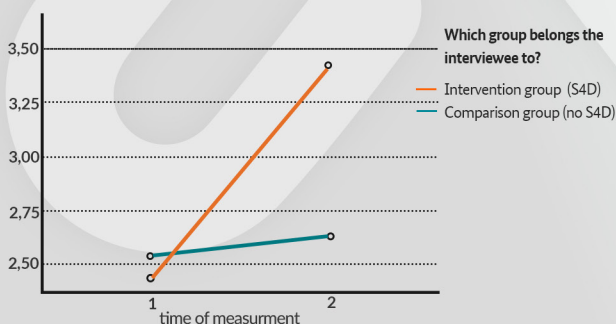
SDG 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation



Scale from 1 (misogynistic attitudes) to 4 (egalitarian attitudes)
 Statistical significance: < 0,001
 (< 0,1% probability that the observed effect arose by chance in the sample)
 Effect size: medium - strong

S4D measures in Northern Iraq reduce the acceptance of gender based violence against women and girls.

SDG 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work [...] through promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate



Scale from 1 (misogynistic attitudes) to 4 (egalitarian attitudes)
 Statistical significance: < 0,001
 (< 0,1% probability that the observed effect arose by chance in the sample)
 Effect size: medium

S4D measures in Northern Iraq promote attitudes towards an equal division of labour in the household but no behavioral changes.

The statements made derive from over 60 items, thereof 17 specifically on knowledge, attitudes, and behavior in the context of SDG 5.1, 5.2 and 5.4