

10 REDUCE INEQUALITIES



SPORT REDUCES INEQUALITIES AND STRENGTHENS SOCIAL COHESION



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

Background

War and displacement have left internally displaced people (IDP) but also the Kurdish host community with **mistrust and prejudices**. Social cohesion is about mutual trust, a shared sense of belonging, and a sense of responsibility towards others. Thus, notions of tolerance, the **appreciation of diversity** and equality are crucial to fostering social cohesion.

Sport can play a role in supporting these various elements of social cohesion. However, sport is a social activity that might divide as much as it unites. Yet, when implemented in a **pedagogically and socially appropriate** manner, S4D can contribute by building core competences on an individual level while **fostering social inclusion** on a community level. S4D activities provide an arena for the community to witness **cooperation and support building relationships** - connecting individuals to communities and across social groups. Essential competences such as critical thinking, respect, tolerance, cooperation and problem-solving can develop. Furthermore, S4D activities require interaction and can thus help **challenge stereotypes** between **different ethnicities** or **religions** and break barriers of mistrust.

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 violence against women and girls (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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Sport for Development

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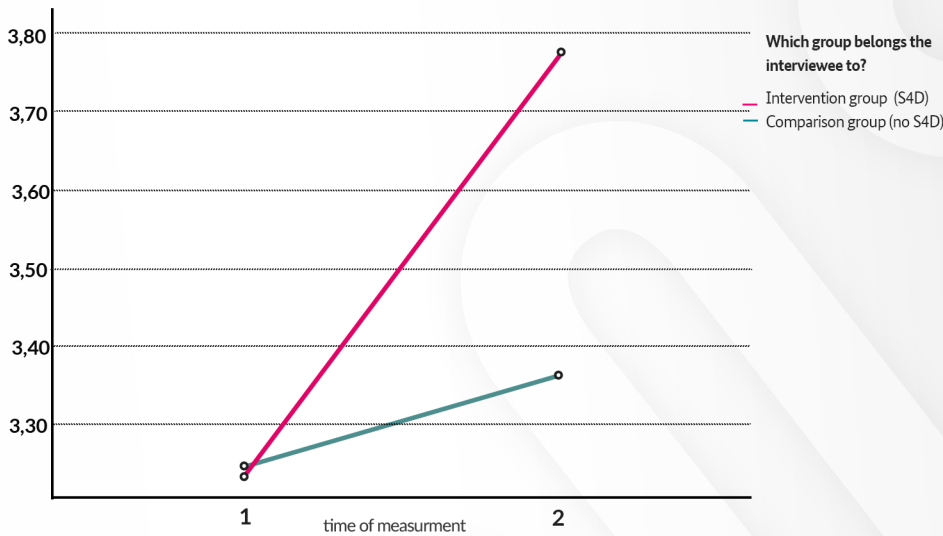


SDG 10.2
BY 2030, EMPOWER AND PROMOTE THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INCLUSION OF ALL, IRRESPECTIVE OF AGE, SEX, DISABILITY, RACE, ETHNICITY, ORIGIN, RELIGION OR ECONOMIC OR OTHER STATUS



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.

Inclusion, respect & tolerance towards other religions and ethnicities



Scale from 1 (exclusionary behaviour) to 4 (inclusive behaviour)
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 REINFORCE INCLUSIVE BEHAVIOR TOWARDS OTHER RELIGIONS AND ETHNICITIES.

The statement made derive from over 60 items, thereof 17 specifically on knowledge, attitudes, and behavior in the context of SDG 10.2