

GIZ regional program Exchange, Education and Conflict Transformation through "Sport for Development"

Yalla Riyada Youth Leadership Program

Engaging youth in sport and play for social change.

The GIZ S4D Youth Leadership Program empowers motivated young people of diverse backgrounds to initiate sport and play activities for fellow youth and children within their communities. The one-year program equips Youth Leaders with practical knowledge and skills based on the Sport for Development approach, which aims to combine sportive activities with personal and social development goals. The initiative is implemented by the GIZ program Sport for Development on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the Association Football Development Project (AFDP), between 2019 and 2021.

Youth in Jordan High Potential in Uncertain Times

With young people (aged 12–30) comprising one third of the population, and 35.8% below the age of 15, Jordan is a very youthful country. Youth in Jordan face multiple challenges, such as a low employment rate, limited policy engagement, and a rapid growth in population caused by the crisis in Syria. In addition, civic engagement of youth in Jordan is low; only 2.7% of Jordanian youths are engaged in civil society groups. The barriers to volunteer work are often high, volunteer work often does not seem attractive.





However, young people's active participation in charitable work is considered a key driver for the social, cultural, political, and economic progress of the society. According to the 2018–2020 Jordan Response Plan (JRP), "Com-

munity-based initiatives, including those targeting youth, are more important than ever to build self-reliance, promote positive coping mechanisms, and encourage social cohesion."

The S4D Youth Leadership Program therefore aims to increase civic engagement of youth in "Sport for Development" to promote social change in targeted communities.

Sport as Platform for Civic Engagement

Sport offers numerous options for young people to serve the community and grow as individuals. Although volunteering work requires strong commitment, engaged boys and girls acquire valuable life skills, enhance their employability, and establish valuable networks for their futures. Additionally, proactive and self-confident youth engagement contributes to the healthy and sustainable development of the community.

-  Youth between 15 and 19 yrs.
-  Training as youth facilitator
-  In sport and play for social change
-  Within their schools and communities



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Youth Leadership Training

With this initiative, the GIZ aims to empower young volunteer leaders to initiate and sustain behavioral change in their communities using sport as a platform. Youths between 15 and 19 are trained in fundamental life skills, sport facilitation skills, and project management and play management skills during a comprehensive and practical qualification phase. The volunteers will be sensitized for their own role within and the impact of their behavior on a team. The training prepares each team of at least two Youth Leaders to develop and implement an activity plan that meets local needs. They will actively gather local support and establish a program plan with inclusive S4D sport and play sessions and sport festivals for children and fellow youth. Close mentorship by experienced GIZ staff and local mentors (S4D-certified coaches) ensures support during each step of the project.

Background: GIZ Sport for Development

Since 2016, the GIZ program Sport for Development has been training teachers, coaches, and social workers all over Jordan to strengthen their players' social skills through a gender-sensitive, age-appropriate, fun-oriented, and participatory sportive training. S4D activities are open to all parts of the population, particularly girls/young women, refugees, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups. With its strong emphasis on social interaction, the S4D activities create trust among players, increase respect for girls and women, and shape the overall understanding of fair play among participating children and youth.

With the Youth Leadership program, the GIZ uses local capacities by working together with well-experienced and S4D certified coaches and teachers in the role of local Mentors. Youth participation is seen as an important step to promote social cohesion, psychosocial well-being, and social inclusion within the target communities.

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

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Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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

Author/Responsible/Editor, etc.:
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Design/layout, etc.:
M. Barroq Design, Amman

Photo credits/sources:
GIZ

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

Amman, 04/2019