

Strengthening municipalities and promoting democracy through sport

Sport for Development in Mozambique

The challenge

Over half the population of Mozambique – in particular those living in rural areas – still live below the poverty line. The rapid and unregulated growth of urban centres, especially around the capital Maputo, has resulted in a significant deterioration in living conditions for the urban population. Access to water and healthcare facilities is inadequate, and school education does not reach everyone, which leads to rising youth unemployment. In addition, the high HIV infection rate represents a threat to young people – and to girls in particular. Promotion of democracy, health-related issues – in particular HIV and AIDS prevention – and education are of overriding importance for development in Mozambique. This is where ‘Sport for Development in Africa’ (S4DA) has a role to play: The project promotes the personal development as well as social participation in communities and disseminates knowledge on health issues through sport. Civil society organisations, in particular, have great potential for societal involvement of children and young people and are available as partners in the municipalities.

Our approach

The United Nations recognises sport internationally ‘as a means to promote education, health, development and peace’. German development cooperation also uses the opportunities offered by ‘Sport for Development’. Sport allows children and young people to lead healthy lives, and it teaches them to take on responsibility, behave fairly and resolve conflict peacefully. These are key skills

Project title	‘Sport for Development in Africa’ (S4DA) Regional Project
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project regions in Africa	Multi-state project in Mozambique, Ethiopia, Kenya, Namibia and Togo, as well as individual smaller-scale measures in other African countries
Project regions in Mozambique	Maputo (city and province)
Partners	Faculty of Physical Education and Sports at the Pedagogic University of Maputo (UP), Municipal Council of the city of Matola, Don Bosco Mozambique, Association to Promote the Development of Young People (Khandlelo), Sports Club Albazine (ADA), Bayerischer Fußballverband e.V. (BFV)
Overall term	2014 to 2018

that will later help them gain a foothold in the working world. German development cooperation trains coaches for this purpose. They are role models and figures the young people can trust. The coaches give the children and young people a stronger sense of self-esteem and help them develop prospects for the future. During training, they address health-related topics such as HIV prevention and alcohol abuse. Sport is not just physical exercise, it is part of their education.

Together with local and international partners from the fields of policy-making, civil society, business and academia, German development cooperation has built up a sustainable sport portfolio that also helps strengthen civil society and promote democracy.



Sport is a concern among municipalities. We go a step further and support the active participation of civil society in municipal development.



Communal sports activities help children and young people to acquire social skills such as cooperation, tolerance, honesty and team spirit.

In this way, sport serves as an innovative instrument that drives change and sustainable development – for each individual child and for society as a whole.

The project

The S4DA project began establishing sport as a tool for achieving development goals in selected African countries in 2014, when the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH was commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). S4DA makes an important contribution to implementing 'More Space for Sport – 1,000 Chances for Africa', the initiative launched by Federal Minister Dr Gerd Müller in 2014.

In Mozambique, the project supports cooperation between universities, municipalities and local clubs – and in so doing also promotes good governance. As a result of the collaboration with the Pedagogic University (UP) of Maputo, the university has integrated the 'Sport for Development'-approach into its curriculum for training physical education teachers. S4DA provides advisory services to the municipal council of the city of Matola, which has made sports promotion a part of its development plan. Together with partners from Maputo and sports students from the university, civil society sports organisations in Matola are being helped in their efforts to create more efficient structures. Integration of the 'Sport for Development'-approach into the work of clubs contributes to the expansion and improvement of participatory activities for children and young people. The rehabilitation of existing sports grounds and construction of new ones in densely populated areas create important spaces for learning and discovery for socio-economically disadvantaged children and young people.

Results achieved so far

Results achieved so far in collaboration with partners include the following:

- Local partners have now improved organisational structures and advise other civil society organisations with regard to good governance and establishing the 'Sport for Development'-approach.
- The 'Sport for Development'-approach was integrated into the sports faculty curriculum at the UP. Trainee teachers and coaches now implement the approach on a broad basis in their teaching practice-schools and home communities.
- The sports faculty at the UP has also disseminated the 'Sport for Development'-approach at teacher training institutions in other provinces of Mozambique.
- Through training personnel of the UP and civil society partner organisations, 'Sport for Development' is already being offered by schools, sport clubs and communities. These youth now have access to proper educational sports activities, which improve their educational opportunities, provide a platform for involvement and teach everyday life skills.
- Over 100 coaches and teachers have been trained in the 'Sport for Development'-approach using the methodologies developed. 40 coaches were trained to become 'Sport for Development'-instructors, who pass on their knowledge to other teachers and coaches.

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