Indonesia: Football as a tool for quality education in schools

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<th>Sport for Development, Indonesia</th>
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<td>Commissioned by</td>
<td>German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)</td>
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<td>Partners</td>
<td>Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture, international, national and local football federations and associations (AFC, DFB, FFA, FIFA, PSSI)</td>
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<td>May 2018 – September 2019</td>
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Context

Value education and conveying life skills are part of Indonesia’s national development and education policies in the ‘mental revolution’ reform framework according to Presidential Instruction No. 12/2016. Related to this, the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture launched a nationwide character-building initiative for schools in 2016 (Penguatan Pendidikan Karakter, PPK), naming sport as one of five contributing priority areas. Furthermore, Presidential Instruction No. 3/2019 aims at developing Football in Indonesia, naming capacity development and qualification of coaches as one of the target activity areas.

The ‘Sport for Development’ approach

The United Nations recognise 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 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. 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.

'Sport for Development' in Indonesia

Initiated in 2018, the goal of the new multi-actor-partnership ‘Sport for Development – Sepakbola untuk Pembinaan Karakter’ in Indonesia is to establish sport, in particular football, as a tool and method to improve the quality of character-building, life skills promotion and health-education for children and youth in the Indonesian education and sport structures. The focus of the cooperation is not elite sports or individual talent promotion. Instead, the Indonesian and international partners from government and sports aim to use a ‘sports for all’ approach to better educate girls and boys in Indonesia and to contribute to national development goals. Besides the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) and German development cooperation, the Indonesian Football Association (PSSI), the German Football Asso-
cipation (DFB), the Football Federation Australia (FFA) commissioned by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), as well as the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) are contributing to the capacity building activities.

In cooperation with the MoEC, the GIZ sector programme Sport for Development (S4D) on behalf of German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) provides in particular advice on the integration of sport as an inclusive, pedagogical and cost-effective method in education structures.

The GIZ S4D programme also advises counterparts on the development and design of integrated S4D monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and practice tools in cooperation with the German Sports University Cologne.

Furthermore, the GIZ S4D programme supports the training of primary and middle school teachers to use football as a tool for education in currently two project regions: East Java and Maluku.

The joint publication of a practical MoEC guideline for teachers to implement fun and inclusive “learning through sport” activities and to promote football for character-building in elementary schools was completed in the second half of 2019.

**Partners**

German development cooperation activities in the field of ‘Sport for Development’ in Indonesia are carried out in cooperation with the following organisations:

- Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC)
- Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI)
- German Football Association (DFB)
- Football Federation Australia (FFA) on behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia (DFAT)
- Asian Football Confederation (AFC)
- Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)

**Successes to date**

Within the framework of the ‘Sport for Development’ partnership, technical experts from DFB, FFA, AFC, FIFA and GIZ consulted with PSSI in 2018 to enrich the curriculum of the Indonesian grassroots football license (D-license) with methods aimed to promote development topics related to life skills, health and violence-prevention in combination with basic football skills.

The new curriculum furthermore aims to strengthen the quality of coaching competencies such as facilitating age-appropriate reflection and discussion. PSSI is currently rolling-out the new ‘D-license&S4D’ country-wide.

The international technical experts introduced 35 PSSI instructors to the approach and methods of ‘sport for development’ in two instructor refresher courses organised by PSSI.

Until the end of 2018, some of these instructors delivered 14 one-week ‘D-license&S4D’ courses in various districts in East Java and four courses in Ambon, Buru and Seram Island in Maluku as part of the S4D cooperation. The courses always finish with a grassroots football festival for local children, organised by the course participants, on the last day. From October until mid-December 2018, about 380 female and male teachers from the two provinces completed their training. Sport is thus used as a quality educational tool to promote children’s social and personal development.

In addition to the teachers, about 155 female and male coaches participated in the new ‘D-license&S4D’ courses in both provinces. The trained instructors, teachers and new coaches are empowered as multipliers to promote education, health and character-building for young people through football in schools and communities in Indonesia.

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