

General S4D Background

Background

This area first came to global prominence in 2001, when the United Nations appointed a Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace. Two years later, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 58/5, 'Sport as a means to promote education, health, development and peace'. This resolution confirmed the contribution that sport can make to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Then, in 2006, the European Commission and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding on the specific development role football can play in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. In 2007, the Commission produced its White Paper on Sport, which called for greater promotion of sport within international development. In order to raise public awareness for the importance of sport, in August 2013 the United Nations declared the 6th of April the "International Day of Sport for Development and Peace".

What is Sport for Development?

Sport for Development refers to the intentional use of sport, physical activity and play to attain specific development objectives, including, most notably, the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Sport for this purpose includes all forms of physical activity that contribute to physical and mental well-being and social interaction, such as play, recreation, organized or competitive sport, and indigenous sports and games. The Sport for Development approach aims at realizing the right of all members of society to participate in sport and it embodies the best values of sport while upholding the quality and integrity of the sport experience.

Which role can sport play in development?

Sport is a universal language uniting people across the world. Sport can play a role that goes well beyond learning physical skills: it can be used as an educational tool, it helps to prevent HIV / AIDS and violence and generally has a positive impact on the physical and mental health of children and adolescents. Finally, sport conveys so-called "lifeskills" that help to master difficult situations and develop perspectives for one's future.

Examples:

- Tool for violence prevention
- Platform for intercultural exchange
- Relief in emergency settings
- Contribution to gender empowerment
- Incentive for global learning
- Supplement for reconciliation and social cohesion
- Awareness-raising tool for development topics

How can sport be used to contribute to development?

Sport for Development programmes use sport (1) in itself to enhance physical and mental wellbeing (on the field) and (2) to convey inherent values and competences (on the field), as well as (3) in modified ways to explicitly convey specific competences and development topics (on the field), and (4) in itself and/or in modified ways to combine it with other learning formats focussing on specific competences and development topics (on and off the field). They are delivered in an integrated manner and in alignment with national development and sport initiatives so that they are mutually reinforcing. They seek to empower participants and communities by engaging them in the design and delivery of activities, building local capacity, adhering to generally accepted principles of transparency and accountability, and pursuing sustainability through collaboration, partnerships and coordinated action.

Resources

GIZ, misc. factsheets and brochures (cf. handouts)

SAD, www.sportanddev.org