

# Tunisia: Sport as a tool to strengthen employability, promote good health and prevent violence

Project name	Sport for Development, Tunisia
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Main partner	Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sports
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## Context

Since the 2011 revolution, Tunisian youth have been aspiring for an improvement of their socio-economic situation and their future prospects. Until now, the national youth policy does not respond in the most satisfactory way to the economic and social needs of youth. This situation contributes to the development of risky behaviors among young people, such as drug use, verbal and physical violence, religious radicalisation and illegal migration. Youth inactivity has been a massive problem in Tunisia with 32% of the population categorised as not being in education, employment, or training (NEETs) in 2021.

The Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sports addresses this challenge through a policy vision and provides target group-oriented offerings through a network of over 350 youth centers.

## The 'Sport for Development' approach

The United Nations recognise sport internationally as a means to promote education, health, development and peace. 'Sport for Development' (S4D) uses all forms of sport, physical education, games, and physical activity

intentionally to pursue non-sporting development outcomes based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Taught in an educational and context sensitive manner, sport and physical activity allow children and young people to lead healthy lives. Sport also teaches them to take on responsibility, collaborate in team, foster participation of all gender, behave fairly and resolve conflict peacefully. These are among the key skills that will support them positively on their way forward in personal and professional life.

Together with local and international partners from the fields of policymaking, civil society, business and academia, German Development Cooperation has built up a sustainable S4D portfolio that promotes intersectoral cooperation and knowledge transfer. This way, sport serves as an innovative instrument that drives holistic sustainable development – for each individual child and for society as a whole.

## 'Sport for Development' in Tunisia

German Development Cooperation – in collaboration with the Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sport implements in 6 pilot youth centers in Bizerte, Le Kef, Jendouba and Tozeur the pedagogic method 'Take your life



Left to right:  
Manual development workshop with youth center staff, directors, inspectors and youth from associations. Tabarka, May 2021

Psycho-social S4D game during manual development workshop May 2021

S4D Formation for delegates from Tunisian municipalities. Hammamat, December 2021

into your own hands'. The aim is to establish sport and psycho-social activities as a tool and method to improve life skill promotion, employability and violence prevention for 1,200 disadvantaged youth prone to risky behaviors.

The Central Administration of Prisons offer S4D activities in five pilot prisons to prevent violence and radicalization of detainees.

Delegates of seven Tunisian municipalities use the S4D method to promote good health and inclusion of vulnerable groups and people with disabilities.

As sports activities are attractive to young people, the cooperation uses sport such as football, volleyball and basketball and traditional games as an educational tool in order to develop life skills for boys and girls. Any physical and / or sporting activity is suitable for a socio-sporting game. It is about encouraging young people to practice sport while developing their skills and setting short- and long-term goals in daily life and achieving them to contribute to national development goals.

In this context, the programme provides capacity building support to combine sport-pedagogical measures and national development goals. It creates learning environments and trains sport coaches to apply the sport-pedagogical concept in their work. The coaches are then encouraged to promote important values and life skills to children and youth through regular fun physical activities and by creating safe learning settings.

Furthermore, the programme also advises counterparts in the Ministry of Youth and Sport on the development

of integrated S4D monitoring and evaluation frameworks and practice tools in cooperation with the German Sport University Cologne. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the S4D programme maintains its relevance in promoting healthy living.

## Partners

German Development Cooperation activities in the field of 'Sport for Development' in Tunisia are carried out in cooperation with the following organisations:

- Tunisian Ministry of Youth and Sports
- German Sports University of Cologne

## Successes to date

75 people are trained in the approach, including regional inspectors from Ministries, youth center directors, youth workers, sport coaches and responsables of the Central Administration of Prisons.

Two pedagogic manuals are developed; for the use in youth centers with the focus on the prevention of violence and the promotion of employability; and for the use in Tunisian prisons with the focus on health and well being as well as on the prevention of radicalization and violent behavior.

An impact study is designed in cooperation with the German Sports University of Cologen to measure the effects of S4D activities on Tunisian youth in youth centers.

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Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany  
  
Sector Programme 'Sport for Development'

GIZ Office Tunis  
B.P. 753 – 1080 Tunis Cedex – Tunesien  
T +216 71 967 220  
F +216 71 967 227  
sport-for-development@giz.de  
www.giz.de/sport-for-development

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### On behalf of

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### Division

Culture, creative industries, media, sport

### Addresses of the BMZ offices

BMZ Bonn  
Dahlmannstraße 4  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
T +49 (0)228 99 535-0  
F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500

poststelle@bmz.bund.de  
www.bmz.de

BMZ Berlin  
Stresemannstraße 94  
10963 Berlin, Germany  
T +49 (0)30 18 535-0  
F +49 (0)30 18 535- 2501