

Promoting vocational education through sport

Sport for Development in Ethiopia

The challenge

Ethiopia occupies one of the lowest ranking positions on the Human Development Index (HDI) of the United Nations. Around 30 per cent of the Ethiopian population still live below the poverty line. In 2010 the Ethiopian Government adopted a five-year plan to promote economic growth. But many parts of the country lack qualified skilled workers. For this reason, development of a vocational training system has high priority for both the Ethiopian Government and German development cooperation. The great enthusiasm for sport on the African continent also creates opportunities for the German development cooperation. However, the potential to reach development goals, such as education, violence prevention, good governance, gender equality, promotion of health as well as environmental awareness through sport, is not sufficiently used so far. In addition to inadequate sports infrastructure, the country lacks properly focused educational sports activities and qualified staff. This is where 'Sport for Development in Africa' (S4DA) has a role to play through its development-oriented educational and youth work at vocational schools.

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

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| 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 Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia and Togo, as well as individual smaller-scale measures in other African countries |
| Project regions in Ethiopia | Addis Ababa, Adigrat, Bahir Dar, Debre Zeyit, Hawassa, Mekele |
| Partners | Ethiopian Federal TVET Agency; Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture; state vocational schools; <i>Don Bosco Mondo e.V.</i> ; Ethiopian sports associations for football, basketball, volleyball and handball |
| 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. 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.



Every 'Sport2Work' training unit starts off in a circle, in which the coach discusses with youngsters the content and objectives of the unit.



During the 'Sport2Work' training on the sports ground, the focus is on promoting self-confidence, communication skills and the ability to give constructive feedback.

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 Ethiopia, the focus is on promoting vocational education through the approach 'Sport for Development'. The project works closely in this regard with the existing vocational education project currently being implemented by German development cooperation. Thanks to the construction of new sports grounds and rehabilitation of existing facilities at state and private vocational schools, and by further training teachers, the 'Sport for Development'-approach is being integrated into the school curriculum and young people have the chance to reinforce key skills relevant to the labour market, such as the ability to work as part of a team, to take responsibility and to develop a sense of purpose. In addition, the approach helps to improve teaching quality and promotes healthy lifestyles among students. The approach also facilitates entry into the labour market. Since sports grounds at vocational schools are also used by clubs and community groups, they provide points of contact which encourage young people to consider the range of services offered by vocational schools. In addition, extra-curricular activities linked to sports events help provide a vocational orientation.

Results achieved so far

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

- 24 sports grounds at vocational schools and youth centres throughout Ethiopia have so far been rehabilitated or newly constructed. These benefit more than 20,400 children and young people.
- The project developed the 'Sport2Work' methodology to promote vocational education through sport. It serves as a basis for advanced training for coaches.
- Based on the 'Sport2Work' methodology, 13 teachers and coaches have so far been trained as 'Sport for Development'-instructors who pass on their knowledge to other teachers and coaches.
- A steering group made up of central state and civil society partners was created, which makes an important contribution to network-building and strengthening cooperation between key stakeholders in Ethiopia.
- The Addis Abeba Technical and Vocational Training (TVET) Agency supports the project with setting up and establishing sports clubs and using appropriately qualified staff in vocational schools. This sustainably anchors the 'Sport for Development'-approach in the vocational education system.
- Haile Gebrselassie, multiple marathon world record holder and a national hero in Ethiopia, has agreed to become a 'Sport for Development'-ambassador. His popularity helps ensure that the potential of sport to achieve development goals is made known nationwide.

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'Sport for Development in Africa' Regional Project
Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1
65760 Eschborn, Germany
www.giz.de/Sport-for-Development-in-Africa

Contact Hannes Bickel
Hannes.Bickel@giz.de

Editor Kathrin Schmid

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

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

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

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