



# Palestinian territories: Promoting vocational education through sport

## Context

The ongoing conflict and regional fragmentation in the Palestinian territories continue to undermine the region's education system and economic development. Half of the Palestinian population live in poverty, and youth unemployment, at 40 per cent, is very high. A lack of educational opportunities and career guidance make it more difficult for young people to find work. Furthermore, there is little recognition in Palestinian society of the benefits of vocational education. Against this backdrop, sustainable economic development and job creation are priority areas for German development cooperation in the Palestinian territories.

## 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.

Project title	Promoting vocational education and improving access to the job market through Sport for Development
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project regions	East Jerusalem, West Bank
Partners	German Football Association (DFB); Palestinian Ministry of Labor; Lutheran World Federation (LWF); Palestine Sports for Life; German Sport University (GSU) Cologne and others etc.
Overall term	Late 2014 to Mid 2019

## Sport in Palestinian territories

Sport has not yet been comprehensively integrated into school curricula in the Palestinian territories, and there is still too great a focus on providing support at the elite level. Grass-roots sport generally takes place outside school. Public infrastructure is also very limited, with only few sports facilities available for use. Through their activities in the field of 'Sport for Development', German development cooperation helps socially disadvantaged young people to develop important personal and work-related



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*Trainee coaches learn how to run coaching sessions, and try out exercises for themselves.*



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skills. The activities also aim to provide targeted careers guidance to marginalised young people who would otherwise be difficult to reach. One approach involves providing information on career options at sports events together with hands-on opportunities to try out various manual tasks. Sport is also integrated into career guidance days and vocational education programmes. This leads to increased levels of acceptance and greater interest in vocational education among young people.

Through the project's activities, coaches and sports science graduates learn to impart key skills through the medium of sport. The aim is to use sports activities to help young people recognise the value of competencies that will help them forge successful careers, such as a sense of responsibility or the ability to work in a team. Training in non-violent ways of resolving conflict also plays a significant role.

## Partners

German development cooperation activities in the field of 'Sport for Development' in the Palestinian territories are carried out in cooperation with the following organisations:

- Palestinian Ministry of Labor
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- German Football Association (DFB)
- Non-governmental vocational education institute of the Lutheran World Federation in East Jerusalem (LWF)
- Technical and research support from the German Sport University Cologne (DSHS)

## Success to date

- In a series of one-week workshops ending in early 2017, 85 coaches and sports science graduates familiarised themselves with the new Sport for Development methods. These multipliers regularly coach more than 2,400 young people.
- In cooperation with national and international partners the handbook 'Kicking Youth Competencies' has been developed in 2016 and the manual 'Learn to Play - Play to Learn' in 2017. The manuals serve as a pedagogical and practical reference for coaches wishing to impart vocational and social skills through sport. The first manual focuses on football, the second manual on other team sports (e.g. Ultimate Frisbee and Touch Rugby) and includes a wide range of simple 'small games'.
- In 2016, a multi-purpose sports facility was redeveloped at a vocational school in East Jerusalem. A plan for the use of the site was also drawn up to specify, for example, when different groups are permitted to use the facility. The arrangement provides vocational students with an opportunity to participate in sports while simultaneously developing important social skills. The plan also allows other local young people, youth centres and sports clubs to use the facility.
- Thanks to a series of summer camps and sports-related careers guidance days in the West Bank, more than 2000 young people have gained a practical insight into different vocational education options while actively participating in sports and games.

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