WHY? UNEQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

While school enrollment is over 90 per cent in South Africa, approximately 40 per cent of learners pass their matric. Poor teaching, large class sizes, lack of proper sanitation and widespread violence are the reality in many schools across South Africa. School drop out rates are high, and nearly 20 per cent of children aged 16-18 years are not in school. Drug abuse, crime and violence are some of the social ills that come about when young people are idle in their communities.

WHAT? SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT (S4D)

Sport for Development (S4D) is a strategy used to help bring about social change and cohesion in distressed communities. Sport and physical education is essential for the physical, mental and social development of children and adolescents. It helps them to learn the importance of key values such as honesty, teamwork, fair play, adherence to rules, and respect for themselves and others. S4D uses sport and play as programmatic tools to promote health, education, child protection, gender equality, HIV prevention and reduction of violence among children, young people, families and communities. The S4D programme contributes toward the Care and Support for Teaching and Learning (CSTL) Programme which aims to increase access, retention, completion and learning achievement by supporting: comprehensive life skills; psychosocial support programmes; partnerships at school level with parents, learners and community stakeholders; and health and safety improvements in the school environment.

HOW?

UNICEF, in close collaboration with the Department of Basic Education, has entered into strategic partnerships with several organizations to roll out the Sport for Development programme in South Africa. By providing technical advice on the curriculum, helping to train coaches and learners, and collecting evidence on the state of physical education in the country, UNICEF and partners are helping to ensure that remote and under-resourced schools across the country are benefiting from programmes that inspire learning and performance, keep learners busy and focused after school, and help to develop youth leadership skills. Active participation in Sport for Development programmes helps to change attitudes and gender norms, break the cycle of violence, reduce school dropout, and limit idle time out of school which can lead to risky behaviours such as substance abuse and unsafe sex.

WHO?

UNICEF works closely with the Department of Basic Education, South African Schools Netball, Sportstec, Supersport Let’s Play and University of Johannesburg to deliver on all aspects of Sport for Development. In addition to capacity building and technical advice, UNICEF and partners help to generate and share knowledge as well as build awareness about the important role of sport in schools to reduce violence, prevent HIV and improve learning outcomes.
“In the beginning the children are shy and reserved, but by the end they are confident and happy.”

- Mr. Thomas Allies, Teacher at Swarthmore Primary School in Upington, Northern Cape during the annual Physical Education Challenge event, which was developed by Active Education in collaboration with SuperSport and supported by UNICEF.

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?

Through the strategic partnerships for S4D, five pillars of action have emerged with demonstrated results:

1) Youth Leadership Programme (YLP)
   - The YLP has been initiated in five districts in Eastern Cape and reached 100 youth leaders as well as school principals and educators. Plans are in place to implement YLP in 42 schools across Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga and Gauteng and reach approximately 5000 learners.

2) Girl empowerment
   - 1.2 million female learners from 16,000 schools across all nine provinces have participated in netball programmes that support both sport and life skills capacity. Three hundred educators have been trained to support the programme.

3) Farm and rural school development
   - Over 18,000 learners and 240 educators from 60 schools in KwaZulu Natal and North West Provinces are benefiting from S4D activities that include life skills education.
   - Over 2300 learners (53 per cent girls) are receiving homework and life skills education at a Learning Centre in Geluksburg.

4) Generating evidence
   - A large national study is currently underway to determine the state of physical education in South Africa and provide recommendations for improvement to Government by the end of 2017.

5) Physical education
   - Approximately 400 educators and coaches from 300 schools have been trained in physical education and sport in line with the Life Orientation curriculum.

WHAT NEXT?

As part of the continued evolution of the S4D agenda in South Africa, UNICEF will support Government to roll out S4D, particularly to the most disadvantaged schools, while strengthening the delivery of quality physical education and school sport in all primary and secondary schools nationwide. Key objectives include:

- Expand the S4D youth leadership programme and train 400 coaches and 5000 learners in 42 schools across Eastern Cape, KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga and Gauteng;
- Raise awareness on the positive impact S4D has towards adolescent challenges of violence, teenage pregnancy, HIV and poor education outcomes;
- Roll out new technology to monitor and assess all S4D programmes and ensure targeted quality improvement.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

By supporting Sport for Development, companies have the opportunity to demonstrate private sector leadership in South Africa, and help give young people a sporting chance for a better life in the future. Such concrete action directly supports objectives of the National Development Plan as well as the Sustainable Development Goals in South Africa.

CONTACT US

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