**TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING ON RECENT INITIATIVES ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

***“Seeds of peace: Haitian youth committed to building a better society”***

***Task:*** *A project in Haiti funded by the UN Peacebuilding Fund, “Seeds of peace: Haitian youth committed to building a better society” ($1,500,000), implemented by Concern Worldwide in partnership with two community associations – Lakou Lapè and Sakala – aimed to promote leadership, representation and effective participation of young women and men in peacebuilding in Cité Soleil, Bel Air and St Martin. The project aimed to reduce the influence and attraction of gangs for young people in targeted neighborhoods by supporting communities, in particular community-based organizations and youth groups, to organize themselves, identify development priorities, initiate dialogues with different actors, and improve the availability and access to basic services identified by communities.*

***Timeframe:*** *February 2021-June 2023*

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| **Please provide more details on each initiative including items below:** | | |
| **Objective(s):** | *Please indicate which, if any, of the following fall among the main objectives of the initiative:* | |
| * Ensuring no one is left behind (advancing empowerment, inclusiveness and equality through sport) | * Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity |
| * Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development | * Conflict prevention/peace building |
| * Research development, data collection and/or data dissemination | * Safely harnessing sport for sustainable development, peace and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of technology |
| * Reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises, leading to the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions | * Safeguarding sport from corruption and crime |
| * Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace | * Other (please specify) |
| **Situation** | *What is the challenge or problem that the initiative aims to address?*  The main problem identified by the project was a deep feeling of exclusion among young Haitians from the overall development process of their country, expressed by the feeling of being abandoned by the authorities. Violence was then seen as the means of obtaining what was denied to them, such as career opportunities, economic benefits, and social respect. | |
| **Implementation mechanisms:** | *What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?*  The project was implemented by Concern Worldwide, in close partnership with two local community associations - Lakou Lapè and Sakala – in Cité Soleil, Bel Air and St Martin. Concern Worldwide (CWW) has worked in Haiti since 1994 and in the urban areas of Port au Prince since 1996, focusing on improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable households, and has carried out numerous construction and peacebuilding interventions in neighborhoods concerned. CWW directly implemented socio-economic empowerment activities for 500 young people and provided support for CBOs. Lakou Lapè offered the technical and network expertise to engage political actors at national and local levels. Lakou Lapè was responsible for implementing social cohesion activities for the benefit of 500 young people in Bel Air and St Martin, training on conflict resolution and trauma healing. Founded after the violence of 2004 to help reduce violence between rival neighborhoods in Cité Soleil, Sakala benefitted the project with its significant community roots. Sakala facilitated direct implementation in Cité Soleil for implementing social cohesion activities with 1,000 young people from Cité Soleil and professional training in waste transformation and recovery.  *What are the main deliverables/activities involved?*  The project aimed to strengthen social, human, and economic capital of young people, including as young peace agents, while promoting a change in the social environment for young people to contribute to the development of their communities and to the reduction of violence. At the community level, the project activities aimed to strengthen social cohesion between young people from rival neighborhoods through weekly sporting, educational and artistic activities for promoting exchanges and breaking down barriers and prejudices between these young people.  *What is the time frame of implementation?*  The project was implemented between February 2021 and June 2023. | |
| **Target Audience(s):** | *Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?*  The project targeted 1,500 young people (aged 15-24), including 1,000 from 8 neighborhoods of Cité Soleil, 250 in Bel Air and 250 in St Martin, ensuring gender parity. The main targeting criteria included socio-economic vulnerability and risk of being recruited by gangs, area of residence, age, sex, disability, and status in the household. | |
| **Partners/Funding:** | *Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles?*  The project is supported by a Steering and Monitoring Committee including the Ministry of Youth, Sports and  Civic Action (MJSAC) and project partners. With nearly half of the project budget directly benefiting two local organizations, Lakou Lapè and Sakala, the project has been defined and largely implemented by local actors. A set of local consultations at the project design stage were carried out, while steering and monitoring committees also ensured full participation of local stakeholders during project implementation.  *What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?*  UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is the main source of funding of this initiative, with the total amount of $1,500,000 directed to Concern Worldwide as the primary implementing actor. | |
| **SDG Alignment:** | *To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?*  *Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.*  By facilitating the engagement of young people in public and political spheres, the project is aligned with the Strategic Development Plan of Haiti (PSDH), which aims to develop civic action and the culture of peace among young people. The project is also directly in line with the strategic vision of the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Civic Action (MJSAC) by using the sporting and cultural activities promoted by the Ministry to engage young people.  The project contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals: 4, 5, 8, 10, 16. | |
| **Alignment with global frameworks:** | *How does this initiative align with/contribute to the objectives of the* [*Kazan Action Plan*](https://en.unesco.org/mineps6/kazan-action-plan)*,* [*WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity*](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272722/9789241514187-eng.pdf) *or other related internationally agreed frameworks on sport and/or physical activity?*  The project is in line with the WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity, specifically Activity 3.1: “Strengthen provision of…more positive experiences and opportunities for active recreation, sports and play for girls and boys…”. | |
| **Alignment with United Nations Action Plan on SDP:** | *Which of the four thematic areas of the* [*UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace*](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/06/14.pdf) *is this initiative designed to align?*  *To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?*  The project is aligned with the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, namely “Resource mobilization, programming and implementation” thematic area – action 3 (c): “integrate relevant thematic areas and cross-cutting issues in sport for development and peace programmes, including the allocation of dedicated resources.” | |
| **Outcomes:** | *What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative?*  Through sports, cultural and psychosocial activities, Concern Worldwide brought together 1,927 young people (1,010 women, 917 men) from neighborhoods in conflict to foster links between communities. Coupled with socio-economic support, Concern Worldwide strengthened the agency of marginalized youth and reduced their vulnerability to gangs. The project also strengthened the capacity of young people as leaders by training 491 Young Peace Agents (255 women, 236 men). The Young Peace Agents forged links with civil society and participated in dialogues and reflection spaces, contributing to the construction of a culture of peace. | |
| **Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:** | *What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?*  *What specific monitoring and evaluation tools are involved?*  The project conducted rigorous monitoring initiatives, including periodical site visits by the project team and partners, as well as baseline and endline data collection. A light-touch independent project evaluation has also been completed as part of the PBF-managed Cohort Evaluation of Gender and Youth Promotion Initiatives’ projects approved in 2020. | |
| **Challenges/Lessons learned** | *What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?*  The main factors impacting the delays and need for non-cost extensions of the project were contextual and beyond the control of the project. The socio-political situation, the dynamics between armed groups and the peace and conflict interests of the local stakeholders had changed, when armed violence intensified, increasing internal displacements, and changing the dynamics between communities/sectors in the areas of intervention. Social unrest (manifestations, strikes, looting) and violence led to a temporary suspension of activities with many having been displaced and access to certain areas of the project limited. Notably, suspension of activities affected the youth professional training, CBOs and youth led peace and advocacy activities, and dialogues with leaders of armed and non-armed groups. Inflation and a cholera outbreak (because of limited access to water) added to the challenges.  *What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?*  The strong community anchoring of all three implementing partners, each based in a different location targeted by the project, was a significant advantage of the project. The evaluation stressed the social and economic empowerment of targeted beneficiaries (youth and CBOs) whose capacities and self-confidence were strengthened and emphasized the benefits of the creation of spaces for interaction between young people from across communities and dividing imaginary lines imposed by the armed groups. The evaluation also emphasized the youth peace and civic engagement which has contributed to improvements in social cohesion and some space for alternative non-violent youth models and leadership. | |