

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

Title of Initiative

Task: Provide a summary of the initiative, including a brief overview, proposed/actual outcomes and an assessment of any lessons learned and the way forward.

Timeframe: Please only include initiatives that fall within the reporting timeframe of January 2022 – February 2024

Please provide more details on each initiative including items below:		
Objective(s):	<i>Please indicate which, if any, of the following fall among the main objectives of the initiative:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring no one is left behind (advancing empowerment, inclusiveness and equality through sport) <p>The 'Rising Stars' project, led by Spin Club in Tehran, Iran, is dedicated to promoting social inclusion through various activities, with a special focus on empowering girls, women, and children. Moreover, the initiative seeks to instill values like discipline and teamwork through table tennis, emphasizing inclusivity by reaching out to marginalized groups, including Afghan girls, girls with disabilities, and girls below the line of poverty.</p> <p>In our S4D sessions, participants will develop crucial life skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, teamwork, and decision-making alongside their table tennis activities. Through these initiatives, our goal is to create a strong sense of inclusion for marginalized groups, providing them with opportunities to actively participate in sports and more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conflict prevention/peace building
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research development, data collection and/or data dissemination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safely harnessing sport for sustainable development,

		<p>peace and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of technology</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises, leading to the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding sport from corruption and crime
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other (please specify)
<p>Situation</p>	<p><i>What is the challenge or problem that the initiative aims to address?</i></p> <p>In our community, deeply entrenched cultural norms have given rise to evident gender disparities across numerous aspects, particularly in sports. The key issues that deserve attention include unequal opportunities for participation in sports, disparities in equipment and facilities, restricted access to international areas for women, obstacles in skill development, and a noticeable underrepresentation of women in leadership positions.</p> <p>In addition, it's important to note that many girls and young women have limited awareness of important global topics such as Gender Equality, and Human Rights. What's more, they often lack education in essential life skills, management skills, and financial literacy. This gap in knowledge can hinder their personal growth and opportunities for empowerment.</p>	
<p>Implementation mechanisms:</p>	<p><i>What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?</i></p> <p>Our initiative strategically implements measures to enhance gender equality in a predominantly male-based community. We've established a dedicated safe sport venue for girls and women, focusing on inclusivity for Afghan immigrant girls in Iran, girls with disabilities, and those below the poverty line. Table tennis is employed as a tool for empowerment, supplemented by Sport for Development (S4D) sessions at Spin Club covering life skills, human rights, and gender equality. Additionally, we organize diverse events, such as tailored gatherings for Afghan immigrant girls, to foster inclusion and community.</p> <p><i>What are the main deliverables/activities involved?</i></p> <p>Sport for Development (S4D) is an educational approach that teaches children and youth life values, skills, and knowledge through guided sports activities. While it's widely recognized</p>	

	<p>globally, it remains relatively unknown in Iran, with even sports experts rarely incorporating this method into their practices. We have successfully established safe and women-specific sports facilities so far, and through the implementation of the Sports for Development approach, we have made significant strides in reducing gender inequalities. Activities such as empowering and educating women through sport, organizing diverse workshops for girls and women with a focus on personal growth, and increasing awareness among girls and women in Gender Equality, UN SDGs, Human Rights, Life Skills, and Leadership Skills have already been undertaken. Our ongoing efforts aim to further enhance these achievements and continue making a lasting impact on reducing gender inequality through the transformative power of sports for development.</p> <p><i>What is the time frame of implementation?</i></p> <p>The Rising Stars project commenced its initiatives in January 2022 at Spin Club in Tehran, Iran, and has been ongoing since then.</p>
<p>Target Audience(s):</p>	<p><i>Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?</i></p> <p>Target Group: Young women under 28 Girls 9 to 18 : Including individuals, Afghan immigrants, people with disabilities, children from low-income families, club members, National association members</p>
<p>Partners/Funding:</p>	<p><i>Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles?</i></p> <p>The "Rising Stars" project, a winner of the ITTF Foundation's Dream Building Fund in 2022, is actively supported by key partners. The ITTF Foundation, as a partner, contributes to the project's success. Additionally, ABC Terminal, an initial partner, played a significant role in the project's early stages. Local support is provided by Spin Club, offering a secure sports hall and around 20 dedicated volunteers. The Iran Table Tennis Association provides institutional support to the "Rising Stars" project.</p> <p><i>What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?</i></p> <p>The main sources of funding for the initiative include Houry Aghamiri, the founder of Spin Club, and the fund that the Rising Stars project won in the Dream Building Fund of the ITTF Foundation.</p>
<p>SDG Alignment:</p>	<p><i>To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?</i></p> <p>Gender equality (UN SDG 5), also known as sexual equality or equality of the sexes, is the state of equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision-making; and the state of</p>

	<p>valuing different behaviors, aspirations and needs equally, regardless of gender.</p> <p>Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.</p> <p>Target 5.5: Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life.</p> <p>Target 5.B: Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.</p> <p><i>Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.</i></p>
<p>Alignment with global frameworks:</p>	<p><i>How does this initiative align with/contribute to the objectives of the Kazan Action Plan, WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity or other related internationally agreed frameworks on sport and/or physical activity?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Equality (Kazan Action Plan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Rising Stars project actively contributes to the objectives of the Kazan Action Plan by focusing on increasing gender equality. By providing opportunities for girls to participate in sports, the project challenges societal norms in a male-based society. This aligns with the Kazan Action Plan's emphasis on promoting inclusivity and breaking gender stereotypes through sports. • Inclusivity (Kazan Action Plan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The project's target groups, which include Afghan migrants, girls with disabilities, and girls below the poverty line, demonstrate a commitment to inclusivity. This aligns with the Kazan Action Plan's recognition of sport as a tool for social inclusion and accessibility for all individuals, regardless of background or ability. • Education and Skill Development (Kazan Action Plan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The inclusion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the S4D sessions aligns with the Kazan Action Plan's emphasis on education. By integrating these global goals into the program, Rising Stars ensures that participants not only engage in physical activities but also learn about broader issues related to sustainable development, contributing to the plan's objectives. • Empowering Topics (Kazan Action Plan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The organization of S4D sessions with empowering topics such as teamwork, critical thinking, leadership, time management, and problem-solving resonates with the

	<p>Kazan Action Plan's focus on the educational and life skills aspects of sport. These sessions contribute to the holistic development of participants, aligning with the plan's objectives of using sports as a tool for personal and social development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Well-being (WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ While the provided information does not explicitly mention health outcomes, the focus on physical activity and sports participation indirectly contributes to the WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity, which aims to promote physical activity for improved health and well-being. <p>safeguarding:</p> <p>We believe that all children have the right to feel safe and be safe. Children and young people who are involved in any of our activities should receive the highest possible standard of care and protection. Therefore, in all our work, we seek to ensure their wellbeing and development. Within this context, we are committed to protecting children, young people and vulnerable groups from all forms of abuse. The Spin Club has zero tolerance for abuse. Developing a culture of safety that ensures children are nurtured and protected when in our programmes and care is critical. All Spin Club staff and funded partners are responsible for supporting the safety, well-being and empowerment of children through the course of our activities.</p>
<p>Alignment with United Nations Action Plan on SDP:</p>	<p><i>Which of the four thematic areas of the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace is this initiative designed to align?</i></p> <p>Rising Stars project aligns with the "Global framework for sport for development and peace" thematic area</p> <p><i>To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?</i></p> <p>The Rising Stars project is designed to contribute to multiple action areas within the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace. Specifically, the initiative aligns with action areas focused on gender equality, youth and women empowerment, and education. By actively promoting these key areas, the project aims to support broader goals outlined in the action plan related to empowering marginalized groups, fostering inclusivity, and leveraging sports as a tool for positive social change.</p>
<p>Outcomes:</p>	<p><i>What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative?</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants' awareness of UN SDGs, Gender Equality and Human Rights has increased • Participants have gained a better understanding of S4D and use Sports for various UN SDGs • Women, girls, Afghan immigrants, and people with disabilities feel included • Children’s knowledge have increased about safeguarding and their life skills have developed • Participants have developed employable competencies such as respect, teamwork, communication, leadership, critical thinking, and self-confidence
<p>Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:</p>	<p><i>What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?</i></p> <p>Using Data Analytics and Technology to analyze information and make smart choices, and having regular Lessons Learned Sessions to get better by looking at what worked and what didn't. We also talk directly to participants through interviews to understand how the project is making a real impact on them.</p> <p><i>What specific monitoring and evaluation tools are involved?</i></p>
<p>Challenges/Lessons learned</p>	<p><i>What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?</i></p> <p>The Rising Stars project has underscored the importance of prioritizing safety, inclusivity, and diversity. Valuable lessons from this initiative include intensifying efforts to secure additional partners and emphasizing increased community engagement throughout the planning and implementation stages.</p>