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

***Title of Initiative:
Strengthening sport for development and peace: The International Platform on Sport and Development***

***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.*

The International Platform on Sport and Development (sportanddev) is the leading global hub for those using sport to achieve social, economic and environmental goals. It serves to "share knowledge, build good practice, facilitate coordination and foster partnerships in sport and development".

sportanddev operates an [online platform](http://www.sportanddev.org) with the latest news, commentary articles, research, learning tools, networks and job opportunities in sport and development. The platform has been available in [English](http://www.sportanddev.org/) and [French](http://www.sportanddev.org/fr), with over 600,000 unique visitors per year, over 1.5million page views and over 1,000 registered organisations and 10,000 registered individuals. We have recently launched the platform in [Spanish](http://www.sportanddev.org/es) and [Arabic](http://www.sportanddev.org/ar) to respond to an identified need for resources in these languages and to contribute to reshaping a more inclusive, equitable, diverse and democratic sector in which all voices are heard. This is part of our campaign on [Reshaping Sport and Development](https://www.sportanddev.org/about-us/what-we-do/campaigns/reshaping-sport-and-development), with many global partners, to champion, strengthen and sustain the sport and development secto*r*.

Our website boasts an extensive range of tools and resources and has recently been upgraded based on extensive feedback from our global community of users from 229 countries and territories. Our website includes content in four UN official languages (with the potential for Russian and Chinese in the future as the two remaining UN languages). It includes detailed content on [sport and development](https://www.sportanddev.org/sport-and-development), information and resources for [thematic areas](https://www.sportanddev.org/thematic-areas) (e.g. [sport and refugees](https://www.sportanddev.org/thematic-areas/sport-and-refugees)); a dedicated [Research and Learning](https://www.sportanddev.org/research-and-learning) corner with a [resource library](https://www.sportanddev.org/research-and-learning/resource-library) with ability to filter by various criteria (e.g. region; SDG etc.), a [Latest section](https://www.sportanddev.org/latest) with news, jobs, events, opportunities and media (there are over 10,000 news articles in English!) and a greatly enhanced [Network section](https://www.sportanddev.org/network) with an [interactive map](https://www.sportanddev.org/network/interactive-map) and [organisation directory](https://www.sportanddev.org/network/organisation-directory) (again with ability to filter). The platform is open access and free of charge and operates with a Creative Commons licence.

sportanddev also work offline, supporting and coordinating projects, events, advocacy and other initiatives. With the Commonwealth Secretariat and Australian government, and other partners, we have developed and managed a highly successful massive open online course (MOOC) on [Sport for Sustainable Development: Designing Effective Policies and Programmes](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/sport-for-sustainable-development-arabic). The course is designed to build capacity and maximise the contribution sport can make to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The English course has attracted over 6,700 learners from 191 countries and counting, and it has been recently launched in [French](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/sport-for-sustainable-development-french), [Spanish](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/sport-for-sustainable-development-spanish) and [Arabic](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/sport-for-sustainable-development-arabic) – to ensure that capacity building resources exist in these languages and that voices from underprepresented regions (e.g. Latin America and Francophone Africa) are better heard and represented. (see [Stakeholder testimonials](https://www.sportanddev.org/research-learning/learning/courses) and [Learner reviews](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/sport-for-sustainable-development#section-reviews) for more information).

Furthermore, we have developed an open access guidebook with the Japan Sport Council – [Bridging the Divide in Sport and Sustainable Development](https://www.iir.jpnsport.go.jp/en/sdgs/) which has been successful and translated into [Spanish](https://www.iir.jpnsport.go.jp/esp/sdgs/) and [Japanese](https://www.iir.jpnsport.go.jp/jp/sdgs/). 5822 people from 137 countries have accessed the guidebook to date.

We have been involved in various EU-funded projects, including the [Sport for Social Cohesion Lab project](https://www.dshs-koeln.de/en/institute-of-european-sport-development-and-leisure-studies/research-projects/ongoing-projects/ersamus-sport-and-social-cohesion-lab-sscl/) and the [FIRE+ project](https://footballwithrefugees.eu/) (both concluded) and the Policy Advocacy for Sport & Society (PASS) project and the Global Integrating Refugees Through Sport (IRTS) project (current).

We work closely with a range of influential partners many of whom sit on our [Steering Board](https://www.sportanddev.org/about-us/steering-board-members), including the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The sportanddev [operating team](https://www.sportanddev.org/about-us/our-team) has seasoned experts in sport and development from varied contexts. We continue to face challenges in resource mobilization and are dependent on a number of volunteers – doing our best to drive big changes in sport and development with a small team and many valuable partners.

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

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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
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| * Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development
 | * Conflict prevention/peace building
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| * 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
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| * 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)
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| **Situation** | *What is the challenge or problem that the initiative aims to address?*The sport for development and peace (SDP) sector has grown rapidly in the past 20 years, but it is still very unequal. Organisations in high-income regions have more resources for programmes and more influence on policy. Covid-19 and other crises have exacerbated that inequality, with organisations in more under-resourced regions at risk, while recent gains made may be lost (e.g. gender equity in sport).One reason for the inequality in the sector is that information and resources are often siloed across the sector, inaccessible and exclusive. Having the right knowledge and tools enables actors to create a greater impact through their programmes and policies, benefitting the communities they support. To address this, we need to ‘think local and act global’ and ensure accessibility and inclusivity through design and technology, which have become increasingly important in today’s world. A [recent report](https://www.sportanddev.org/en/article/news/study-reveals-covid-could-be-final-whistle-fifth-sport-development-sector) authored by Oaks Consultancy in partnership with the International Platform on Sport and Development (sportanddev), Laureus Sport for Good, and streetfootballworld revealed that the pandemic has left more than a fifth of those in the SDP sector fearing for their future. This will likely have more of an impact in under-resourced regions than elsewhere. Not only has this inequality been exacerbated by crises, there is a limited time frame to tackle this risk.This urgent need provides an opportunity to **invest in the infrastructure of sport and development**. As such, sportanddev has updated its platform to enable collective effort and better coordination within the SDP sector. This is crucial to ensure that the sector survives, that its efforts are sustained and that ultimately its success is scaled appropriately. This is aligned to the Kazan Action Plan, WHO Global Plan on Physical Activity, and the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace which stresses the “*need to strengthen and further co-ordinate efforts*”. As the leading information source in SDP, sportanddev helps to share knowledge and build capacity, ultimately enabling impact to be sustained and scaled. sportanddev has a strong reputation for fair and equal access to information, and already supports under-resourced regions through this ethos. Community members include sport federations, NGOs and grassroots organisations, intergovernmental actors and academic institutions, with wide global reach and impact.  |
| **Implementation mechanisms:** | *What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?*sportanddev operates an online platform (sportanddev.org), providing the latest news, commentary articles, research, learning tools, networks and job opportunities in the SDP field. We also work offline, supporting and coordinating projects, events, advocacy and other initiatives. Services include an [open-access online learning course](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/sport-for-sustainable-development/), a sport and development guidebook and technical support.*What are the main deliverables/activities involved?*We summarise key activities and outcomes which have enabled the ongoing work and success of sportanddev. Our **website upgrade** was the most significant activity, which included these components: a) core upgrade of the website; b) creation and management of a Research and Learning section; c) improved language accessibility; d) facilitating collaboration and e) mapping the sport for development (SDP) community. These activities have resulted in a greatly improved sportanddev website and the following outcomes: a) improved website design, navigation and functionality with an increase in overall website visitors and increased engagement from low- and middle-income regions; b) increased equity and access to information, tools and resources on sportanddev and an increase in Spanish, Arabic-, Russian-, and Chinese-speaking visitors; c) a repository of accessible, free academic and practitioner resources and increased use of these by users; d) an improved and interactive mapping of the community with an objective to increase the number of registered organisations significantly; and e) increased networking, collaboration and partnerships by members/users.Another key activity has been the **management, translation and customisation of our online course** on Sport for Sustainable Development (more information above). We also facilitated a **Spotlight Series i)** [**Sport and Democracy**](https://www.sportanddev.org/thematic-areas/democracy) **and ii)** [**Sport and the Environment**](https://www.sportanddev.org/thematic-areas/environment-and-sustainability)**.** Each series included a dedicated call for articles and interactive webinar and creation of a website section on each topic. This has stimulated increased awareness, debate and dialogue on both topics and increased capacity with provision of tools and resources. We facilitated many other activities which have complemented the above and cannot detail all here but would like to mention the **Reshaping Sport and Development Campaign** as a key aligned activity which has shaped our work.*What is the time frame of implementation?*Sportanddev has existed since 2003 but we have described activities above over the last two years.**Outcomes and outputs will be sustained** beyond the project period as the website, online course and Spotlight Series will remain front and centre of our portfolio and will be strengthened over time. We see this project contributing to long-term impact to society and the SDP sector by attracting different actors from across the globe, enabling fair and equal access to information, improving knowledge and skills, thus ultimatelycontributing to more effective programmes, policies and organisations and associated outcomes in the communities they serve. Further, more effective policies, programmes and organisations will ensure greater use, impact and acknowledgement of sport’s role in development across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other priorities. Advocating for sport’s use in democracy and environment will also support these long-term changes. Finally, increased engagement, diversity, representation and information equity will contribute to the **democratisation and reach/impact of the SDP sector**.  |
| **Target Audience(s):** | *Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?*The target groups are a wide range of actors using sport to achieve social, economic and environmental objectives: * Development agencies/donor organisations/governments
* Sports sector/sports federations/athletes
* Practitioners/implementing NGOs/coaches
* Private sector
* Researchers
* Youth and volunteers
* The Media

sportanddev works with a wide range of actors. Our website receives over 600,000 unique visitors per year, over 1.5million page views and boasts over 1,000 registered organisations and 10,000 registered individuals. The vast majority of these statistics are from the English website and we expect these figures to increase significantly with the launch of our website in French, Spanish and Arabic recently (with the potential for Russian and Chinese in the future). |
| **Partners/Funding:** | *Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles?*sportanddev is operated by the [International Sport and Culture Association](http://www.isca.org) (ISCA) having shifted to this organization in 2023 after 20 years at the Swiss based non-profit organization Swiss Academy for Development (SAD). sportanddev is run by the [operating team](https://www.sportanddev.org/about-us/our-team) of experts in sport for development and peace and is designed as a community-driven initiative. sportanddev is governed by a [Steering Board](https://www.sportanddev.org/about-us/steering-board-members) that is composed of leading actors in the sector. They also fund the platform.We work with a wide range of [partners](https://www.sportanddev.org/about-us/our-partners) across the globe and there are over 10,000 individuals and 1,000 organisations registered on our website. We also have many [funding](https://www.sportanddev.org/about-us/what-we-do/campaigns/reshaping-sport-and-development/campaign-partners) and [in-kind partners](https://www.sportanddev.org/about-us/what-we-do/campaigns/reshaping-sport-and-development/kind-supporters) who supported our campaign on Reshaping Sport and Development. Sportanddev is guided by partnerships and the needs of our diverse global community.*What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?*These include: the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, the Norwegian Olympic and Paralympic Committee (NIF), the Swedish Postcode Foundation (SPF) and the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Foundation. We have also received project funding from the European Commission for Erasmus+ projects. This includes the [Sport for Social Cohesion Lab project](https://www.dshs-koeln.de/en/institute-of-european-sport-development-and-leisure-studies/research-projects/ongoing-projects/ersamus-sport-and-social-cohesion-lab-sscl/) and the [FIRE+ project](https://footballwithrefugees.eu/) (both concluded) and the Policy Advocacy for Sport & Society (PASS) project and the Global Integrating Refugees Through Sport (IRTS) project (current). |
| **SDG Alignment:** | *To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?*The initiative strongly contributes to the SDG 17 (global partnerships). By centralising stakeholders and enabling them to collaborate and connect, the project contributes directly to SDG 17, particularly targets 17.6, 17.9, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18, and 17.19. In addition, it particularly contributes to SDG 3 (health), 4 (education), 10 (reduced inequalities), 11 (sustainable cities), 13 (climate action), 16 (peace and justice), 8 (decent work) and 5 (gender equality). *Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.*sportanddev supports all current relevant policy frameworks. As mentioned, it is a hub that disseminates information and knowledge, and makes actors aware of initiatives. It helps coordinate and shape policies through being involved in relevant fora. We have also aligned our work to the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and other regional frameworks. |
| **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 platform contributes to the three policy focus areas of the Kazan Action Plan. It promotes policy area 1 (Inclusive Access for All to Sport, Physical Education and Physical Activity) by building networks and disseminating information about initiatives that use sport, PE and physical activity for development. It contributes to policy area 2 (Maximizing the Contributions of Sport to Sustainable Development and Peace) by highlighting the work of sporting actors in contributing to the SDGs (see our [sport and SDGs section](https://www.sportanddev.org/en/learn-more/sport-and-sustainable-development-goals)). It contributes to policy area 3 (Protecting the Integrity of Sport) by highlighting the importance of good governance and transparency in sport and supporting aligned initiatives. In addition, sportanddev contributes to specific actions of the Plan such as Action 2: develop common indicators for measuring the contribution of physical education, physical activity and sport to prioritized SDGs and targets.The platform also works with the UN Office in Geneva, including with WHO, to ensure its work is aligned to the WHO GAPPA and other relevant frameworks, such as the UN Sport for Climate Action Framework and many others. |
| **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?* All – see further information below.*To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?*sportanddev contributes to all four areas of the UN Action Plan.It helps to strengthen the global framework for sport for development and peace (Area 1) by increasing the visibility of sport and development, improving the effectiveness of policies and programmes and facilitating dialogue between different actors. It promotes policy development (Area 2) by aligning to the SDGs, Agenda 2030 and relevant policy frameworks such as the Kazan Action Plan (as described above) and working to bridge gaps between policy and practice. It supports resource mobilization, programming and implementation (Area 3) by profiling the work of SDP actors, providing tools and resources for fundraising, M&E and program implementation as well as technical expertise. Lastly, it contributes to evidence of impact and follow-up (Area 4) by stressing the importance of measurement and evaluation in SDP and by building a new section on the sportanddev website on [measuring the contribution of physical education, physical activity and sport to prioritized SDGs and targets](https://www.sportanddev.org/sport-and-development/sustainable-development-goals/measuring-sports-contribution-sdgs) (in partnership with the Commonwealth and UNESCO). |
| **Outcomes:** | *What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative?*The outcomes include:Increasing the visibility of sport’s development potential among the target groups of sportanddevContributing to improving sport and development practiceEncouraging dialogue, partnership-building and strategic alliancesResults will be sustained and strengthened beyond this project through the continued operation of, and increased access and use of, the upgraded sportanddev website. Unlike outputs on other types of projects (e.g. # participants engaged; # events), the website does not have a final end date and will remain an ongoing project and priority for sportanddev and what we are best known for. The website and the broder platform will continue to be supported by investments from the Steering Board and other partners. An upgraded sportanddev will remain open access and free of charge and presents greater value for new stakeholders, and can support sustainability through revenue generation.As the S4D movement grows and seeks a more mainstream role in development, sportanddev’s role is more essential than ever. Digital infrastructure to support international development has become even more important due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Further, sportanddev’s own website data shows there has been a significant increase in unique visitors during the reporting period (with a notable improvement even before the upgraded website was launched) with great interest in sportanddev campaigns and actions. Investment in sportanddev provides value on multiple levels and enables the scaling and sustainability of effective policies and programmes across sectors, SDGs, and regions. Overall, we see this project as contributing to four long-term changes/outcomes to society and the SDP sector:Firstly, **attracting different actors from across the globe** by providing higher quality content that is easier to navigate and accessible to a wider range of actors. The membership and group functionality will enable them to engage and form new partnerships to make a better-connected sector.Secondly, **enabling fair and equal access to information**. This project removes language barriers to information equity, with a strong focus on ensuring the technology and design is accessible to people with disabilities.Thirdly, **improving knowledge and skills** as sportanddev visitors apply the new resources to their work. This will ultimately contribute to more effective programmes, policies and organisations, contributing to improved social, economic and environmental outcomes in the communities where sport for development organisations work.In the long-term, more effective policies, programmes and organisations will ensure greater use, impact and acknowledgement of sport’s role in development across SDGs and other goals. Advocating for sport’s use in democracy and climate change (environment) will support these long-term changes.Finally, increased engagement, diversity, representation and information equity will contribute to the democratisation of the SDP sector. Individuals and organisations from marginalised communities and regions will have a greater voice in the sector and greater access to tools and resources, reducing current inequities and contributing to a bottom-up approach to sport for development.  |
| **Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:** | *What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?*We measure our work consistently through quantitative and qualitative means. This includes our Annual Survey, website analytics, case studies and observations from our community. Baseline data has been gathered from previous surveys, studies and website analytics and already has been used to set targets (where possible). We recognise that monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is an ongoing process, with the need to adjust or set new targets as part of this process. sportanddev’s M&E system is aligned to its strategy. A number of key performance indicators (KPIs) have been developed, which are reviewed on a quarterly and annual basis – and presented to the Steering Board.The MOOC will continue to be measured through various means, including enrolment and completion rates, a learner survey and by integrating feedback from an expert reference group. The French, Arabic and Spanish versions have undergone a review, customisation and quality assurance to ensure they are fit for purpose.*What specific monitoring and evaluation tools are involved?*Annual survey; website google analytics; focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. |
| **Challenges/Lessons learned** | *What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?*Competition for resources is a challenge, which creates barriers to sportanddev taking on a more effective coordination role in sport and development. There is a need to build institutional capacity in the SDP sector, but typically resources are allocated to field-based projects and it is difficult to raise resources and funds for a coordinating network such as sportanddev. Furthermore, the SDP sector remains fragmented with many actors and initiatives that are not always well-coordinated. sportanddev believes it is well placed to help facilitate improved coordination within the SDP sector, including bridging the gap that exists between policy and practice, and improving alignment and coordination between governments and civil society.*What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?*We have learned many valuable lessons. Firstly, we recognised that such processes take time, especially given the need for real consultation and collaboration – including with a diverse range of stakeholders from our Steering Board to campaign partners to the diverse sportanddev global community. We learned the value of having flexible and supportive funders. The importance of regular dialogue and establishing a mutually beneficial partnership has been a key feature of our collaboration with all our funders and partners. We learned how important it is to form different partnerships.sportanddev’s annual survey shows that it still is one of the most credible and legitimate platforms in the field of SDP. We have highlighted some results from our most recent annual survey below:OUR INFLUENCE Over 82% of users believe sportanddev is the leading source of information on sport and developmentOver 78% of users agree that sportanddev has helped them and/or their organisation in their own workOver 82% of users have used information from sportanddev.org in their own projects or programmesADVOCATING FOR THE SPORT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITYOver 81% of users agree that sportanddev has been important in helping the SDP sector growOver 64% of users agree that sportanddev has helped bring voices from the field into policy discussionsOver 73% of users agree that sportanddev has been important in helping the SDP field gain credibilityOver 89% of users agree that they trust the integrity and impartiality of sportanddevMOVING FORWARDOver 89% of users would like to see sportanddev grow and provide more services to its users Over 75% of users agree that sportanddev is well placed to coordinate the diverse range of actors in SDPOver 82% of users agree that sportanddev can help bridge the gap between policy and practice in SDPOver 82% of users would like to see sportanddev take an even greater leadership position in SDPOver 91% of users agree that they would like to see sportanddev play a greater advocacy role in SDPDiscussions with UNESCO, UNHCR, UN DESA and others (e.g. the IOC and AU) have shown that sportanddev could be even better be utilized by global initiatives by assessing how sportanddev’s structure and functionalities could better serve the needs of such initiatives while continuing to serve sportanddev’s users. Discussions related to this are ongoing.  |