



SPORT GIVES PALESTINIAN GIRLS A NEW OUTLOOK



Growing up near the major checkpoint between Jerusalem and the West Bank city of Ramallah, the children of Kalandia Refugee Camp are exposed on a daily basis to the realities of the political conflict. Life in refugee camps like these cannot help but impact the healthy development of these children.

Using experience gleaned from refugee projects in Africa and Asia, Right To Play has adapted its sport and play programs to meet the needs of Kalandia's children. Working particularly through Kalandia schools, Right To Play is training teachers to leverage children's love of sport and play to teach important lessons and life skills that help them better manage the challenges of refugee life.

"Right To Play programs help bring joy into children's lives and focus on building self-esteem and teaching conflict resolution and communication skills," said Erika Bockstael, Middle East Regional Office Delegate. "The programs help create important social connections and help to bring a sense of normalization back into everyday life."

"Right To Play has drawn us closer to each other and has made the children much happier than before."

Fahemeh,
Third grade PE instructor

During a recent teachers' workshop in at the UNRWA Kalandia Girls' School, fourth grade physical education teacher Suad was "amazed to learn so many practical methods for helping her students." When asked about the greatest value that she found in the program, she answered: "Now I realize that by keeping a close watch on the children's level of participation and by monitoring the children's behaviour towards each other during the games, I am able to know more about the individual problems that they face at home and in the street. This way I am able to help them cope with their problems directly and immediately."

Fahemeh, the third grade physical education teacher added that playing games with the children made them view her as a friend who they are able to talk with about their worries and troubles. "Right To Play has drawn us closer to each other and has made the children much happier than before," she said.

Today there are 389 girls at the UNRWA Kalandia Girls' School who are constantly asking their teachers to incorporate Right To Play techniques into all regular classes. As 9-year-old Rawan puts it: "please help us make all our classes as fun as our physical training class."



Girls at the UNRWA Kalandia Girls' School playing a hygiene health game



CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY BENEFIT FROM NEW SPORT PROJECT



Right To Play Tanzanian Athlete Ambassador Azizy Mwaruka

Tricycles cut through Addis Ababa as 20,000 participants anxiously awaited the official start of the Great Ethiopian Run. These tricycles were part of an exhibition race this past December of twenty-five individuals with a disability intended to showcase their abilities to a large audience and attract more participants with a disability in Africa's most popular running race.

The athletes who participated in the exhibition race, most of whom live on the street and have a significant disability, were randomly chosen. Local NGO Cheshire Homes Ethiopia, which provides health services and support for children with a disability, kindly donated the tricycles and helped coordinate the race with Right To Play Ethiopia.

This exhibition race comes on the heels of Right To Play's new partnership with the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). According to IPC President Phil Craven, this partnership is designed to "strengthen the work of both organizations and lead to new and exciting occasions to promote sport for persons with a disability all over the world."

Addis Ababa is suggested as the pilot location for this new partnership. Over and above promoting sport as a means for development, this project will raise awareness of people with a disability and promote the inclusion of children with a disability.

The project will train staff and volunteers at local partner organizations on how to use sport to add value to their community development activities. These coaches will be taught to use games-based activities as a tool to deliver health messages. These games can then be added to their regular community programming.

With the support of local partners, Right To Play also hopes to leverage Ethiopia's annual events, such as World AIDS Day (which drew nearly 200,000 youth last year) and The Great Ethiopia Run, to provide a wide-reaching platform to promote inclusion and health education.

"Inclusion of all children in sport and play is one of our guiding principles. Our new association with the IPC will help us deepen our knowledge and resources to keep this promise everyday."

Johann Koss,
*Right To Play
President and CEO*





FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT JUMP STARTS GHANA'S IMMUNIZATION

Gathering at the Accra National Sports Stadium in Ghana on an early morning in November were four teams ready to compete for the grand prize of \$1,000 in sports infrastructure for their school, and the honour of being known as the winner of the first GAVI Tournament Cup.



The final teams marched excitedly onto the stadium field sporting colourful team t-shirts. No matter what, these teams were already winners. To make it to the finals each team had beaten seven other Accra junior secondary schools. The winning teams, consisting of eleven girls and eleven boys, had successfully showcased their abilities in football and accumulated the most points in a special immunization quiz.

Why mix football with health information? Simple. To use the popularity of football to drive increased vaccination rates. Previous polio vaccination efforts in the capital city of Ghana had identified a number of Accra districts that had a low participation rate. To reach out to these districts, and promote awareness of the 2004 National Immunization Days (November 19th to 21st), Right To Play created the first GAVI Cup - a competition in sport and knowledge.

The tournament equipped almost 5,000 youth with knowledge and confidence on vaccinations and immunizations. "Let's kick Polio out of Ghana" was the clear message on t-shirts worn by the youth, and on tournament handouts and banners. Thousands of children also took home health-related paraphernalia (provided by UNICEF) to their parents, and hundreds of community members showed up to watch the grand final. The story of the GAVI Cup was also reported throughout Ghana in the media allowing others to also learn from the event and its messages.

When the finals got underway, pressure and excitement mounted as special guests and local heroes including Ghanaian Olympic Athletes, **Vida Anim** and **Eric Nkansah**, disability cyclist **Emmanuel Yeboah**, watched from the sidelines. Representatives from UNICEF, WHO, the Ministry of Health and the President of the Association of Sports Broadcasters of Ghana also came out to cheer.

Football matches were well fought, and teams were in top shape answering questions in the quizzing round such as:

- What is Polio?
- What are the six childhood killers?
- When do children get the oral Polio vaccine?

Members of the winning team, Gray Memorial from Osu Klottey, danced celebrated excitedly upon learning that they had prevailed. With continuing events such as this, Ghana is one step closer in their fight against childhood killers such as Polio.



Members from Gray Memorial are presented with their winnings



Coach Nat asks an immunization question: What is Polio?



TOP MALIAN ATHLETES JOIN RIGHT TO PLAY TO FIGHT MEASLES

The high prevalence of polio and measles in West Africa places Mali in a vulnerable position.

Like in most developing countries, measles continues to be a leading cause of vaccine preventable death amongst children.

To curb a potential outbreak, the Malian government in collaboration with the Measles Initiative, local stakeholders and Right To Play, undertook a combined measles and polio campaign in last quarter of 2004.

Right To Play's SportHealth Team in Bamako was part of the working group that planned and executed social mobilization activities for the successful campaign. Right To Play organized Sport Festivals in three subdivisions of Bamako to bring the communities together for health education, specifically around vaccination. The three districts were prioritized due to their history of low vaccine coverage in past campaigns.

Popular Malian athletes, and Right To Play Athlete Ambassadors, **Frederic Kanoute**, **Seydou Keita**, both respected forwards on the national football team, and **Mamadou Keita**, a legendary trainer of the national football team, all played important roles in the National Campaign, including taking part in TV and radio spots, and using their profile in other campaign communication tools to including fliers and stickers.

Quizzes, games and activities that taught important health messages relating to measles and polio were played. Thousands of children had a great time and walked away empowered with the knowledge of how to prevent these diseases.

Vaccination coverage rates superseded the target goals in the three districts where the festivals were conducted. In Yirimadjo, rates reached 195% of the targeted goal - the highest rate in the history of vaccination for the country!

Right To Play's involvement in Mali's National Vaccination Campaign has also contributed significantly to local partner understanding of the contribution sport and play can make to development efforts as illustrated in the testimonials below:

"We have never achieved such high coverage rates during a vaccination campaign. I am sure that the activities conducted by Right To Play had an impact on these figures. Thank you to Right To Play."

«Nous n'avons jamais atteint un aussi haut taux de vaccination pendant les campagnes de vaccination. Je suis sûr que les activités de Right To Play ont eu un impact certain sur ces chiffres. Merci à Right to Play.»

-Seydou Sissoko, Chief Health Officer of ASACOLA 2 (community health clinic)

"I will always support Right To Play's future activities. I hope this NGO will stay on this course in the fight against poverty and sickness. Improved health will result from these activities."

«J'encouragerai toujours l'ONG Right to Play dans ses futures activités. Je souhaite qu'elle continue dans la voie prise qui est celle de la lutte contre la pauvreté et des maladies. La meilleure santé fera suite aux activités.»

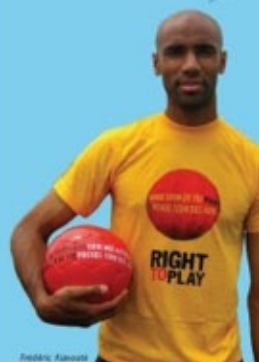
- Chef du quartier de Lafiabougou

"We would like to see greater involvement of Right To Play in routine immunization and HIV/AIDS mobilization efforts."

«Nous souhaitons l'implication de Right To Play dans la promotion de la vaccination de routine, la sensibilisation sur le VIH/SIDA, et la mobilisation de population sur les services de santé. »



« Je soutiens la campagne de vaccination contre la rougeole 2004 »



Du 13 au 19 décembre 2004

Right To Play Athlete Ambassador Frederic Kanoute helps to promote Mali's Vaccination Campaign



CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD PLAY FOR PEACE

What does peace mean to me? Was the question asked to thousands of children from 49 countries around the globe who took part in the fourth annual Global Peace Day Games. From hundreds of Internally Displaced children marching in a peace parade in Northern Uganda, to American children in a New York City park writing pen pal letters and painting flags of different countries, to Zambian children orphaned by HIV/AIDS playing in a day-long sport festival, children came together to celebrate the importance of tolerance and unity.

Around the world, Peace Day Games offered an opportunity for young people to have fun together by playing in organized games, and encouraged mutual understanding and cooperation in the spirit of the International Day of Peace. "Football is a sport which always draws a large number of children and youth," said **Charles Nkazamyampi**, Right To Play Athlete Ambassador and one of the organizers of a Peace Day tournament for 200 Rwandan youth. "The football tournament gave us the chance to bring kids together and then discuss issues around peace, unity and tolerance."

Each year, the Peace Games are an opportunity for children and youth to celebrate and demonstrate their central role in the mission of global friendship and a culture of peace. In many countries, children signed and/or recited a Peace Manifesto which asked each person to "respect all life, reject all violence, share with others, listen to understand, preserve the planet, and contribute to the development of the community."

"The Peace Games will never end war or bring peace by themselves," wrote Mr. Adolf Ogi, the Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace. "But in their joys and triumphs, their pains and defeats, their unexpected encounters and friendships, they are a great opportunity for taking us the first step along that path - by demonstrating that in our pursuit of the betterment of humanity, there is more that unites than divides us."

The Global Peace Games was led by PLAY SOCCER, a not-for-profit international sport for development organization. SOS Children's Village and Right To Play were some of the other International Organizations who incorporated the Global Peace Games activities into their programs. Right To Play's Project Coordinators helped to organize week-long events in Thailand, Zambia, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, and Ghana.

"The football tournament gave us the chance to bring kids together and then discuss issues around peace, unity and tolerance."

Charles Nkazamyampi,
Rwandan Athlete
Ambassador



Ghana Peace Day Games



American children painting flags during Peace Day Activities in New York City