

TOGETHER FOR PEACE

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The EU-Project together for peace and its innovative engagement measures

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This article provides a brief overview of the current activities in the European Union project Together for peace in Zanzibar. Spanning from the so-called sports for development approach to the encouragement of political dialogue, it connects the population politically, socially and physically in multi-dimensional inclusion efforts.

With the aim of fostering political dialogue, the project together for peace was established in Zanzibar. Co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry of Development Cooperation (BMZ) the project is being implemented by the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Tanzania and their local partners, the Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA). The projects primary aim lies in contributing to better conflict resolution and dialogue between political parties and their supporters in Zanzibar. Together for peace specifically organizes joint workshops and activities with different participants in order to establish a sense of common purpose and institutionalized communication platforms. In alliance to the Zanzibar government goals of strengthening good governance, accountability and the rule of law this project operates with an approach that puts an emphasis on improving more trustful relationships between politics and the general public. These aims are mainly implemented through roundtable discussions between political parties NGO's and religious leaders but also through regular dialogues on the radio, press conferences and assessment meetings with experts. In addition to that, the project reaches out to the wider community in order to ensure that political leaders are engaged in a regular cross-party dialogue with civil society.

Through innovative engagement measures such as football tournaments these objectives are being met which brings us to the approach of sports for development short S4D. Sport is recognized as a powerful tool to spur development and peace, as it transcends both geographical borders and social differences. It has proven to be effective for enhancing economic development, but equally social inclusion, peace, tolerance and respect. It operates as an accelerator for women and youth empowerment, while also transforming lives of individuals and communities. The Sport for Development approach integrates value-based learning into sports and shows an outreach in all social, ethnical and religious affiliations. The trainings and events are aimed at working towards a viable, sustainable and socially acceptable platform to address social issues and create a value-based intervention on Peace Promotion through the use of sport. The events in the project employ sports as a mainstream appeal to activate a target group that has the energy and catalytic abilities to spread the learnt interventions on amongst the rest of the community. The exercise sessions and events are aimed to raise awareness on the topic of Peace Promotion and on how to use sport as tool for social change.

In the past week on January 26th 2023, the EU-Project team participated in the two-day internal refresher training in preparation for the kick-off to the Innovative engagement events in the following month which entail conflict resolution soccer activities in 5 different regions across Zanzibar. The refresher training aimed at training sports coaches and sports practitioners to lead and plan structured sports for development events with women and youth wings of different political parties, religious leaders and civil society. In total more than 250 participants will participate in the 5 regional workshops and the final tournament. The core focus of this training, was to make coaches more aware of dynamics in group facilitation and the interaction between participants. As an outcome of this specific training but more importantly this whole project, we

hope to empower political actors to engage in a trust-building dialogue with each other as well as with civil society and community leaders. Another important outcome is the empowerment of joint solution finding and with sports for development and the upcoming events we are looking forward to further implement these goals and monitor progress.



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