

Sustainable Development in African Sport

Leverhulme Research Project

Vol. 1, November 2012

Welcome

A warm welcome to the first edition of this research newsletter for the Leverhulme Trust-funded project: Sustainable Development in African Sport. The research project is undertaken by partners from five universities in four different countries:

- Edge Hill University, UK - Dr Iain Lindsey
- University of Ghana - Dr Emmanuel Owusu-Ansah
- University for Development Studies, Ghana - Dr ABT Zakariah
- University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania - Dr Hamad Ndee
- Monash University, Australia - Dr Ruth Jeanes & Dr Laura Alfrey

We plan to publish the newsletter twice a year to keep anyone who is interested in the project updates on findings and progress through to the end of the project in September 2014.

This newsletter features an overview of the project, perspectives from two junior researchers from Tanzania and Ghana on their involvement in the project and an update on progress over the first year of the project. We hope that you find the newsletter interesting.

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For more information on the research project as well as to be kept up-to-date with its future progress, please contact:

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Overview of the Research Project

The project commenced in October 2011 after a successful funding bid to the Leverhulme Trust. The project addresses three research objectives:

1. To understand how sustainability is conceptualised by indigenous and overseas agencies that contribute to sport-for-development interventions in Tanzania and Ghana
2. To learn about the factors that support or hinder the achievement of sustainability in Tanzanian and Ghanaian sport-for-development interventions
3. To capture evidence regarding the achievement (or otherwise) of sustainable outcomes within Tanzanian and Ghanaian sport-for-development interventions

Overall, it is hoped that the research undertaken by the project and the dissemination of findings will contribute to greater understanding of sport-for-development and as a result improving future policy and practice in Ghana, Tanzania and elsewhere. Also, it is hoped that undertaking the project will contribute to building capacity for future research in this field amongst everyone working in the project, within the five universities more generally and across the partnership itself.

Data collection as part of the project divided into organisational and

community strands. Organisational data collection is mainly undertaken through interviews with representatives of Ghanaian, Tanzanian and sport-for-development organisations as well as international donors. Implementation of community data collection is undertaken through case studies of school and community sites where particular sport-for-development programmes are delivered in various regions of Ghana and Tanzania. Data collection within these case studies is undertaken through focus groups with the young people who are the intended beneficiaries of the programmes as well as other local stakeholders in these case study communities.

The project partners view dissemination of the research findings as vital to ensuring the project achieves its aims. At present, there are various plans for dissemination including holding stakeholders' forums and end-of-project workshops in Ghana and Tanzania, writing articles for various academic journals and developing a project website and various online resources.

Junior researchers have been engaged by the Ghanaian and Tanzanian Universities to undertake data collection in case study schools and communities. While their work contributes hugely to the project itself, it is also hoped that involvement in the project will also develop their own capacity to undertake similar research in the future. Here two of these junior researchers speak about their backgrounds and initial involvement in the project:

Charles Paul is a 26 year old Tanzanian originally from Geita Mwanza. Working with the University of Dar es Salaam, Charles is responsible for undertaking interviews in several schools around Songea in Tanzania.

Hello! My name is Charles Paul and I am the second born of five children. I completed my A Levels in November 2009. My hobbies include singing, watching television, gospel music and my favourite sport is basketball.



I personally believe that any development needs the support of the people from that community. As a student of Makongo High School, I became a zone co-ordinator of TYCS (Tanzania Young Catholic Students); I was also a member of Dreams and Team under British Council Tanzania's scheme, YUNA (Youth United Nations Association), Movement against AIDS and VOT (Voice of Orphans Tanzania).

I joined the BILD Project, which aims to develop leadership through sport, after finishing my A Levels. The Project has made me more open-minded, able to share and helped develop my patience and willingness. I have met people

from other areas of the country and around the world too, which has expanded my horizons. BILD has enabled me to give back to the youth for the rest of my life. The BILD Project is a gift for the young people and youth of Tanzania.

The research project I am responsible for in Songea gives me a chance to reflect, evaluate and help develop approaches to sustainability in African sport. I would like to say thanks to the Leverhulme Research Project Team, the National Sports Council of Tanzania through BILD, Edge Hill University and the University of Dar es Salaam amongst others for this opportunity.

Attieku Alfred is a 25 year old Ghanaian who is a Research Assistant for University of Ghana Sports Directorate where he graduated. Alfred is responsible for interviewing trainers and participants within sport-for-development projects in Ghana.

My experience of the research has been great, and the response very encouraging. I interviewed seven people; all females who have been involved in the Beckwith International Leadership Development (BILD) programme and they really provided useful information concerning their thoughts on sustainable development through sports.

Throughout the research, I have noticed that most of the sports, PE and play activities supported by BILD have had the intended impact. Some activities are delivered to develop the skills and qualities of the participants while others are intended to teach good morals and ethics to the society.

I found that the interviewees have very interesting views on the subject matter: Sustainable Development. Most of the interviewees are of the view that the BILD training delivered to the children will continually live with them, so they think

sustainability mostly depends on the individual participants. Others are of the view that it lies on the management of these programs to continually check on the trainees and also spread the training to all corners. The last group of people think that financial strength of this program is key to its development and sustainability.

They had interesting moments recounting their experience during their BILD training and later involvement in the programme. Their views showed that they wanted to continue this project, but the problem is, how? This research has also made them more aware of the need to ensure sustainability in all spectrums of activities.



Project Progress in Year One

October 2012 saw the end of the first year of the research project. During the first year of the project, substantial progress has been made by the project in a number of areas:

Research Development and Training

- Starting from the initial application, substantial progress on developing the research project and agreeing management arrangements was made at the initial meeting of all network partners at Brunel University in December 2011. A meeting of the project's Advisory Group held at that time was invaluable in scrutinising initial plans and identifying areas for future development.

- Research training has been undertaken with junior researchers involved in the project at University of Ghana, University for Development Studies and University of Dar es Salaam. This has been delivered during visits by network partners from Edge Hill University and Monash University. In total, sixteen junior researchers in Ghana and Tanzania have benefitted from this training.

Data Collection

- Interviews have been undertaken with representatives of thirty one organisations involved in sport-for-development in Ghana and / or Tanzania: eight with representatives of international donors, sixteen with Ghanaian sport-for-development organisations and seven with Tanzanian organisations.

- Significant progress has been made by

Ghanaian and Tanzanian network partners in undertaking community data collection over the first year of the project. For example, staff from the University for Development Studies have been undertaking data collection in four different areas in Northern Ghana. Thus far, fifteen interviews have been undertaken with different sport-for-development stakeholders in these areas ranging from District Sports Development Officers to representatives of a number of local sports clubs.

External Engagement and Dissemination

- In December 2011, network partners co-hosted (with Brunel University) a two-day workshop on 'Research, Policy and Practice challenges in Sport in International Development' involving internationally-renowned academics, network partners, policy makers and practitioners in the field of sport-for-development.

- In order to inform relevant stakeholders of the project, articles on the project have been published in the Association of Commonwealth Universities Bulletin, the International Sport and Development Platform (www.sportanddev.org) and the West African Hub for Sport for Development projects (<http://hub.righttodream.com/>).

- Stakeholder's Forums will shortly be held at the University of Ghana and University for Development Studies to disseminate initial findings of the research. A video presentation on 'International Donors Perspectives on Sustainability in Sport-for-Development' has been prepared for these Forums and is available to view here: <http://youtu.be/HcCyLI4Ke2w>



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