YDF Toolkit In Practice

February and March were significant months for the empowerment of Western Cape coaches through the Youth Development through Football (YDF) Toolkit. This was made possible as the result of a partnership between locally based NGOs and the YDF Project, supported and funded by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the European Union. Through the Toolkit the YDF’s mission is to empower coaches to build the youth of their own communities through combining soccer and life skills training.

The YDF’s lead partner in this project is Soccer 4 Hope (S4H). With the technical support of Coaching for Hope, over 150 volunteer youth coaches have been trained using the YDF Toolkit. 80 of these were S4H peer leaders; the others were from the projects implementing partners:
- Bread of Life
- New World Foundation (click)
- South African Homeless Street Soccer (click)
- Amanda Edufootball (click)
- Doringbaai MPRC

On the 15th of March various football leagues for over a thousand participants started. The league teams are trained and mentored by YDF trained coaches. This gives the coaches the opportunity to earn an income using their new coaching skills.

Coaching for Hope is leading a drive to gather information which forms the basis of a strong impact study. This study focuses on how sport can be used as a tool for community development. This information will also be used to give feedback into the further development of the YDF Toolkit.

Sterna Mafunda (18), one of the lead coaches from S4H said: “I have been to many trainings, but at this one I really felt like I saw my friends growing!”

YDF West Coast District

A unique aspect of the YDF Toolkit Project is the inclusion of a partner from the Mazikamma Municipality, situated in the West Coast District, 420km outside Cape Town. The ‘Doringbaai Multi Purpose Resource Centre’ and the ‘Matzikamma Local Football Association’ nominated 10 local youth leaders who have been trained in the YDF Toolkit methodology. These youth leaders are now running soccer leagues and delivering life skills lessons in the little towns of Doringbaai, Ebenezer, Lutzville and Koekenaap.

On the 25th of February a meeting was held with key local stakeholders, to plan the way forward for the YDF West Coast Program. The meeting was extremely positive, with the Matzikamma and West Coast Municipalities, the Department of Cultural affairs and Sport, and the West Coast Community Foundation all making a commitment to take the YDF program forward.

After the meeting the YDF coaches showcased the Toolkit with...
the help of learners from the Doringbaai Primary School. The development of the YDF West Coast program reinforces the YDF’s main objective of supporting organizations with capacity development, and building a network of local organizations working in the field of youth development through football.

A follow up meeting with the above stakeholders has been coordinated by the West Coast Community Foundation for the 11th April.

YDF Senior Youth Leaders Forum

A strong connection was built between youth leaders from different organisations working together at the YDF Toolkit trainings. The youth suggested that it would be valuable to get together more often in order to share experience and work more together. In response to this a ‘YDF Senior Youth Leaders Forum’ has been established. The first meeting of the YDF Senior Youth Leaders Forum happened on the 31st March.

The main task of the forum is to coordinate feedback for the further developments of the YDF Toolkit. This feedback is crucial for the training resources to respond to the needs of the community youth.

Furthermore, the forum has been tasked with organizing a YDF coaches tournament. This tournament will bring coaches of the YDF toolkit together in celebration of youth development through football. It will be held on the 9th April.

Farewell to Hannes

The organizations representing the YDF Western Cape would like to thank Hannes Bickel for his hard work and dedication over the last 3 years.

Hannes has been a key part of building the YDF program in the Western Cape since its inception in 2007. His strength in providing technical support to local organizations is highly appreciated and will be missed. Hannes’ commitment to the development of South African youth can be seen through the success of the YDF program in the Western Cape.

Hannes and his family have decided to head back to Hoch-Taunus near Frankfurt. Here he will pursue his career at the GIZ head office. Hannes you will always be warmly welcomed in the mother city!!

Upcoming events:

- 4-8 April YDF Violence Prevention Training
- 6 April 2nd YDF Senior Youth Leaders Forum meeting
- 8 April YDF Toolkit follow-up training for implementing partners
- 9 April YDF Coaches tournament
- 11 April YDF West Coast Stakeholders • Meeting
- 12 April SSCN Workshop Planning Meeting