

Linking Wales and Somaliland through sports education Somali Progressive Association (Cardiff)

Target group

Young people aged 14 – 25 involved in AFC Butetown Youth (many are from BME communities)

One key message:

“Don’t reinvent the wheel. There are plenty of projects out there, find them and use them to develop your ideas to best suit your aims and objectives. Increase your contacts and networks and keep in touch with them about the status of your project and ask for help. Don’t struggle alone as there are plenty of people out there willing to help push your project forward to fulfil its ultimate purpose.”

What will we do?

The idea for this project is to create a Somali Football Training DVD and accompanying resource pack to distribute across Somaliland’s Six Regions. This resource will explore the links between sport and development as sport and physical education are an essential element of quality education - they promote positive values and skills which have a quick but lasting impact on young people. Sport offers exciting opportunities for innovative partnerships for development and can be used as a tool to build and foster partnerships between developed and developing nations to work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The tool of sports can also be used to create a better awareness of Somaliland and its justification to be internationally recognised.

This project will empower young people from the local community to be involved in the producing of the training DVD and packs and bring greater understanding of the Millennium Development Goals along with other ESDGC themes. Approximately 20/30 young people will be involved in the filming and production of the resource. Funding has been obtained from the DTA programme and Wales Somaliland Communities link for this project. The project is in its planning / delivery stages but will be complete by the end of June 2009.

Partners and support networks that are helping make this project happen:

- Wales Somaliland Communities Link – proving funding for DVD
- Sports Cardiff
- Debate To Action Wales
- UNA Exchange
- Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council
- British Council

Outcomes

This project will explore the following ESDGC themes:

Wealth and Poverty – by exploring their own family history, as well as the backgrounds of their peers, young people will find out about the connections between people and places and discover some of the reasons for migration from Somaliland to Wales.

Choices and Decisions – by looking at the reasons why Somali families had moved to Wales and exploring different cultures and identities, young people were able to develop and promote respect for themselves and others in their community. They were already knowledgeable and had their concepts of how their parents or their parents, parents had originated here in Wales. The Somali presence in Wales goes back well over a hundred years and has been concentrated, until recently, in the old docklands of Cardiff.

Identity and Culture – the young people that participate in the project can associate with the identity and culture of Somaliland. This is because they or their families were from there or they had friends who were from Somaliland. Through this, they can come to understand the similarities and differences between different cultures here in Wales and over in Somaliland and realise that cultural values and religious beliefs shape the way people live in both countries.

Health – young people will be given opportunities to appreciate the importance of family and community for health and to understand that inequality and poverty can cause health problems. Also, by understanding where their food comes from young people will be able to appreciate the basic ingredients of a healthy lifestyle and the impact and importance of the environment on health and well being, they are able to begin to take care of their own health and the health of others.

Challenges and solutions

Initially networking and planning the project was difficult, but once I got going it all fell into place and everyone supported me to get this project off the ground to where it is today.

Next steps

The next step will be to support more young people here in Wales and in Somaliland to continue and go strength by strength. I hope to grow my network of organisations and be able to make this project available in different countries across the world in order for a Global Network to take full advantage of what we have experienced with our links here with Wales and Somaliland.

Contact

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One of the young people involved in the project, on a visit to the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff