



MYSA and APAID join forces for Kids With Disabilities project

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With the verbalised goal of “Giving people with intellectual and physical disabilities an equal chance” streetfootballworld Network Member Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) and the dutch-based organisation APAID are initiating a new project in Nairobi/Kenya. For the first time in the history of MYSA a project integrated into their agenda of Development through Sport will focus on persons with disabilities.



According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) nearly 80% of persons with disabilities are living in developing countries. In Kenya only 1% of persons with disabilities have access to rehabilitation services and in the slums of Nairobi many children with disabilities are treated as outcasts. MYSA and APAID believe in the necessity and effectiveness of sport as a tool to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities. Therefore they are implementing an activity programme to improve the life of those affected persons with the help of football and other sports. The organisation APAID which stands for Adapted Physical Activity International Development has been founded only a few months ago in 2008 with the mission to improve the quality of life of people with physical and intellectual disabilities throughout the world.

CHANGING ATTITUDES TOWARDS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

MYSA will especially organise weekly recreation days where a number of adapted sports will be proposed to people with disabilities. Furthermore it will hold monthly community information meetings to raise awareness on disability issues and it will recruit volunteers with and without disabilities from the 16 zones in the slums wherein MYSA works. There will be courses every year for those volunteers that cover the topic “Sports for people with disabilities”.

APAID will support MYSA with their knowledge in the field of sports for persons with disabilities with the implementation of the project. It will also evaluate the project in order to improve the running and future projects and last but not least APAID is in charge of the fundraising initiatives.

For more information about the project, please visit: www.mysakenya.org and www.apaid.org

This article is based on information given by Steffi de Jong, President of APAID and Pierre Bataille, secretary/treasurer of APAID.