



RIGHT TO PLAY

Right To Play is a humanitarian organization using sport and play programs to foster healthy child development and build safer and stronger communities. Well designed sport and play programs are a critical part of holistic child development and teach important values and life skills including leadership, self confidence, teamwork, conflict resolution, discipline, respect and fair play. Right To Play also uses sport as an innovative tool for critical health initiatives including teaching HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria prevention and supporting national immunizations campaigns.

Sport, the G8 and the Millennium Development Goal

At the upcoming G8 summit in Scotland, Africa and achieving the Millennium Development Goals will be a key focus. Right To Play believes strongly in the important role sport can, and is, playing in helping to reach these goals. Everyday around the world, sport is proving to be an innovative and effective tool for achieving specific targets especially those concerning education, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and the reduction of major diseases.

Specifically, we know that:

A. Sport and physical education are an essential actor in education. Sports activities and physical education attract children and motivate them to attend lessons more regularly. Children who participate in sport have improved concentration levels and typically perform better in school. **(Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education)**

B. Increasing access for women and girls to physical education and sport helps them build confidence, self-esteem and leadership skills. Sport also facilitates the creation of important social connections and networks outside the traditional family unit. Additionally, involving girls in sport activities alongside with boys can help overcome prejudice that often contribute to social vulnerability of women and girls in a given society. **(Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women)**

C. Sport is an innovative tool for reaching “hard-to-reach” populations like youths with life saving health and HIV education messages. Sport not only brings these at risk populations together like no other medium, but games are a effective teaching tool for addressing new or sensitive subjects. Sport through its inclusiveness and mostly informal structure can also effectively assist in overcoming prejudice, stigma and discrimination. **(Goal 6: Combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases)**

In recognition of the important role sport is playing around the world in health, development and peace, the United Nations proclaimed 2005 to be the International Year of Sport and Physical Education. This proclamation fell on the heels of a UN Inter Agency Report on Sport for Development that recommended among other things that: **“Sport for development and peace programmes need greater attention and resources by governments and the United Nations system.”**

At the G8 in July, Right To Play strongly encourages the participating players to recognize and leverage the power of sport to fulfill our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. Further, Right To Play supports the Millennium Project Report – *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan To Achieve The Millennium Development Goals* and calls on governments to commit 0.7% of GNP to international aid.

For more information on Right To Play visit www.righttoplay.com