

Lindsey, I. (2017) **Governance in sport-for-development: problems and possibilities of (not) learning from international development.** *International review for the sociology of sport*, 52(7), 801-818.

### **What is it about? (Aim/objectives)**

Issues concerning governance in both sport-for-development policy and existing information

### **Where is it from? (Context/location)**

Ghana and Tanzania (East and West of Africa) provided the context for this article.

### **Who are involved? (Research participants)**

Five universities (United Kingdom, Ghana, Tanzania and Australia) collaborated for the research on the topic of sustainable development in sport-for-development provision in Africa. The following people and institutions took part in the research:

- International agencies
- Local governments
- In-country NGOs involved with sport-for-development

### **What are the readings and main concepts?**

- Narrow, project-based approaches in sport-for-development contributes to:
  - Excessive donor influence to determine the type of programme and envisaged outcomes
  - Fragmentation to focus on certain areas without networking within the local context
  - Competition among implementing agencies (NGOs) for donor funding
- Project based approaches limits meaningful impact to address real problems and also sustainability as the local community does not have ownership of the programme
- Sector-wide approaches present a more systematic model of governance appropriate for development work.

### **What are the main findings? (Results)**

- Sector-wide approaches depict governance models of development based on leadership by the government and coordination among stakeholders and donors.
- Key features of sector-wide approaches, include:
  - Country-led (governmental) leadership
  - Inclusive platforms for policy engagement and dialogue between different agencies, including civic society
  - The coordination of funding, support and implementation

### **What are the main lessons? (Discussion/Reflections/Learnings)**

- The Sport-for-development sector can learn from the established field of international development
- Three overarching issues of sector-wide approaches, relate to:
  - The scope and boundaries of the SfD sector (what effects can be expected)
  - How to engage the local government sector
  - How international agencies can assist with capacity building in SfD

### **Is it useful? (Chat room, knowledge sharing)**

- How can a SfD NGO ensure that a project avoid a narrow-project approach and link to existing work of the organisation?
- How can local agencies influence international donors to invest and assist to ensure that all the relevant stakeholders (from different sectors) collaborate for implementing programmes?