

SPORT

The power to bring positive social change

Mgr Vladimir Felzmann

IN 1998, as a graduate student from Senegal and studying in the United States, Amadou Gallo Fall founded SEED Project (Sports for Education and Economic Development). Doing the maths, you will soon realise that this year it is celebrating its 21st anniversary.

Fall was inspired by his own journey as a student-athlete when he was discovered by a member of the Peace Corps in the 1980s that eventually led to a basketball scholarship in the United States. After graduating from the University of the District of Columbia, Fall worked for the Senegalese Basketball Federation, mentoring players and providing opportunities for student-athletes to further their education through bas-

ketball. Fall then joined the Dallas Mavericks (NBA) and served as the Director of Player Personnel and Vice President of International Affairs while founding and overseeing SEED Project, and launching the first basketball student-athlete academy in Africa.

Fall, currently chairman of the SEED Project Board of Directors and Vice President of Development for NBA Africa in Johannesburg, South Africa, continues to impact the lives of thousands of African youth.

Their programmes are designed to inspire, empower and equip young people with the skills and virtues they need to succeed in life. The idea is to re-define the student-athlete model and develop socially conscious leaders that will continue to drive Africa forward.



SEED's aims chime with those of John Paul 2 Foundation 4 Sport. George Onyango of the Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation Group (DADREG) which came on board JP2F4S in 2014, was awarded National Diversity and Inclusion Award and Recognition under Diversity and Inclusion Gender Equality Champion Award in 2017 by the Daima trust. Daima Trust Ltd is a Kenyan registered company whose goal is to award peace, inclusion and equality champions who have embraced diversity as a tool of advancing their agenda.

DADREG'S aim is to rehabilitate women and children working in the dumpsite and provide them with sustainable livelihood through education, skills and capital enabling them to escape from the poverty. DADREG believes that if poverty is to be reduced among the vulnerable communities, they will need to get education and gain skills and

capital made available to them. Without life-skills, people and especially women will continue going to the dumpsite because they could not compete with others who have finished their education and trainings and have access to capital.

George wrote: "We feel blessed that our actions have blessed others to improve their living conditions." To find out more, visit: www.dadreg.org.

Since 2006, St Mary's Catholic Voluntary Academy in Menston, a Sports College in Leeds, and Mnyakanya High School have worked together using sport to inspire young people in both countries.

What started as a British Council/ Youth Sport Trust 'Dreams and Teams' initiative has been developed into a unique collaboration by the two schools that is known as the Bambisanani Partnership. The partnership has since gone on to gain international acclaim.

Bambisanani is a Zulu word meaning 'working hand in hand' and aptly describes the collaboration between the two schools.

Mnyakanya High School is situated in the rural and remote Nkandla region of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The school, in the heart of traditional Zululand, was opened by Nelson Mandela in 2004 and is located in one of the most deprived areas of South Africa with one in three adults infected by HIV/AIDS, 90 per cent unemployment and an adult illiteracy rate greater than 60 per cent. The school serves a vast area and many students walk two hours to and from school each day. The area has many AIDS orphans. Class sizes are in excess of 60 and

the school has very limited resources.

In 2014, inspired by what David Geldart, the founder of the Partnership saw on our website 'JP2F4S', St Mary's joined JP2F4. To celebrate my 75th birthday, and as founder of the JP2F4S charity, Mnyakanya High School received £750 for their kit and library. This year, to celebrate my 80th birthday, I will send them another £800. If you would like to help, please contact David Geldart at david.geldart@hotmail.com.

In 2013, Fr Gerald Bwenvu founded Lugazi Sports Academy [LSA], a registered [UYFA/098/18A], not-profit making, non-governmental organisation, registered under the Uganda Youth Football Association. As LSA's aims chime with JP2F4S, it came on board with us last month. As all JP2F4S clubs, LSA believes that every young person should have the opportunity to transform their lives and reach their full potential in life. Via high quality football programmes it creates pathways in Uganda for disadvantaged Ugandan youths to score goals on and off the football field.

The academy seeks to harness the power of football to bring about positive social change, nurture talent and alleviate poverty in Uganda and in particular, Lugazi. Currently, LSA has a population of 250 seven to 18-year-old boys and girls.

JP2F4S 'Aim High for All Virtues Programme' [AVP] works around the globe. It will certainly work in schools, Years 6 to 9 in your neighbourhood. Why not contact us on info@jp2f4s.org and see how together we can make this world a better place, especially for the young.



Playing football in 2006. Photo taken by David Geldart when he first visited Nkandla