



Youth Sport and Sustainable Development

Enhancing Youth Agency and Entrepreneurial Mindsets through Sport-Based Life Skills Programs

SEPTEMBER
19 - 22
2022

ORGANIZERS

Michigan State University

- Department of Kinesiology, Institute for the Study of Youth Sports
- Alliance for African Partnership
- Global Youth Advancement Network
- African Studies Center

PROJECT PARTNERS

- University of Botswana (UB)
- University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM)
- University of Ghana (UG)

ACTIVITIES

The Youth Sport Symposium and Capacity Building workshop will include several field visits to youth sport and entrepreneurship-related organizations in the Lansing and Detroit areas. Participants will learn and share their experiences in a variety of hands-on activities, presentations, workshops, lectures, and peer-to-peer networking.

YOUTH PARTICIPANTS

In addition to faculty researchers from MSU, Botswana, Tanzania, and Ghana, the symposium will include involvement of young practitioners (18-29 years old) from around the globe to join the symposium virtually. These youth will be invited from the three African universities that participated in the study, through members of the Global Youth Advancement Network that have previously presented on youth-sport topics, and through nominations from faculty at Michigan State University.

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

A team of researchers from MSU, UB, UDSM and UG have completed a study of youth sports, with funding from MSU's Alliance for African Partnership and African Studies Center. [Their findings](#) offer a compelling roadmap for ways in which well-structured sport-based programs could be used to nurture entrepreneurial mindsets, life skills and other youth development outcomes reported in previous studies. This research coincides with the publication of a recent United Nations' report on the role youth sport can play in achieving at least ten of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Therefore, the symposium Youth Sport and Sustainable Development: Enhancing Youth Agency and Entrepreneurial Mindsets through Sport-Based Life Skills Programs will be convened on Michigan State University's East Lansing campus, bringing university experts, community partners, and young practitioners to share experiences and reflections on youth entrepreneurship and innovation through sports in several communities across the globe, while demonstrating how these activities can support achieving the SDGs.

SYMPOSIUM OBJECTIVES

- 1. Enhance participants' knowledge and technical skills** on the topic of youth sport, youth empowerment, and community engagement so they may advocate for effective, sustainable and transformative programs in their communities.
- 2. Cultivate professional ties** and sustained linkages between US and international organizations that contribute to cross-cultural understanding and institutional capacity building.
- 3. Develop a global network** of diverse, multi-disciplinary professionals and community leaders committed to innovative problem solving and community engagement for the benefit of youth.
- 4. Share research findings and develop a joint proposal** to expand the existing line of work to enhance youth agency and promote SDGs.

MSU looks forward to welcoming our international colleagues and community partners to engage in this symposium. Please reach out to gyaninfo@msu.edu for more information about the schedule of events.