

Judo for Peace South Africa – Youth leadership Development through Judo. A successful showcase case we can replicate elsewhere ?

Judo for Peace in a nutshell:

Judo for Peace South Africa is a programme funded by the International Judo Federation in collaboration with UNHCR.

The focus of the programme is to use judo as a platform for Communities to meet, collaborate and contribute to the

Social Cohesion, Youth and Gender Empowerment, Child Protection of both local and refugee communities in South Africa. Here in South Africa, our main partners are Nike, Three2six, Future Families, Grassroots Soccer, Judo South Africa.

As for today, we are present in Johannesburg with 7 clubs and in 5 schools whereas other satellite clubs are in Durban and Cape Town.

*Our Vision is to fulfil the dreams of Jigoro Kano Shihan (founder of Judo)
- to see a brighter future through the application of the teaching of Judo
- mutual help for a better society. The Judo moral code also assists in this,
as it teaches the Judoka: courtesy, courage, honesty, honour, modesty,
respect, self-control, and friendship.*



Judo for Peace counts on the support of several partners: Institutional, Private, international, governmental and community based. Here above the organizations we collaborate with, some of them are donors, other just partner we do events with. The network of the collaborators shows the potential of judo to work at different level in the society and to mobilize diverse people and synergies for the same aim of developing a better society.



WHY Judo...

Judo is at the same time a sport, a self-defense discipline and a life style;
being the Judo moral code an integral part of the everyday teaching in the dojo
Friendships, Respect, Self-control are the fundamentals of judo.
Judo practitioners learn to work with others in selfless spirit in full respect of rules



Judo rests on the founder’s principle of Jita Kyoei “Mutual Benefit”. In judo the practitioner is constantly reminded of the importance of “giving” before “taking” as a way to learn to benefit the society through the betterment of ourselves.

The Sensei plays a paramount role in giving practical example and practice of this principle during the judo sessions. Higher belts are actively engaging assisting newcomers to learn judo technical and moral elements. The judoka learn to improve himself not to achieve personal gains but to put his/her skills at the service of the society.



Judo as a platform to reach greater and higher objectives. Sport is a way of socializing and bringing people together. With Judo for Peace we enjoy the sport and we use it to bring the attention of youth on wide variety of topics – gender base violence, environment, human rights, gender relations, nutrition. Being judo a well respected educational method it lends itself to

variegated used and it is thus an ideal vehicle to convey important messages to youth – in this case very much applicable to the Sustainable Development Goals such as Good Health and Well-being (3), Gender Equality (5), Partnership for the Goals (17).



EMPOWERING GIRLS

We celebrate diversity and a balanced gender relation in our dojo. The fact that in judo boys and girls practice together offers a great opportunity to work on gender relations and promote the respect of diversity – in this case of gender but as well of cultures.

Dedicated sessions and events are instrumental to foster the participation of girls and minority groups – it is the case of the muslim population in South Africa.

The coaches are constantly reminded to stress on the judo moral code during their classes and to promote the respect of each other while on the tatami.



JUDO is a powerful tool to empower girls and youth!

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Judo is a human right! Reaching out youth is a key component of the Judo for Peace mission. The right to sport is decisively a human right and reaching out kids in townships and in government schools is a necessary action to make sport more fair and to contribute to a fairer society.



Judo in Schools – reaching out youth

References

- [1] Cooler A. S. Binary Flow Systems. *J. Fluid. Mech.* **999**: 991-996, 1999.
- [2] Icer D.F., Adams J.A. Mathematical Elements for Computer Simulation. McGraw Hill, NY 1977.
- [3] Nygus G. Numerical Analysis Using Finite Element Method. *PhD Thesis*, NTU Mech. Eng. Dept., Lagos, 1983.

[4] UNESCO ICM, web site <https://unescoicm.org/>

In Judo for Peace we can make great use of the motivation of individuals and leverage on local and international synergies to develop self-sustainable projects.



With a very limited amount of funds we can shine. This is the Judo for Hope centre in the biggest township of Johannesburg – built in collaboration with the Embassy of Japan and Judo South Africa



With the help of a local Private Foundation – belonging to a South African Tile Company - we are now able to reach out kids in a rural schools. The well-known name of Judo as an educational martial art helped in the process of fundraising and obtaining the trust of the Italtile foundation.



Can Judo South Africa be a replicable showcase?

Our answer is a big **YES!**

Each country has a its peculiarity but there are some patterns that can be followed and best practices that can inspire other countries. Each program is an experience in itself but after a SWOT analysis opportunities can be identified targets set.

Common patterns include:

- Search for synergies with the involvement of diverse stakeholders (private, institutional, governmental, community based) at different level. Support can come in different forms and not necessarily in terms of funds
- Identify priority topic for the Judo Program (refugees, women empowerment, social cohesion)
- Develop effective communication strategies

Best Practices:

- Use of Judo as a social cohesion method
- Stress on the Judo moral code in and out of the mat
- Creating coaches among practitioners
- Coaching according to the Judo moral code and with a strong emphasis on diversity, gender relations and Jita Kyoei

The South Africa in the forefront of Sport for Development

On the spotlight of Sport for Development

Donors – institutional, Corporate, National and
International – potentially interested to engage in
sport for development

