



About AWB

Athletes Without Borders is a not for profit organization youth development organization dedicated to providing support for young people from various backgrounds who are involved or want to get involved in sports. We work with sports and recreation organizations in developing countries to empower young people and help inform them about the challenges facing them as well as offering alternative life skills geared towards conquering various life goals and enhancing their community. Sports are the vehicle, community development and empowerment is the destination.

Sports shall always play a vital role in every society that hopes to remain multicultural. The nature of sports is to help one develop an identity and or sense of purpose. Athletes Without Borders will foster that mentality by obtaining funding to provide services to young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Numerous agencies frequently use sports to engage youth. While this has been a milestone in terms of youth engagement, it has been done in the absence of a deliberate and strategic effort to maximize the benefits sports endows in the process of giving youth a voice and say in urban development. It is therefore imperative that this engagement with sports be mainstreamed into existing work programs with strategic intent. Importantly, sports are not only a source of entertainment for spectators, they're also a vital educational instrument, teaching fair play, teamwork and a sense of solidarity and promoting gender equity. Rather than constituting a purely personal activity, sports appeal to a collective identity and can provide role models for young people and children. **AWB** strives to use sports in various ways:

- As stand-alone programs for mobilization, education and youth empowerment.
- As a program that introduces universities/corporations to untapped markets and leaders.
- As supplementary or supporting components to existing youth programs and projects.
- As a supplementary component for global enrichment amongst athletes.

Sports have a strategic place in the Habitat-Youth paradigm. It is one activity that directly links youth and urban planning and development. Sports and recreation, especially in urban areas are essentially dependent on the availability of playgrounds and urban open spaces in which sporting and recreational activities can take place. Planned urban settlements that account for proper utilization of open spaces for the purposes and use of the youth therefore offer greater possibilities for sports and recreation and by extension the recipe for engaging and dialoguing with youth around the themes of sports, recreation and urban development. Failure to provide young people with these spaces can lead to higher levels of idleness, delinquency, vagrancy, drugs and crime.

AWB frequently receives requests from sporting events and facility providers for advice on how to incorporate their activities and facilities within a framework of engaging young people in human settlement issues. Through, **AWB** projects, programs, career fairs and athletic seminars around the world we aim to help integrate the sporting community into the habitat agenda and projects associated.

AWB Mission

To use all forms of athletics as a vehicle for positive change in the lives of marginalized youth.

AWB Vision

In partnership with communities, we aim to create programs that reinforce the importance of young people making healthy choices for their futures. We also want to focus on bridging the educational gap by bringing competitive athletics to underprivileged and underserved communities around the world.

AWB Objectives

The Athletes Without Borders organization aims to foster accessible, multilingual resources and services, (more) funding pathways, direct financial support, training/mentorship programs and sponsorship contacts to various communities by:

- Developing an understanding of particular barriers to participation in sports experienced by youth globally;
- Developing and implementing innovative platforms and initiatives to help overcome those barriers by highlighting the messages and opportunities arising through sports;
- Developing partnerships and program opportunities with public, private and community organizations and funding bodies to increase support for various objectives;
- Raising community awareness of issues relevant to the activities of AWB;
- Pursuing associated educational and research activities and opportunities;
- Providing support for and opportunities to students and academics studying and working in fields conducive to the attainment of these objectives.
- Creating, publishing and disseminating information in connection with these objectives;
- Soliciting grants, donations, and gifts for the purpose of achieving the AWB objectives.

AWB Projects

1. Youth-led Urban Planning Initiative:

This project aims at empowering young people from various countries around the globe. The goal is to form a partnership between numerous domestic and international corporations and athletic organizations. It is envisioned that young people will be able to be exposed to global career and university opportunities and receive valuable life skill training. Sporting activities will be used as the initial platform to bring them together and at the same time provide opportunities to learn from one another about the challenges facing them and share experiences.

2. One Stop Youth Resource Centers:

These One Stop Youth Resource and Information Centers are an initiative of **AWB** in various countries. Our goal is to highlight health and wellness to youth and families, provide youth access to tutoring/mentoring programs and state of the art global career exploration/educational opportunities. We also look to garner global attention from various companies that look to further a STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) initiative through their corporate dealings.

3. Sports for Enhancing Safe Neighborhoods:

The **AWB** Safer Cities Program aims to contribute to the overarching goal of **AWB** of “Sustainable Urbanization” through urban governance, appropriate urban management, and planning, in order to reduce and ultimately prevent the incidents and impacts of urban crime and violence in developing countries and those with economies in transition. Together with the countries government **AWB** will host International Youth Crime Prevention and Cities Summits with the objective of preventing and reducing crime and violence in cities, towns and villages. Through this program sports will be highlighted as a tool to fight criminality and drug abuse as it provides an alternative, healthy lifestyle to the youth while empowering them. The Summit will engage with youth in disenfranchised neighborhoods through positive development approaches - in particular, sports and arts. It will also aid in the upgrading of sports facilities for safe neighborhoods in partnership with local authorities and entities in the private sector.