

Swiss Academy for Development (SAD)

The Swiss Academy for Development (SAD), founded in 1991, is an independent institution and makes a scientifically-grounded, practice-oriented contribution to the creation and implementation of effective solutions and sustainable strategies in international development as well as in the area of social integration.

The project «Sport and Play for Interethnic Dialogue among Children and Youth in Sri Lanka» serves as a platform for children and youth (and their parents) to enter into dialogue and (re)build relationships and trust across the ethnic and religious boundaries in an environment rife with distrust and intolerance after the 30-year long ethnic conflict.

Local youth from the 8 selected villages are trained as coaches in sport pedagogy, conflict & diversity management and monitoring & evaluation by foreign and local experts. Two coaches (Singhalese and Tamil; male and female) supervise and guide the activities 2-3 times a week to build trust and understanding among children/youth/parents, to increase self-esteem and resilience and support them in the process of social inclusion (ethnic, gender), to promote respect for ethnic and religious diversity and fairplay and to strengthen their capacities to deal with conflicts in a non-violent manner.

The project is implemented in close collaboration with the Sri Lankan NGO Future Peace.

