

The Partners

The Volkswagen Group Works Council

The Group Works Council is made up of workers' representatives from the auto corporations Volkswagen and Audi and their subsidiaries. Expanding international works council activities began early on, based on the realisation that problems stop neither at the site nor at national borders.



Milestones were the foundation of the VW group's European Works Council in 1990 and the Global Works Council in 1998. Equally, the signing of its Social Charter in 2002 was a response to the internationalisation of the group and the challenges of globalisation. It is binding on Volkswagen's 360,000 employees worldwide.

Back in 1998, employees at Volkswagen AG and other national and international group subsidiaries started collecting funds for disadvantaged children. To mark the millennium, the Group Works Council called on the workforce to donate an hour's wage each month to launch projects for street children near the Volkswagen locations worldwide. Since then they have found many different ways of supporting this campaign, known as »One hour for the future – Volkswagen workforce helps children in need«. Programmes for disadvantaged boys and girls are now running in Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Germany. It is this initiative that also makes »A chance to play« possible.

terre des hommes Germany

The Volkswagen Group Works Council's partner is the German child rights organisation terre des hommes (»Earth of Humanity«). It selects projects to be supported and provides professional back-up at the local level.

terre des hommes Germany was founded in 1967 and now funds about 500 projects for disadvantaged children in 25 project countries. The registered non-governmental organisation (NGO) has no political or religious affiliation. The focal themes of its work are protecting children from violence and exploitation, programmes on HIV and AIDS and creating opportunities for education and training. Since 1980 terre des hommes, through its local partner organisations, has run projects for disadvantaged children in different provinces in South Africa.

South African Organisations

Projects are implemented through local non-governmental organisations focussing on children and development in the provinces of Eastern Cape (Nelson Mandela Metro Amatole District), Limpopo (Makhuduthamaga Municipality, Ba-Phalaborwa) and Gauteng (Greater Johannesburg area). Contact us for more details on the stakeholders and the areas of intervention.

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A chance to play
A programme for and
with children in South Africa

Artwork: kippconcept gmbh - Photos: Claudia Berker; Rob Duker



Volkswagen Group Works Council

terre des
hommes

Help for Children in Distress

A World Cup for all

From 11 June to 11 July 2010 South Africa will be hosting the FIFA World Cup™. For the first time, an African country has been selected for this mega event – and so people are really looking forward to it. However, they also wonder about its benefit for people: Millions of people live in extreme poverty; unemployment and the spread of HIV and AIDS weigh heavily on many families.

The World Cup is an opportunity for South Africa – yet it is important that it opens new possibilities for as many as possible. Children play a central role for the Volkswagen Group Works Council, terre des hommes and its local partner organisations in this context. Under the banner »A chance to play« a three-year programme has been launched that seeks to empower children and youth in poor residential areas, thus enabling them to better cope with the challenges they face. The programme will link into the excitement anticipated from the 2010 World Cup to create and influence sporting and recreational development for children.



The Programme

»A chance to play« aims to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and youth by linking opportunities for playing and sport with learning and training programmes.

It thereby seeks to make an important contribution to allowing boys and girls to enjoy growing up, and to learn to hold their own: on the sports ground and in the game of life.

It is not a coincidence that the focus is on games and sport: The »right to engage in play and recreational activities« is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, as is the right to »participate freely in cultural life«. All of this fosters personal development: through sport children learn key skills such as team spirit, playing fair, and self-confidence. They can work out their frustrations and fears, become more courageous, and feel integrated and accepted as part of a team.

Yet South Africa's children are most often deprived of access to basic recreational resources. »A chance to play« will afford a large sector of disadvantaged children, youth and community members a chance to do just that.

Leisure-time activities are bound with more far-reaching programmes that will show children and young people new ways forward for their lives – e.g. through practical vocational training and further education.

As the World Cup comes closer and shows the world the many facets of South Africa, they will be in the middle of it: They will play in teams in street football tournaments, act as alternative tour guides, sell craft-work or volunteer for general services.

The three building blocks of »A chance to play«

- » Providing space and opportunities for sport and games
- » Education and training through imparting practical skills
- » Information and advocacy on the right to play and protection from exploitation



The focus of »A chance to play« lies in Eastern Cape Province, and there will also be support for projects in Greater Johannesburg and in Limpopo Province. The scope of the project extends far beyond 2010, in fact. Through strongly integrating people on the ground and cooperating with the local administration, the programme will make a lasting contribution to improving quality of life for children. A manual »A chance to play« will provide information on how to play games and create activities for children. With the aim to make this publication available to institutions and individuals working with children all over the country, this manual will also be a legacy of the project.