

HAND – Handball for A New Destiny

Vision:

We believe passionately in the power of female inclusion in handball to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world. Everywhere, girls are being excluded from sports activities because of ancient prejudices, beliefs and norms. Handball is not a common sport to play in most of the world, and we have experienced how this makes it easier for the girls to get the permission to participate because the sport is not already preserved for boys only.

Mission:

HAND introduces girls to handball when hosting big sporting events. HAND teaches girls about the rules of the game, gives out handball equipment and lastly, establishes handball clubs where the girls meet regularly and are informally educated in democratic principles and human rights.

Background history:

HAND is a little sister to the organisation FANT – Football for A New Tomorrow, and has the Olympic Gold Medallist, Josephine Touray, as the founder. FANT is a humanitarian organization that through the establishment and operation of sports associations creates development and change for children and young people by:

- Creating healthy communities for children and young people
- Educating children and young people in democratic thinking and human rights
- Creating role models in local communities
- Improving women's opportunities to participate equally in the society
- Creating sports associations that are more than just clubs, but clubs that take social responsibility in the local communities.

The organization was founded in 2012 on a notion that sport can break barriers and create relations between people. Despite societal status, cultural differences, different ethnicities, gender and religion, more than 15,000 children and young people get together in one of the 19 sports associations in Sierra Leone with one common passion – the sport.

HAND was founded because FANT experienced how difficult it is to get girls involved in football activities. Everywhere in the world, football is dominated by boys and in developing countries it is particularly difficult to break down prejudices and ancient beliefs, that football is not a sport for girls.

Handball was originally invented in Denmark back in 1906 and have since settled to be the second most popular sport in Denmark just after football. Denmark have always had one of the best national teams in the world for both male and female and have several gold medals from The Olympics, the World Cup and the European Cup.

One FANT female coach in Sierra Leone, Annie Fridaye, got an interest in handball because she noticed, how many gold medals Denmark won in this strange sport discipline. She asked if FANT could help her out with some handballs, because she wanted to introduce handball in Sierra Leone. Two years after, FANT and Annie Fridaye had created the first handball club in the country, and especially the girls seemed to show a great interest in this new activity. In 2019 HAND was officially founded with the aim of advocating and working for the inclusion of girls in handball activities.

HAND Project 2020:

The aim of HAND project 2020 is to

- Introduce handball to 1000 girls in Sierra Leone
- Host a giant handball event in the capital city Freetown in April 2020
- Initiate a girls' handball federation in Sierra Leone for the promotion and establishment of female handball clubs all over the country
- Create partnerships between Danish and Sierra Leonean companions and organizations to contribute to the UN development goals 5: Gender Equality and 3: Good Health and Well-Being