

Isithumba Community Development Movement (ICDM) and the Durban–Bremen Partnership



The Isithumba Community Development Movement (ICDM) has been a long-term partner in the Durban–Bremen partnership since we first adopted the idea of Sportgarten in 2009, even before we were formally registered. Through this cooperation with Sportgarten Bremen, we have experienced many benefits, particularly the exchange of volunteers who have lived in our community, transferring valuable skills and learning from us in return. These experiences have left a lasting impact on many of our members.



This partnership has not only enabled us to welcome volunteers from Germany, but it has also created opportunities for our own young people to volunteer or work in organisations connected to Sportgarten under the leadership of Ulli Barde. In addition, we have built links with other local organisations that are also partners of Sportgarten Bremen and the City of Bremen itself. The growth and impact of this network cannot be fully described in words—it is a legacy that continues to inspire and shape every new generation.

Over the years, this partnership has attracted support from organisations such as Kaefer, Econtor, and Werder Bremen, among others. Former volunteers, such as Christian Päßler, have continued to support the initiative in their professional lives by contributing financially and mobilising support from their networks of friends and family.



Through this partnership, we have seen real improvements, such as the repairing of facilities that allow German volunteers to stay and engage meaningfully with children and the community. The ongoing support ensures sustainability, as we recognise that resources and equipment have a limited lifespan and require protection. Current efforts focus on improving security and surveillance so that our limited resources can be preserved. This is not because of crime, but because of the community's reality of scarce resources, which makes protecting existing assets a priority.



Looking ahead, we see the establishment of a library as vital for nurturing a culture of reading among local children. Similarly, starting a community garden and equipping it with the right tools will promote learning about farming and sustainable food practices. The purchasing of new soccer balls and support for the local team to travel to matches will continue to grow sport as a tool for development, while repairing doors and windows at the centre ensures a safe and functional space for both learning and recreation.



This partnership goes beyond projects. It represents true friendship, built on meaningful cooperation that crosses racial, social, and cultural boundaries.
