Deportes para la Vida (DPV) is a dynamic program that uses games and sports to educate young people about HIV/AIDS prevention, healthy decision making and leadership skills. At the global level, the Caribbean is the second region most affected by HIV/AIDS after sub-Saharan Africa. In 2005, using the same Grassroot Soccer methodology, the first program was implemented in the Dominican Republic in the community of Batey Libertad, Valverde province. In the last five years, under the leadership of DREAM and with the collaboration of the Peace Corps, DPV grew into a national network. Nowadays DPV implements sex education programs in more than 50 communities in the Dominican Republic.

**WHAT DOES DPV TEACH?**

Deportes para la Vida participants learn about sexual health and also cultivate leadership skills. DPV teaches participants about the risks of sex, the myths of HIV, the transmission of HIV, how HIV affects the human body, the treatment of HIV and gender equity. The program consists of a series of 12 hours of games and activities that allow youth to explore the sensitive issues of sex education. DPV trains young leaders to replicate programs in their own communities, creating a fun and safe learning environment. At the end of a DPV program, participants also develop their skills in critical thinking, communication and leadership.

**TYPES OF GROUPS AND PLACES OF INTERVENTION**

DPV recruits young people from different groups in the communities, such as students from schools, sports teams, formal and informal groups. The program carries out the activities in the following spaces: schools, board rooms, sports fields, churches, camps and community centers.

**WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM?**

Since December 2010, with the support of the DREAM Project in collaboration with the Peace Corps and the PEPFAR funds, DPV has trained more than 450 young leaders considered as Certified DPV Trainers, coming from diverse communities of the country. Each year, more than 2000 adolescent and youth participants are graduates of the program. Since its first pilot program in 2005, more than 9,000 participants have graduated from the program with better guidance and training in HIV prevention.