

Sport for Development and Peace

Technical Assistance

Sport's role in national development



Sport and physical activity plays an important role in improving health and wellbeing of children. Photo: JustPlay, OFC

The Commonwealth Secretariat provides technical assistance to member countries to develop policies and strategies to maximise the contribution of sport to national development objectives.

This work focuses on the use of sport as a tool in advancing sustainable development and strengthening governance, gender equality and the protection and promotion of human rights in sport.

The Commonwealth Secretariat is recognised as a global leader in this arena and plays a key coordination role in sports policy with other international intergovernmental and sporting stakeholders as well as business, academia, non-government groups and civil society.

We work closely with member governments and other stakeholders to ensure the technical assistance is tailored to suit each country, the local environment and also reflects government priorities and aspirations. There is also a strong focus on identifying good practice locally to share with other Commonwealth countries.

Our tailored support may include assistance with policy design, strategy development, consultation with stakeholders, research, training and capacity building, or undertaking evaluations. The Commonwealth is able to assist countries to develop overarching national plans and provide strategic advice drawing on best practice from across the Commonwealth.

We have produced a series of guidelines and toolkits to support policy and strategy development. These resources guide our technical assistance for member countries and are available on our website.

“We advocate for sport to be used as a vehicle to advance social cohesion and sustainable development. By working with member countries, we develop policies and action plans that link sport to outcomes in health, education, gender equality and social inclusion.”

*- Oliver Dudfield,
Head of Sport for Development and Peace,
Commonwealth Secretariat*

The Commonwealth Secretariat has provided technical assistance to support the following initiatives in member countries:

Mauritius

The development of a national 'Sport for All' policy and strategy is delivering better health and wellbeing and promoting social cohesion in Mauritius. In 2016, Mauritius developed a sports plan and allocated funding and resources to encourage Mauritians to participate in sport and physical activity.



A new approach in Mauritius is getting the whole country involved in sport and physical activity.

Zambia

A review of the national sports policy strengthened the country's sports policy to align with national development priorities to maximise the contribution of sport towards these aims. Sport is being used to promote physical and mental health as well as supporting education, boosting employment prospects and improving social cohesion.



Sport is playing a major role in helping promote social and economic development in Zambia.

Botswana

Botswana is using sport to promote gender equality through the production of national guidelines and implementing a strategy for gender mainstreaming in sport. More than 100 officials, sports leaders, athletes and coaches from national sporting groups have taken part in gender mainstreaming workshops.



Workshops highlighted the contribution of sport to achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls.

Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, the development of a national sport for development and peace (SDP) strategy is enhancing the role of sport in improving the lives of young people and building stronger, more peaceful communities in the country. A national steering committee to oversee the new SDP strategy has also improved coordination among government ministries and sports organisations.



Sports officials participate in a local sports day to raise awareness of the benefits of sport.