

Sport for Development and Peace

Botswana Case Study

A sporting chance for women in Botswana

They still face significant barriers to gender equality, but women in Botswana are taking on the traditionally male-dominated realm of sport.

With sport providing a natural platform for engaging communities, the Botswanan Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development (MYSC), the International Working Group on Women on Sport (IWG) and the Commonwealth Secretariat joined forces with sport stakeholders across the country to develop a strategy to promote gender equality across sport in the country.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Sport and Culture Development, Mr Kago Ramokate, said the government's goal is to maximise the contribution of sport to achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls across the country.

"To do this, we needed a clear plan to mainstream gender issues in our new sports strategy focussed on the positive impact of improved gender equality in sport and outlining how we will build capacity to promote gender equality in all sports in Botswana," Mr Ramokate said.

"The development of an overarching gender mainstreaming strategy for sport in Botswana is very important and to align with the country's national development plans. It coordinates the work of all stakeholders in sport to reach consensus on strategies to advance a gender mainstreaming strategy for sport in Botswana."



As part of the strategy development process, more than 100 officials, sports leaders, athletes and coaches from national sporting groups have taken part in gender mainstreaming workshops.

"One of the outcomes of the workshops was agreement of the need to strengthen structures and guidelines to advance gender equality in sport, with implementation overseen by senior leaders across government and the sporting community."

The Ministry, IWG and the Commonwealth Secretariat adopted a cross-sector approach to develop the gender mainstreaming strategy working with the Botswana National Sports Commission, Women and Sport Botswana, the National Olympic Committee and national sports associations, as well as other government and non-governmental departments and organisations. The key objective of this approach was to ensure that gender equality is inherent in all policy and programming of sports stakeholders in the country.

"These are important outcomes for Botswana, especially as our role as host of the International Working group on Women and Sport Secretariat ahead of the 7th World Conference on Women in Sport in 2018," Mr Ramokate said.

Technical assistance

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

By aligning national sports policy to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Commonwealth countries can maximise the impact and contribution of sport to their national development objectives, including in areas such as health, education and social cohesion. This contribution can be realised through the use of sport as a tool in advancing sustainable development and by strengthening governance, gender equality and the protection and promotion of human rights in sport.

The Commonwealth is able to provide expert technical assistance and human resources to assist member countries develop overarching national plans, as well as provide strategic advice.

Further information, reference material and publications is available on the website: <http://thecommonwealth.org/>



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The Commonwealth Secretariat's Sport for Development and Peace Unit assists member governments to strengthen policy and strategy to promote the contribution of sport to sustainable development.

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