

Sport for Development and Peace

Zambia Case Study

Sport helps to promote national development in Zambia

Sport is set to play an important role in helping promote social and economic development in Zambia.

With 82 per cent of the country's population below the age of 35, sport is a practical way to target young people to promote physical and mental health and well-being, as well as build social cohesion within the country.

Bessie Malilwe Chelemu, Director of Sport in Zambia's Ministry of Youth Sport and Child Development said the government has recognised the importance for sport to contribute to national sustainable development priorities.

"With the Commonwealth's support we reviewed our national sport policy in 2016 to align our sport policy direction with the country's development priorities to fully maximise the potential of sport," Ms Chelemu said.

"With such a large and growing young population, we have to make sure we have the right enabling environment so sport could make a real contribution to our country's national development."

The ministry has identified four priority areas to maximise the impact of sport in Zambia. These include: improving physical and mental health and well-being and promoting social cohesion; creating job opportunities for young people; encouraging educational institutions to offer innovative courses which support the sports industry; and strengthening sports governance.



"From this process, the important role of sports in promoting economic diversification and job creation, enhancing Zambia's human capital and creating a supportive governance environment captured in the revised sports policy was aligned to latest national development plan, Zambia's Vision 2030."

Ms Chelemu said a focus on reducing development inequality, mainstreaming gender issues and protecting the rights of children and people with a disability were important.

"The Government's leadership provides a clear strategic focus and policy direction for all stakeholders on the development priorities that highlight how sport can contribute to in the country."

"We are keen to continue to work in partnership with sporting organisations, the private sector and civil society to ensure we truly maximise the potential for sport to promote social and economic development in Zambia."

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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Author: Sport for Development and Peace Section, Commonwealth Secretariat, London UK.

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.

For more information on Sport for Development and Peace, visit the website or email sdp@commonwealth.int

Commonwealth Secretariat
Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, United Kingdom
Tel: **+44 (0)20 7747 6500**
www.thecommonwealth.org

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