



Australian Government

Australian Sports Commission

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Caribbean

Case Study

A successful partnership

Overview

The Caribbean Sport and Development Agency (CSDA) and the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) have been delivering sport for development activities in the Caribbean region for the last 14 years. Together they have used sport as a vehicle to address social development challenges and needs through regional collaboration, building young people's leadership and participation, and increasing opportunities for people with disability.

Partnership principles – the strength of the relationship

Throughout the life of the program the ASC and CSDA forged a strong working relationship based on a commitment to key partnership principles. Each organisation adhered to these principles, which endured over 14 years and numerous staffing changes. These principles include:

- open communication and honesty
- sharing knowledge and transparency
- mutual accountability and commitment to continual improvement
- commitment to development effectiveness principles
- recognition and appreciation of each other's value
- respecting cultural identities.

The partnership serves as an example of how [a] successful partnership is not built on grandiose promises or refusals to admit to problems. Rather, [a] successful partnership is built around the courage to be honest and the vision to remain committed.

Andre Collins, CSDA Director

Becoming a global leader

The CSDA, with Australian Government support, has grown to become one of the top-10 sport for development agencies in the world, as recognised at the Commonwealth Sports Development Conference in 2010. The CSDA has continually sought to improve the use of sport as a development tool within a variety of sectors. These include:

- developing regional expertise in facilitating sport for development programs
- developing strong partnerships with local and regional stakeholders

The duration of our partnership really is a testament to the good working relationship we had.

Mark Mungal, CSDA Director



- improving the monitoring and evaluation capability of sport for development implementers in the region
- becoming a leading agency in the development and implementation of safeguarding and child protection strategies
- developing sport for development organisations' ability to provide inclusive and adapted activities for people with disability.

The CSDA [is] recognised as the lead sport for development agency in the region and partnering with them was essential for the success of the ASOP Caribbean. With Australian Government support, it grew from being a leader in the region to being recognised globally for its work.

Amy Berson,
former ASOP Caribbean Manager, ASC

A valued partner

The CSDA's ability to focus on achieving development outcomes and its understanding of regional and local contexts made the organisation a highly valued partner of the ASOP Caribbean.

The CSDA's value is reflected in its:

- ability to manage for results
- high levels of accountability characterised by efficient and effective use of donor funds
- commitment to using sport as a tool to achieving development outcomes in health, disability and social cohesion
- ability to cultivate relationships in the government and non-government sectors.

This formal partnership allowed the ASC to transition from direct sport for development implementation to a more sustainable model of implementation through an in-region partner. It also provided the CSDA with the confidence and resources to establish itself as leader in sport for development in the Caribbean.

The CSDA were really ahead of the curve in their child protection practices – at a time when the rest of the development sector was playing catch-up the CSDA already had good strategies in place.

Edward McCowan,
current ASOP Caribbean Manager, ASC

Key achievements of the partnership

The partnership allowed both agencies to grow the program to a level not possible without each other. Leveraging each other's expertise and networks grew each organisation's knowledge and allowed for the best use of resources.

Key achievements have included:

- increased development effectiveness using sport as a tool including:
 - alignment of all activities with regional and local priorities
 - increased opportunities for persons with disabilities to participate in adapted sport and physical education programs increasing the amount of people reached each year
 - using sport to achieve health outcomes
- a better understanding of using sport as development tool in the region and internationally through research and capacity building
- enduring commitment to child safeguarding – both in their own programs and promoting best practice in the region and internationally
- capacity building of each other and stakeholders in the sport for development movement.

We have always had a great relationship with the ASC – we have learnt a lot from each other in terms of continually improving the use of sport as a development tool.

Mark Mungal, CSDA Director

The program's enduring commitment to local and regional priorities was essential to success.

Andre Collins, CSDA Director



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