



Australian Government

Australian Sports Commission

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



# Caribbean

## Case Study

### Australian Sports Outreach Program Caribbean

#### Background

The Australian Sports Outreach Program (ASOP) Caribbean is an Australian Government initiative delivered by the Caribbean Sport and Development Agency (CSDA). It builds on previous Sport for Development initiatives and the collaborations between Australia and the Caribbean in the use of sport as a tool for development.

The most recent phase of the program focuses on strengthening regional capacity to lead, plan and conduct inclusive, sport-based programs that are linked to regional development priorities.

#### History

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC), through funding from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, has been supporting the ASOP and other sport development programs in the Commonwealth Caribbean countries since 1998.

The program activities initially involved direct ASC implementation; however, in 2003 the Trinidad and Tobago Alliance for Sport and Physical Education (now called the CSDA) took responsibility for implementation of the program.





## How it works

The CSDA works with schools and communities, through engagement with government ministries and community and sporting organisations, to determine which programs will best meet the goals of those involved. These programs seek to improve health-related behaviours, opportunities for people with disability, and social cohesion.

## Program focus

Activities mainly target primary school children, under-served youth and people with disability, with a strong focus on enhancing the capacity of physical education teachers, coaches, community volunteers, youth sport leaders, and sports administrators.

The CSDA works with in-country implementing partners to support sport and development programs in: Trinidad and Tobago; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Belize; Guyana; Suriname; Barbados; Jamaica; Antigua and Barbuda; Dominica; Grenada; Anguilla; and Saint Lucia.

## Implementation

The CSDA has developed and tailored a range of programs that address school and community development needs using physical activity to deliver positive outcomes. The CSDA was recognised as one of the world's top-10 organisations in the sport for development field at the Commonwealth Sports Development Conference in 2010. Australian Government support played a major role in helping the CSDA achieve this milestone.

## Key programs

- **Youth Empowerment through Sport (YES)** – providing young people with sports leadership skills to manage and run their own sporting activities, events and competitions.
- **ENGAGE 360** – providing opportunities for children to develop movement literacy through a developmentally appropriate and child-friendly curriculum.
- **Jump Rope for Health** – promoting healthy lifestyle activities and informed nutritional meal choices.
- **Kicking AIDS Out** – an innovative, inclusive, high-energy approach that links sports, physical activity and traditional movement games with HIV and AIDS prevention and education.
- **Ready and Able** – opportunities for children with disabilities to develop movement literacy.
- **SafeStamp** – making the sport, physical education and recreation environment safer for children.

## Outcomes

- **Capacity building** of regional program implementers and participants.
- **International recognition** as one of the world's top-10 sport for development agencies, with Australian Government support playing a major role.
- **Improving the lives of people with disability** through increased opportunities for them to participate in adapted sport and physical education programs in selected territories.
- **Ensuring greater regional commitment** from government departments (mainly ministries of sport, youth and education) to embrace ASOP Caribbean Sport for Development initiatives.
- **Child safeguarding initiatives** and training delivered as core parts of the ASOP Caribbean's various activities.

*Giving organisations the tools to provide inclusive sport and physical activity is essential to provide people with disability opportunities to participate. The program made this a priority. The program's ongoing commitment to aligning with local and regional development priorities set the example for the sport for development sector.'*

**Andre Collins**, CSDA Director



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