

# Contributing to the United Nations Report of the Secretary General on Sport for Peace and Sustainable Development

At the request of UN Member States, the Secretary-General will report on Sport as an enabler of sustainable development at the 77th Session of the General Assembly in 2022. The UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs is leading preparation of the report, inviting the contributions of interested individuals, community groups, organizations businesses and academics. Specifically, we seek information on initiatives undertaken or planned from Jan. 2020 to Feb.2022 that aim to:

- A. Safely harness sport to advance sustainable development, peace and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of technology;
- B. Integrate sport as a driver of sustainable development and peace in COVID-19 recovery strategies & policies;
- C. Leverage sport events to promote sustainable development, climate action, and/or peace initiatives;
- D. Safeguard sport from corruption and crime; and
- E. Advance research, data collection, and data dissemination on the contributions of sport to development and peace.

This form will help to guide your contributions. Please submit your input by 7 March 2022.

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Name of contributor

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Name of organization

Team Up [delivered by GHD's International Development Assistance (IDA) Team on behalf of the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)]

What are the main objectives and deliverables of your initiative(s)? When from Jan 2020 to Feb 2022 was the initiative(s) planned or started? How long is it expected to last? \*

Team Up, the Australian Government's flagship sport for development program across Asia-Pacific aims to support all people to realise their full potential through sport.

In contributing to this goal, Team Up is working towards three connected, mutually reinforcing end-of-program outcomes that will address the 'play gap' by supporting women and girls, and people with a disability, to benefit from participation in safe, inclusive and accessible sport programs and organisations. To facilitate progress in these areas, Australia and its Asia-Pacific partners will use sport to strengthen relationships and build closer collaboration and people-to-people linkages.

Following a co-design process undertaken with identified partners in 2020, the program was officially launched in the Pacific in 2021 [which includes programs and activities across six Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs): Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Nauru, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu].

Phase I of Team Up is expected to run through to the end of 2022, with the potential for a Phase II and Phase III of the program (which would include an additional 3-year extension for each phase, potentially taking the program through to 2028), with the extension of Phase II to be confirmed mid-2022.

Which, if any, of the following are among the main objectives of the initiative?

- Ensuring no one is left behind (advancing empowerment, inclusion and equality through sport)
- Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development
- Related research, data collection or data dissemination
- Integrating sport for sustainable development and peace in COVID-19 recovery and/or 2030 Agenda strategies, programmes and policies
- Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace
- Addressing poverty and promoting prosperity
- Conflict prevention/peace building
- Safely harnessing sport for sustainable development, peace and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of technology
- Safeguarding sport from corruption and crime
- Other: .....

Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative(s)? How do they benefit? \*

With a multi-dimensional approach to programming, which includes service delivery to end users (program participants), capacity building of delivery partners (eg staff, coaches, volunteers, board members, etc) and institutional strengthening (of sporting organisations and federations), Team Up includes a range of beneficiaries who will directly and indirectly benefit from the program.

Program participants: Include children aged 5-12 years, adolescents aged 13-18 years, adults 19+ years, including girls and women, people with a disability and individuals identifying as LGBTQI+ including Pacific gender identities, from schools, communities and clubs across the six target PICTs.

Staff, coaches, volunteers: – Includes women and girls, people with a disability and individuals identifying as LGBTQI+ including Pacific gender identities, as well as men and boys from sport for development partnership organisations across six PICTs.

Sporting organisations and federations: Including national and regional sport for development and strategic partnership organisations and federations across six PICTs.

Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative(s) and what are their roles? What are the main sources of funding of the initiative(s)?

Through a twin-track partnership model, which includes sport for development and strategic partnerships, Team Up has established a range of partnerships through a fit-for-purpose partnership funding mechanism, which supports traditional and non-traditional actors to facilitate the delivery sport for development programs across Asia-Pacific. Partnerships include both in-country and regional sporting organisations as well as development focused non-governmental organisations, learning institutions and development partners.

With an annual investment of AUD\$6 million from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Team Up facilitates the delivery of funding and support to over 60 organisations, across 13 sports, who are delivering 29 sport for development programs, across six PICTs.

### What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative(s)? \*

Through the engagement of collaborative partnerships, with organisations and sport for development programs across Asia-Pacific, Team Up is working to achieve three end-of-program outcomes:

1. Sport programs attract and retain women, girls and people with a disability, as well as men and boys.
2. Sport organisations are safe, inclusive and accessible.
3. Australia and Asia-Pacific partners use sport to strengthen relationships and build closer collaboration.

Since the program's launch in 2021, the following outcomes have been recorded.

Sport programs attract and retain women, girls and people with a disability, as well as men and boys.

- Establishment of 30 sport for development partnerships and two strategic partnerships, which includes over 60 partners and 29 programs across six countries in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories.
- 66,399 Team Up program participants (children aged 5-12 years, adolescents 13-18 years and adults 19+ years) engaged in regular (weekly) sport for development program activities, events, festivals, tournaments and competitions.
- 45 per cent of program participants are girls and women, while one per cent are people with a disability.

Sport organisations are safe, inclusive and accessible.

- A total of 13 safeguarding focal points have been appointed among Team Up partners.
- 1,006 Team Up coaches have been trained to support the delivery of quality sport for development programs.
- 344 individuals (of which 73 per cent are female, one per cent are people with a disability and five per cent are individuals identifying as LGBTIQ+, including Pacific culture gender identities) have been employed to support the delivery to Team Up programs across the six PCITs.
- A total of 20 policies were updated and 13 were developed by Team Up sport for development partners to strengthen governance, accountability and quality delivery of sport for development programs.

Australia and Asia-Pacific partners use sport to strengthen relationships and build closer collaboration.

- A total of 233 media and communications content pieces were produced during the period of 1 January to 30 June 2021, which resulted in a total reach/engagement of 658,538.
- A total of 25 newspaper/online stories were published, 35 radio interviews delivered, 17 webinar appearances recorded, and five webinars delivered by Team Up sport for development partners.
- Two Team Up sport for development partners converted program resources to online/video content and delivered online sessions.

### What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative(s)?

Team Up provides technical support to assist partners to analyse current practices and develop ways of identifying new approaches monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning (MERL). Team Up also supports partners to react to their own observations and analyse their challenges and priorities, helping them to strengthen overall implementation and program impact. Team Up takes a rigorous approach to MERL, applying an adaptive management process that strengthen partners overall ability to achieve long-term outcomes.

Through the co-design process, Team Up supported all partners to design a theory of change, program logic and program result matrix to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of programming activities, outcomes and impact.

In addition to overall program monitoring and reporting carried out by each individual partner, Team Up includes a structured monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning process (MERL) framework, which includes the following components:

- Co-design process
- Baseline report
- Quarterly due diligence and exception reporting
- Six-month progress report (which include financial acquittals)
- Annual report (which include financial acquittals)
- Completion report (at the end of the program cycle)

In addition to reporting structures and systems, Team Up also supports the capacity building of national and regional level partners to enhance delivery of MERL components, which includes supporting the creation of tools and resources, overall capacity building and the integration and development of innovative approaches to MERL.

What have been/were the main challenges to implementation? What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?

Since the launch of the program, Pacific based partners have faced a significant number of challenges, which have impacted programming and implementation of Team Up programs.

A summary of the main challenges have been listed below.

- COVID-19 pandemic: With an almost region wide ban on public gatherings, including sporting events and activities, Team Up sport for development partners have had to postpone and cancel all face-to-face activities for extended periods in both 2020 and 2021. To safeguard the wellbeing of staff and program participants throughout the pandemic and lockdown period, Team Up sport for development partners shifted from conducting outward facing activities to focusing on strategic development, upskilling and capacity building activities and program adaptations, which allowed them to support the delivery of online activities and to prepare for re-engagement once restrictions were lifted.
- Travel restrictions: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and boarder closures site visits and face-to-face capacity building/training activities in programming locations by international experts have not been possible. This has resulted in the cancelation/postponement of certain trainings and activities across the region, while others have shifted to remote delivery. Although technical support, trainings and workshops continue to take place using remote approaches (eg via Zoom and other online platforms), in a region of the world where access to reliable, quality internet remains challenging, this continues to be a challenge for both Team Up and partners, resulting in support gaps, especially to national level partners in the six PICTs. Provision and reallocation of programming resources to support the procurement of equipment and allocation of communications allowances, has helped to ensure that the remote delivery gap is minimized.
- Natural disasters: Recognised as one of the most disaster-prone regions of the world, partners across Team Up's six PICTs continue to navigate the numerous natural disasters recorded in both 2020 and 2021.
- Upcoming government elections: With upcoming government elections in countries across the region in 2022, partners continue to monitor the political environment and stand ready to adjust/adapt programming components as required.

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