

## • FOREWORD •



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AUSTRALIAN  
COUNCIL  
FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT



In the playgrounds of primary schools across Australia, the streets and alleys of refugee camps across the world, and the elite sporting fields showcasing the world's fittest and strongest, sport has a remarkable capacity to bring people together the world over. While sport has essential health benefits, the case studies in this compilation demonstrate the wide ranging reasons why sport matters for development.

Sport can motivate children to attend and participate in school. It encourages personal development, increases self-confidence and self-esteem. Sport can strengthen social ties and can foster communication and understanding within and between disparate communities. It can erode stigma associated with marginalised groups, entrench gender equality and provide new avenues for leadership and community engagement.

Finally, sport is a powerful tool to promote unity and peace-building – the sporting field is a unique environment that encourages aggression to be controlled and ultimately replaced by the ideals of teamwork, tolerance and reconciliation.

Now is the time to acknowledge the power, and accelerate the pace, of sport for development.