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AFGHANISTAN

SNAPSHOT

Bowling Up Opportunities in Kandahar

USAID partnered with the Kandahar Provincial Department of Sports and Olympics to bring a youth cricket tournament to Kandahar City.



Photo: USAID/CCI

The Director of the Department of Sports and Olympics presents jerseys to a team captain.

The seven day cricket tournament provided an opportunity for youth from across Kandahar City to come together to interact and compete in a positive activity, which also connected them to their local government representatives.

Afghanistan is not so different from the rest of the world. Wherever you go, sports bring people together, encouraging community participation and creating lifelong friendships.

For a long time these gatherings have been rare due to security and economic concerns, but now they are common again.

Keeping in mind cricket's growing popularity and the lack of opportunities for youth in Kandahar City, the Community Cohesion Initiative, the Provincial Department of Sports and Olympics, and the Kandahar Cricket Board, attracted eight local teams to a city-wide cricket tournament. This seven-day event occurred in one of the city's most underserved areas.

Throughout the tournament, players and spectators reacted positively and friendly rivalries added to the excitement. Ahmad Shahi Cricket Team from Sub-District Six beat the Roshan Team from Sub-District Eight in the final match, 138 to 139 runs and four wickets.

The winning team received trophies and certificates of recognition from the Director of Sports and Olympics. All participants received cricket uniforms and sports equipment, encouraging future matches and cooperation between districts. The victorious captain declared that "this activity encourages youth to come together to embrace sports instead of drugs and crime."