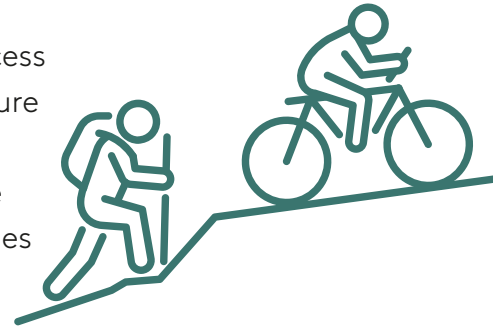


Urban Outdoors Adventure Initiative Evaluation Summary 2020

The objective of this evaluation was to undertake a process and outcome evaluation of the Urban Outdoors Adventure Initiative (UOAs) funded in 2017, 2018 and 2019, to understand to what extent LSPs who have rolled out the initiative, have achieved their intended outputs, outcomes and aims, and what contributed to their success.



This evaluation found the UOAs **Partnership** and **Relevance** process, and the **Strong Organisation** and **Quality Facilities** outcomes were realised to the most consistent extent across the Initiatives.

Fidelity was significantly impacted in most of the 2019 initiatives due to the effects of COVID 19 restrictions. Fidelity would also have been enhanced in a small number of Initiatives through a more robust needs analysis and evaluation procedure.

It is evident that there is variation in the **Reach** and **Sustainability** process and in the **Pathway** and **Well Trained People** outcomes across the Initiatives.

The UOAs will benefit from additional clarity regarding the **Reach** process. There are specific challenges relating to adventure sports and the **Well Trained People** and **Sustainability** outcomes, especially for individuals with a disability.

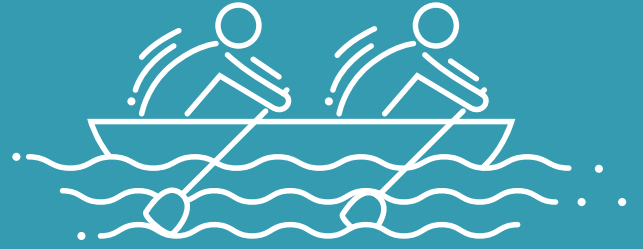


Key questions of the evaluation:

What are the key successes that the UOAI programme has experienced?

SUCCESSES

- ✓ The LSP's have a very strong local network of partners, an awareness of their disparate community sports needs and have demonstrated the capacity to deliver meaningful interventions.
- ✓ The UOAs demonstrated a strong partnership interaction and networking with local partners and some national bodies.
- ✓ A number of the UOAs had a positive deep impact on individuals and a positive impact on targeted communities.
- ✓ A number of UOAs undertook and delivered their initiatives based on a targeted needs analysis.
- ✓ The overall visibility, accessibility, appreciation and participation in local urban adventure sports has increased as a direct result of the UOAs.
- ✓ Adventure sports clubs and some local youth organisations have increased their capacity through the availability of additional UOAI equipment and networking supports.



Which Goals do the UOAls need support in achieving?



The positive impacts arising from the UOA Initiatives range along a continuum from providing new *'recreational pathways'* for participating in adventure sports to *'activating change'* at a personal or community level through the vehicle of adventure sports. Further clarity regarding the **strategic priorities** of the UOAls along this continuum are required.



Adventure sports participation opportunities and pathways for the targeted groups are challenging to realise and often require continued **engagement and ongoing investment** in clubs, NGBs and the commercial/quasi commercial sector. These challenges are heightened when providing adventure sports for individuals with a disability. Some 'long tail' UOAI resources are required around training, events/animation and local adventure coordinators.



Some adventure sports are more challenging to deliver and capacity build than others. Additional supports are required to assist Initiatives to **appraise the value and challenge of the different adventure sports**. Similarly **encouragement** is required to increase the span of adventure sports NGB's which have adjusted their training and participation approaches to support the UOAI Initiative.

