



**BAT FOR
A CHANCE**



IMPACT REPORT 2025

INTRODUCTION

Since Bat For a Chance was born as an idea in my teenage bedroom, we have grown into an organisation far beyond my wildest dreams. With the simple ambition to innovatively help people around the world, we are successfully using cricket as a force for social change.

To date we have now worked on projects in 30 countries, across 4 continents and impacting over 23,000 people. These remarkable achievements were only possible thanks to the support and guidance of many of the key partners and people you will hear about in the pages to come.

This report will give you a flavour of how we are using cricket as a tool to address key development topics, celebrating some of our key achievements to date and also highlighting the importance of collaboration - not competition - in the NGO sector. Additionally, it crucially explains why now more than ever we need sport for development programmes across the world.

The past few years have seen the world's population face a series of severe challenges, from the climate crisis in Pakistan, to a region-wide gender inequality crisis in the Caribbean, and skyrocketing cost of living in the UK. The passion for sport, however, has remained constant, with cricket now having an enormous and growing fanbase of 2.5 billion fans globally.

2025 was a year of unprecedented growth for the charity, marking the formal launch of our Cricket For Social Change Fund which allows us to have deeper impacts in the communities we support. We have also expanded our core team, welcoming Jon (Head of Operations), Chrissy (Fundraising and Events), and Ben (Warehouse Manager), who have already had a transformational impact on our work.

As we look towards the next chapter of our growth, the kit recycling programme will remain the backbone of our work. However, the expansion of our Cricket for Social Change Fund will be crucial, as the potential this holds to change lives and educate communities is immense. We are already seeing first hand the impact, whether it be girls having their first ever opportunity to play sport in Pakistan or coaches gaining their first formal jobs in South Africa, and I firmly believe this is just the start of a very special journey. The foundation of this fund is built from partnerships with philanthropists, corporates and local partners, built on the basis of a co-funding model. Additionally, we have bold plans to launch our landmark UK programme in 2026.

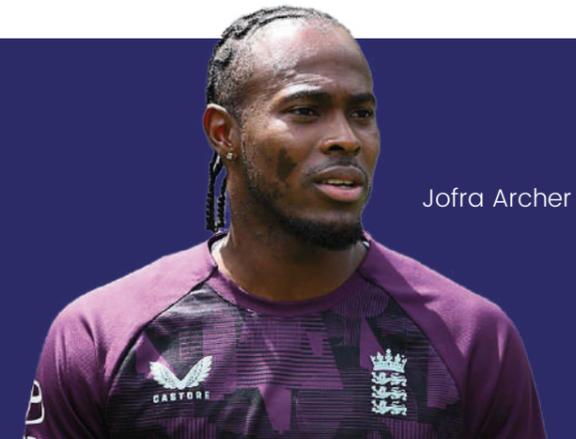
If you would like to join us on our journey to use cricket as a tool for social change in the UK and abroad, we would love to hear from you.



Will Gaffney
Founder

QUOTE FROM OUR AMBASSADOR

“I’m hugely impressed by the incredible work of Bat For a Chance. For me, cricket has always been about opportunity and that’s exactly what Bat For a Chance is giving to thousands of people across the world. What Will and the team have built is special, and I’m excited to get stuck in and play a role in helping our work grow even further”.



Jofra Archer

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Bat For a Chance harnesses the power of cricket as a tool for social change around the world.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Using our equipment distribution programme, we help break down barriers preventing access to sport - impacting lives and communities and building a unique global network of projects and partners.

We then leverage this network through our Cricket for Social Change (CSC) Fund, using cricket as a tool for communities to engage on key topics and learn new skills that align with one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - empowering communities globally.

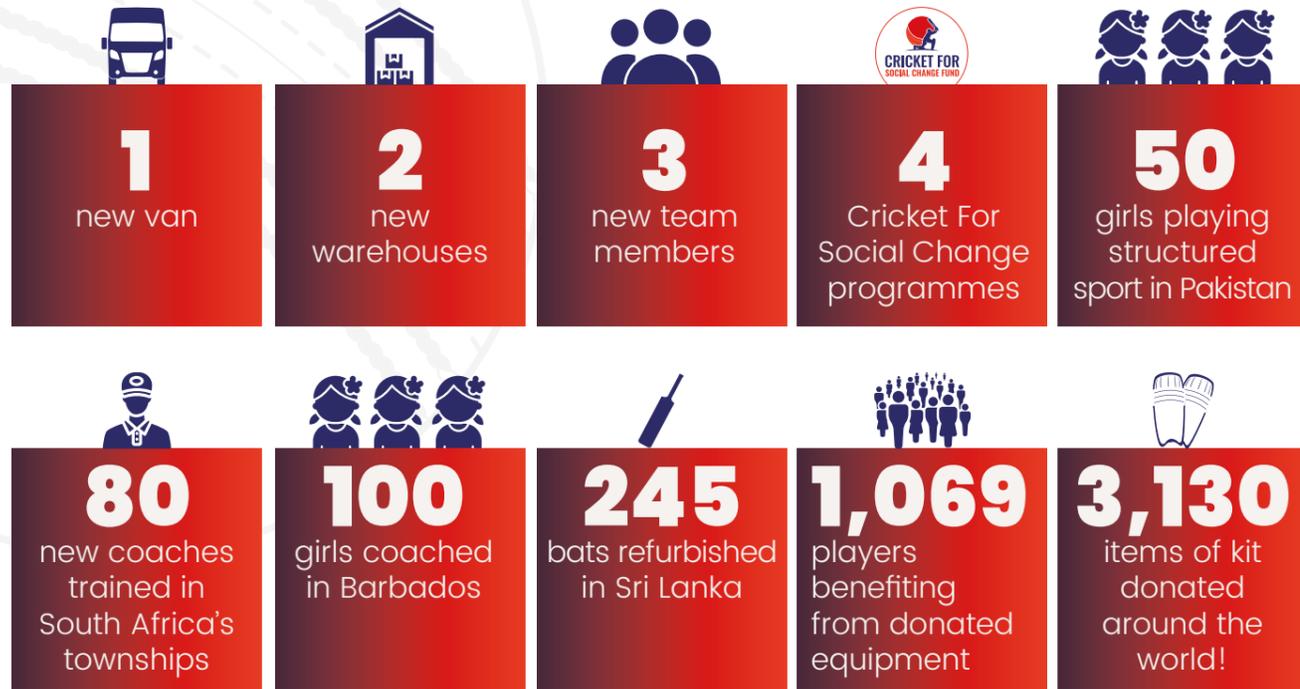
GLOBAL IMPACT TO DATE

SINCE OUR INCEPTION, WE HAVE PROVIDED ACCESS TO CRICKET IN 30 COUNTRIES



**AND SUPPORTED
OVER 23,000
PEOPLE**

2025 IN NUMBERS:



CRICKET FOR SOCIAL CHANGE FUND

This programme exists to leverage the soft power of cricket in communities globally, with partnership at the heart of our model. The fund builds on our kit drops through inviting partners we have previously worked with to apply for further high impact support from BFAC. Pitching a new innovative programme which addresses one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through

cricket, the fund provides grants on an initial three year basis. Across the duration of the grant, BFAC works with local partners to launch the concept, bring in local sponsorship and ensure the programme is being managed and run effectively. We look to build locally sustainable projects which are no longer reliant on our funding by the end of the three years.



SOUTH AFRICA - THE CATCH ACADEMY: SUPPORTING TOWNSHIP EMPLOYMENT IN CAPE TOWN

The Challenge We Are Addressing:

Townships across Cape Town face significant socio-economic barriers that limit opportunities for young people. Youth unemployment is extremely high, with around 56% of 15–24-year-olds unemployed and 25% classified as NEET—not in education, employment, or training (City of Cape Town, 2022).

These challenges are most acute in under-resourced communities such as Langa, Gugulethu, Nyanga, and Khayelitsha, where structured coaching, vocational training, and mentorship are limited. Mental health needs are also rising, with 73% of youth reporting a need for support (UNICEF South Africa, 2022). Female participation in sport remains low, restricting pathways into professional coaching and leadership.

Our Programme:

The Catch Academy, launched in March 2025 with Gary Kirsten's Catch Trust, trains aspiring cricket coaches from these townships. The 10-week free programme integrates cricket coaching fundamentals with sports psychology,

mental health first aid, and entrepreneurship workshops. All graduates receive a Coached Level 1 certification, access to an online learning platform, and a pathway to a financial literacy course delivered with Laureus and Lucha Lunkano.

This year, mental wellbeing has been a key focus, with a 10-day mental fitness challenge delivered in partnership with the Desert Vipers, helping coaches build resilience, manage stress, and support their communities.

2025 Impact

The programme has an 80% pass rate, with 25% female participants, and is forecast to support over 100 (80 achieved to date) coaches in the first full year. Graduates have successfully delivered coaching sessions in township schools and local clubs, creating safe spaces for youth development. The top two graduates from this year's programme will also be participating in internships under Ryan Van Niekerk, the assistant coach of the Netherlands national team.

“Being part of the Catch Academy was truly empowering and transformative – especially as a coach from an under-resourced community. The programme shifted how I see coaching. It is no longer about giving instructions, it is about mentoring, listening, observing and supporting the growth of each player. I now feel more confident and equipped to make a real impact in my community and I'd encourage any aspiring coach to approach this journey with passion and an open mind”

Bulelani Libazi – Academy Graduate Khayelitsha Cricket Club

SDG ALIGNMENT



SRI LANKA - BAT REFURBISHMENT SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

The Challenge We Are Addressing:

In many rural areas of Sri Lanka, children face limited access to sports equipment, and opportunities to engage in cricket. Rising costs of cricket kit further the problem: even basic bats can cost several thousand rupees, making new equipment unaffordable for many families in rural communities. Global market trends, including growing demand for high-grade bats and supply constraints on willow, have pushed prices higher, limiting participation for children from lower-income households.

Our Programme:

To address these challenges, Bat For a Chance funds a free bat refurbishment enterprise run in partnership with the Foundation of Goodness. Children and young people learn carpentry and sustainable manufacturing skills while repairing cricket bats, which are redistributed to rural villages with limited access to equipment. Participants develop practical skills such as measuring, sanding, and wood selection, while promoting sustainable practices by refurbishing bats previously

distributed through our equipment recycling programme. The initiative also explores innovations, with partners like Gray-Nicolls testing locally sourced wood as an alternative to Kashmir willow for ICC-approved bats, creating potential long-term sustainable solutions.

2025 Impact

245 bats were repaired and distributed across 75 villages, with over 500 bats now distributed since inception. Participants gain transferable skills that can be shared within their communities, fostering local employment and economic growth. By enabling children to access cricket affordably and teaching young people vocational skills, the programme contributes both socially and environmentally.

Refurbishing bats reduces waste and the environmental impact associated with manufacturing new equipment, supporting a more sustainable and circular approach to sport.

SDG ALIGNMENT



Kumar Sangakkara
Sri Lankan former professional cricketer

“We know price is such a huge barrier for entry to the sport, But projects like this are incredibly important, too. You might not see their benefits immediately, but by changing one life, they can change others and maybe one of them changes the world. It’s about giving someone that opportunity.”

THE CARIBBEAN - BARBADOS ROYALS GIRLS CRICKET CLUB

The Challenge We Are Addressing:

Across the Caribbean, many girls face significant barriers to participating in organised sport, limiting opportunities for physical activity, leadership development, and social engagement. A 2020 youth well-being report found that only around 29% of adolescents in Barbados meet the guideline of at least one hour of daily physical activity. These low activity levels are compounded by structural and cultural barriers, including limited safe spaces for girls, lack of inclusive sporting opportunities, and social norms that restrict participation. Safety concerns, including high rates of intimate partner and domestic violence, further limit girls' mobility and access to public spaces. (easterncaribbean.un.org)

Our Programme:

Bat For a Chance co-founded the Barbados Royals Girls Cricket Club to address these challenges. Now in its second year, the club provides 100 girls aged 8 to 16 with structured cricket coaching in a safe, inclusive, female-only environment, alongside

holistic development support. The programme integrates workshops on climate change, leadership, financial literacy, and body confidence, and provides after-school support sessions for academic and personal development.

2025 Impact

A six-week summer camp offered free childcare for parents, allowing families to participate without logistical barriers. Partnerships with local institutions, including the credit union, supported financial literacy workshops for parents, reinforcing household-level empowerment. Through collaboration with UNICEF Eastern Caribbean via "The Girl I Am, The Change I Lead," the Club also celebrates International Day of the Girl, highlighting leadership, confidence-building, and gender equality. Girls were also given a once in a lifetime experience to play at Kensington Oval with CPL franchise The Barbados Royals. Amazingly, 5 girls who took part in the club have gone on to represent the Barbados national team.



Hayley Mathews West Indies Womens Captain and Ambassador

“This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the development of women’s cricket, I am excited to work with the young talent, share my experiences and help shape the future of the sport”

SDG ALIGNMENT



PAKISTAN – INTRODUCING CRICKET THROUGH GIRLS’ EDUCATION

The Challenge We Are Addressing:

Girls in Pakistan continue to face deep structural inequalities that limit their access to education and opportunities for personal development. Pakistan also has one of the world’s highest populations of out-of-school children: over 26 million aged 5–16, many of them girls (UNICEF Pakistan, State of Children Report, 2024). National education data show that 41.5% of girls from primary to higher secondary level are out of school, compared to 34.9% of boys (Government of Pakistan, Girls’ Education in Pakistan Report, 2023–24). These inequalities limit access to safe spaces for physical activity and areas where structured sport can make a measurable difference.

Our Programme:

In November 2025, Bat For a Chance launched a pilot initiative with King’s Trust International (KTI) and PAGE Foundation to integrate cricket into the KTI “Achieve” programme in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The programme provides girls with structured cricket coaching aligned with the broader

programme which serves as a formal education qualification often equivalent to a GCSE. All coaches have been trained in safeguarding and inclusive practice to ensure that sessions remain safe, welcoming, and empowering for girls. The pilot culminates in a six-a-side cricket festival, designed to celebrate participants’ progress and deepen community support for girls’ involvement in sport and leadership activities.

2025 Impact

In its first two months, the programme reached over 50 girls across two schools, many of whom had never before accessed structured sport. By embedding inclusive sport within an educational setting, the programme has provided girls with a safe space to build self-belief, form positive relationships, and explore new aspirations challenging social norms that traditionally restrict girls’ participation in public and recreational life. We are excited to explore the results of this in further detail next year.



Will Straw Kings Trust International CEO

“Integrating cricket into our Achieve programme allows participants to learn by developing critical life skills and building self-confidence that extend far beyond the classroom. It shows how inclusive, action-based learning can help young people to thrive.”

SDG ALIGNMENT



CRICKET KIT RECYCLING

Why is kit recycling so important?

The Environment

The environmental cost of sportswear and equipment is far greater than most people realise. The UK's sports and leisure goods industry is worth billions each year, much of it driven by products made from materials that are difficult to recycle and quick to wear out. Every new bat, bag, pair of pads or item of clothing carries a carbon footprint long before it ever reaches a player.

By extending the life of cricket equipment, kit recycling offers a simple but powerful way to reduce waste, cut emissions, and slow the demand for new manufacturing. Instead of adding to landfill or contributing to the cycle of resource-heavy production, donated

kit gets a second life in the hands of players who need it most. In a world where every small environmental action counts, kit recycling is one of the most meaningful contributions the cricket community can make.

Source: Decathlon (2023). The True Cost of Sportswear.

Equality

The cost of taking part in cricket remains a major barrier for many children and young people, particularly those from lower-income families, state school backgrounds, and ethnically diverse communities. Unlike other sports, cricket often requires extensive and expensive equipment: bats, pads, helmets, gloves, boots, and large kit bags, which quickly amounts to several hundred pounds even at the most basic level.



Typical price of equipment

(junior bat, adult bat, batting gloves, helmet, pads, kit bag)



Adult equipment £620.29

Junior equipment £478.64

(up to around 15 depending on height)

These financial pressures contribute to wider inequalities in participation and progression through the cricket pathway. When talented young players are unable to afford the kit they need, the sport risks losing future role models, leaders, and professionals. Kit recycling directly tackles this barrier. By providing high-quality, no-cost equipment, we

help level the playing field and ensure that passion and potential, not family income, determine who gets to play. It is one of the most effective ways to increase equity, broaden access, and open cricket up to every community.

Source: Holding Up A Mirror To Cricket: A Report by the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket. (2023).

OUR WORK THIS YEAR

DOMESTIC:

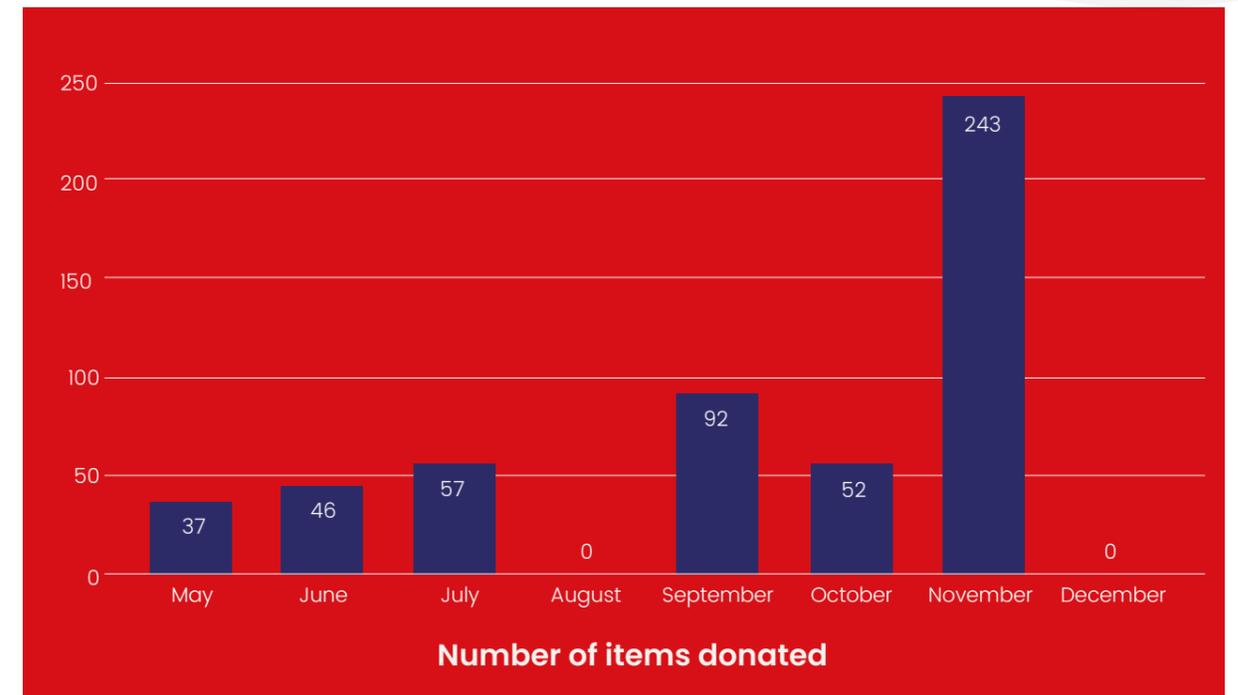
This has been a transformational year for our kit recycling programme. With one new van, two new warehouses and three new team members, we've been able to collect and redistribute more cricket kit than ever before. We're incredibly grateful to everyone who has donated equipment and clothing to us, with special thanks to Gray-Nicolls, ME+U, the English Cricket Board, Surrey Cricket Women, Apex Cricket Festival, Essex Women's Cricket, Millfield School, Invicta Cricket, Knight Frank Tunbridge Wells, to name just a few!

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

OVER 30
requests fulfilled

175 PLAYERS
benefitted

527 ITEMS
donated



“This kit is going to help massively — it will be more inclusive to kids who don't have the kit they need, removing that barrier and allowing them to play!”

Ben Attrill, Teacher

INTERNATIONAL:

5 PROJECTS



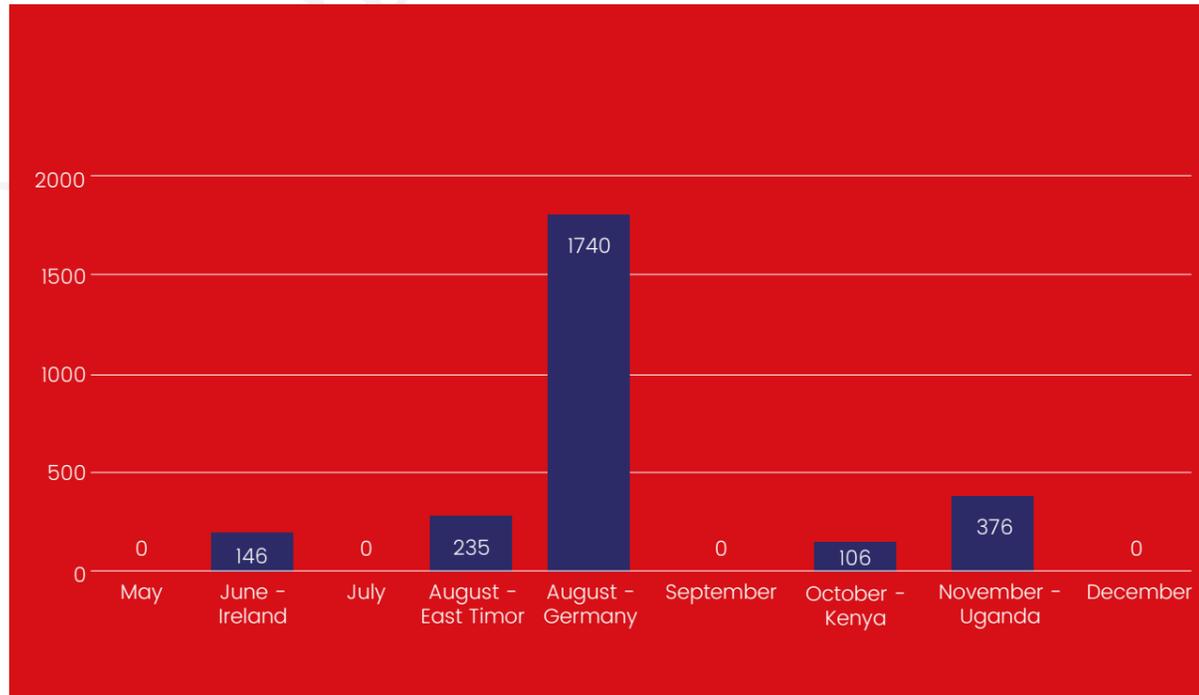
2,603

items donated

900

Players benefitted

BAT FOR A CHANCE International Kit Recycling

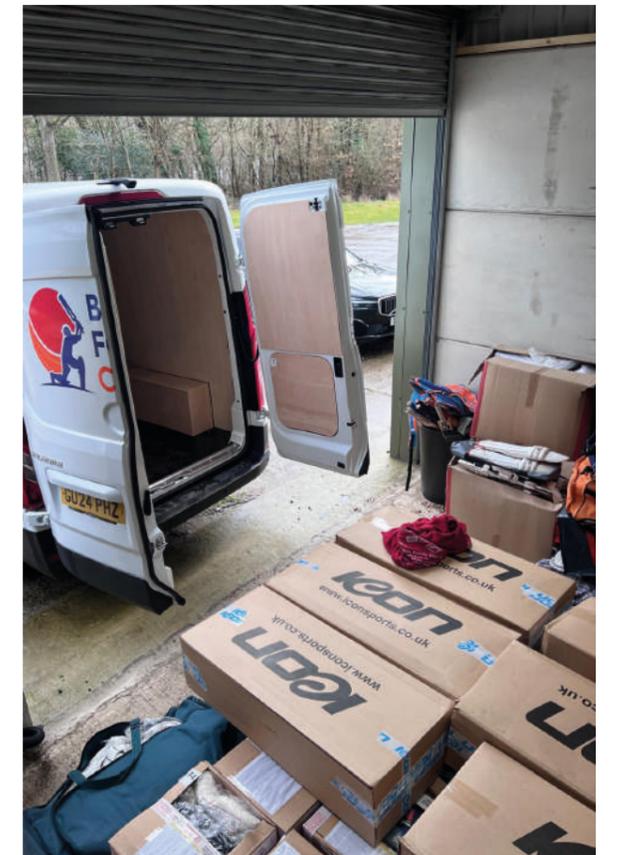


OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

A single bag of kit (including bag, pads, gloves, thigh pads, and spikes) represents around 45KG of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) – roughly the same amount of carbon absorbed by two trees per year.

kg of CO₂e from entering the atmosphere. This is the equivalent of driving a petrol car over 42,000 km, or the amount absorbed annually by over 470 mature trees. Through simple, community-led reuse, we are reducing waste, lowering emissions, and showing how cricket can be part of the climate solution.

In 2025, by extending the life of donated cricket equipment, we prevented 10,400



10,400kg

of CO₂e prevented



470 TREES'

equivalent absorbed p/a



SPOTLIGHT STORIES

UK

Supporting a young Afghan cricketer through a Resettlement Scheme

At just 17 years old, Karim is rebuilding his life in the Scottish Highlands after arriving in the UK with his family through the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) Resettlement Scheme. Now living in Inverness with his parents and siblings, Karim is determined to make the most of his new opportunities, and cricket has become a vital part of that journey.

Karim recently joined Northern Counties Cricket Club, where his enthusiasm and natural talent quickly stood out. Described by Club President Matthew Latimer as “a lovely young man,” Karim has shown dedication across multiple disciplines and a strong desire to compete. The club kindly offered him free membership, recognising his

passion and potential, but lacked the resources to provide him with the essential kit and equipment needed to play in matches.

Coming from a low-income household where both parents are currently unemployed, and as a full-time student without an income of his own, purchasing cricket gear was simply out of reach. Through our support, Karim received a full set of equipment, allowing him to represent Northern Counties Cricket Club in weekly matches across Inverness and to fully participate in the game he loves.

Karim’s story is a powerful reminder of how access to sport can provide more than just recreation. With the right support, young people like Karim can continue to thrive, both on and off the field.



SPOTLIGHT STORIES

INTERNATIONAL

Helping the next generation of European cricketers

Bat For A Chance’s work in traditional cricketing nations across the globe has helped many enthusiasts to enjoy the game they love with the right kit. But, closer to home, the charity is spreading the good word about our game in newer hotbeds of cricket too.

A BFAC team drove a van full of donated kit from England to Germany – via France, Belgium and The Netherlands – to distribute kit to the German Cricket Board (DCB) and other ICC associate nations in Europe.

Germany hosts a large refugee community, with many easing themselves into their new homes by playing the sport they adore. Thanks to the generous donation, they are able to thrive through cricket in their new surroundings. And, as the cherry on top of the cake, the kit arrived just in time for Germany’s Under-17 and Under-19 national team trials.

They had over 200 players turn up to the trials, many of whom would have struggled to show off their skills without the donations.



“

We have plenty of players, many of them coming from a refugee background, so often we recognise that they have a lack of resources to do what they love – to play the game. In this respect, we are so grateful for the support we received from Bat For A Chance.”

Dieter Voigt
DCB chief executive,

SPOTLIGHT STORIES

EAST TIMOR



Timor-Leste (previously East Timor) is the youngest nation in Asia after gaining independence in 2002 following many years of occupation and conflict. Timor-Leste is still one of the poorest countries in the world with over 40% of the population still living below the national poverty line. However, positioned in a strategic location in South East Asia with a population of 1.3 million and median age of only 20 it has an exciting future with great potential.

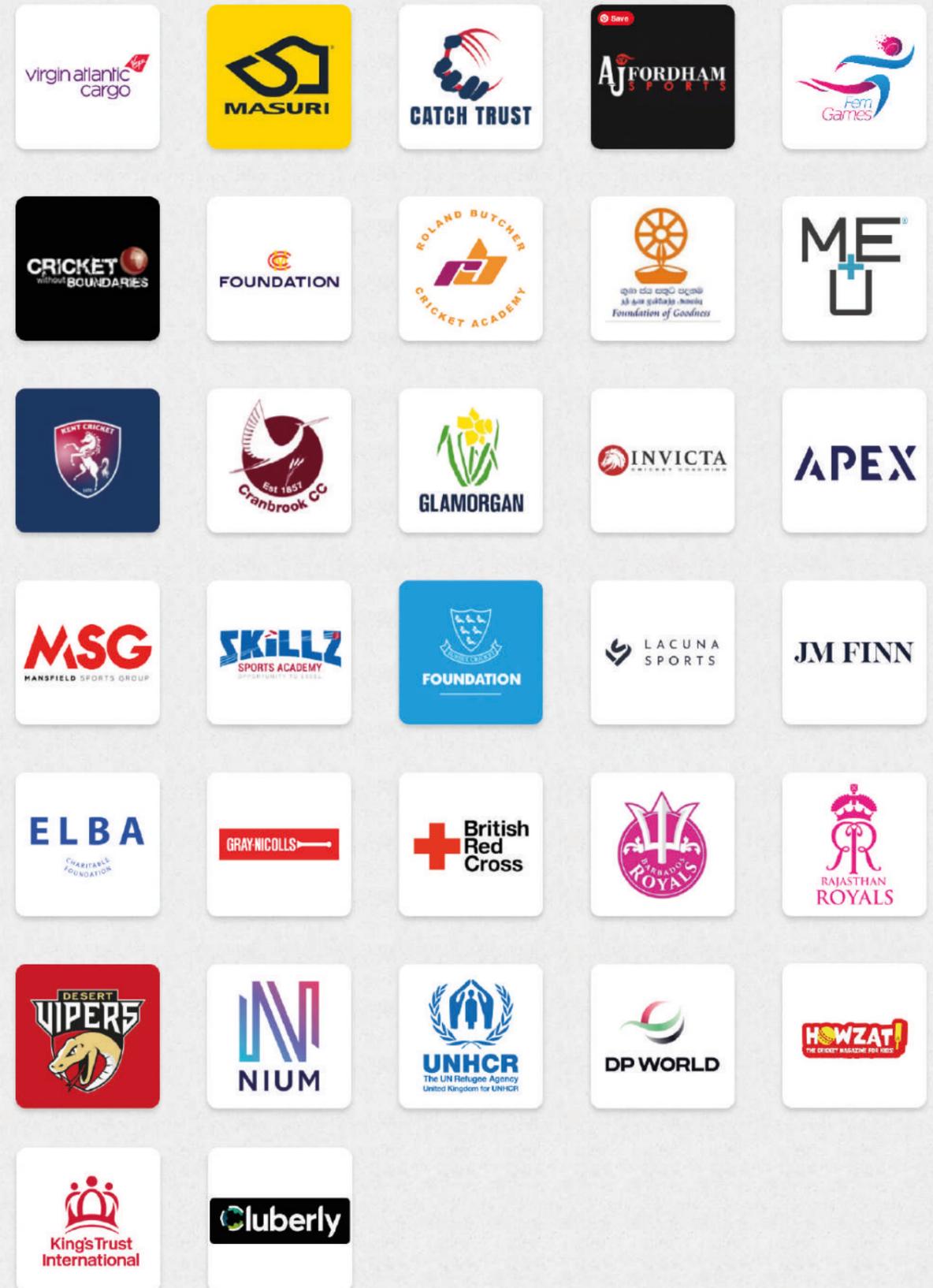
Sport has served as a unifying force in Timor, promoting national pride, youth development, & community engagement. However, limited funding, inadequate infrastructure, and scarce resources hinder the development of sports in Timor-Leste.

Cricket had been relatively unknown in

Timor-Leste but that started to change in 2016 when the governing body, Federation of Cricket Timor-Leste (FDCTL), was established and became an official member of the Timor-Leste National Sports Committee (CDTL).

Cricket is still in its early stages in Timor-Leste so there is no second-hand market in the country for equipment and clothing, and there are no local manufacturers or importers. The FDCTL has very limited funding and is therefore not in a position to purchase and import new equipment and clothing from abroad. With the support of the Timorese Ambassador to the UK Joao Paolo da Costa Rangel, Bat For A Chance was able to provide new equipment to be used to train and equip the men's national team and two women's teams.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS





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[#BatForaChance](https://twitter.com/BatForaChance)

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Check out highlights from our fundraising dinner!