



Olympic Refugee  
Foundation



# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

# 2023



Credit: FAK/Gabriel Bugoma

**WE BELIEVE IN A  
SOCIETY WHERE  
EVERYONE BELONGS,  
THROUGH SPORT.**

# CONTENTS

<b>1 OVERVIEW OF THE OLYMPIC REFUGE FOUNDATION</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3 NETWORKS</b>	<b>52</b>
Our Vision	6	Sport for Refugees Coalition	54
Foundation	8	Olympic Refugee Foundation Think Tank	58
Progress to 1 Million	10	Partners	62
Our Programmes	12	From Tribeca to Kakuma	68
Our Impact	14	<b>4 ANNEXES</b>	<b>70</b>
A Year in Review	15	Financial Statements 2023	72
Access	17	Report of the Statutory Auditors	76
Adoption	18		
Collective Action	21		
<b>2 PROGRAMMES</b>	<b>22</b>		
Game Connect, Uganda	24		
Terrains d'Avenir, France	30		
Sport for Solidarity, Türkiye	34		
Riadati, Jordan	36		
Ven y Juega, Colombia	40		
Play 2 Protect, Kenya	42		
Sports for Protection, Resilience, and Transformation (SPiRiT), Bangladesh	44		
RESPECT, Burkina Faso	46		
Refugee Athlete Support Programme	48		

Cover image: Young women taking part in the Riadati programme in Jordan.



# OVERVIEW

# VISION

**A SOCIETY WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS, THROUGH SPORT**

# MISSION

**SHAPE A MOVEMENT TO ENSURE YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENT THRIVE THROUGH SAFE SPORT**

# GOAL

**1 MILLION YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENT ACCESS SAFE SPORT BY THE END OF 2024**

We aim to shape a movement to ensure young people affected by displacement thrive through safe sport.



# FOUNDATION

## CHAIR



THOMAS BACH

## VICE-CHAIR



FILIPPO GRANDI

The Olympic Refugee Foundation (ORF) continues to function with a lean operating model, drawing on expertise from coalitions, networks and key partners to deliver its vision.

The members of the Foundation Board share the vision of building a society where everyone belongs, through sport. The Board is chaired by IOC President Thomas Bach, who is joined on the Board by the Vice-Chair, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, and nine Board members.

The Executive Committee is responsible for the running and management of the Foundation. The Executive Committee members are:

- Christophe De Kepper, Chair
- Lana Haddad, Treasurer
- James Macleod, Member
- Jojo Ferris, Secretary

## BOARD MEMBERS



HE SHEIKH JOAAN BIN  
HAMAD AL-THANI



YIECH PUR BIEL



CHUNGWON CHOUÉ



JOE GEBBIA



JOSEFINA SALAS



FELICITE RWEMARIKA



PERE MIRÓ



ANNE HIDALGO



PAUL TERGAT

**“SPORT IS SUPPORTING DISPLACED PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. ABOVE ALL ELSE, THIS IS A TEAM EFFORT. EVERYONE CAN AND MUST PLAY THEIR PART.”**

Thomas Bach  
Chair of the Olympic Refugee Foundation

# PROGRESS TO 1 MILLION

The Olympic Refugee Foundation has an ambitious goal for 1 million young people affected by displacement to access safe sport. To do this, we focus on change in three main areas:

## ACCESS:

More young people affected by displacement will access and benefit from safe sport.

## ADOPTION:

Safe sport will be increasingly accepted and adopted by practitioners and policy-makers as an effective tool to support young people affected by displacement.

## COLLECTIVE ACTION:

Multi-stakeholder partnerships will create sustained change, with the Olympic Refugee Foundation and partners acting together to scale, improve and innovate the way in which sport is used to support young people affected by displacement.

## REACHING 1 MILLION

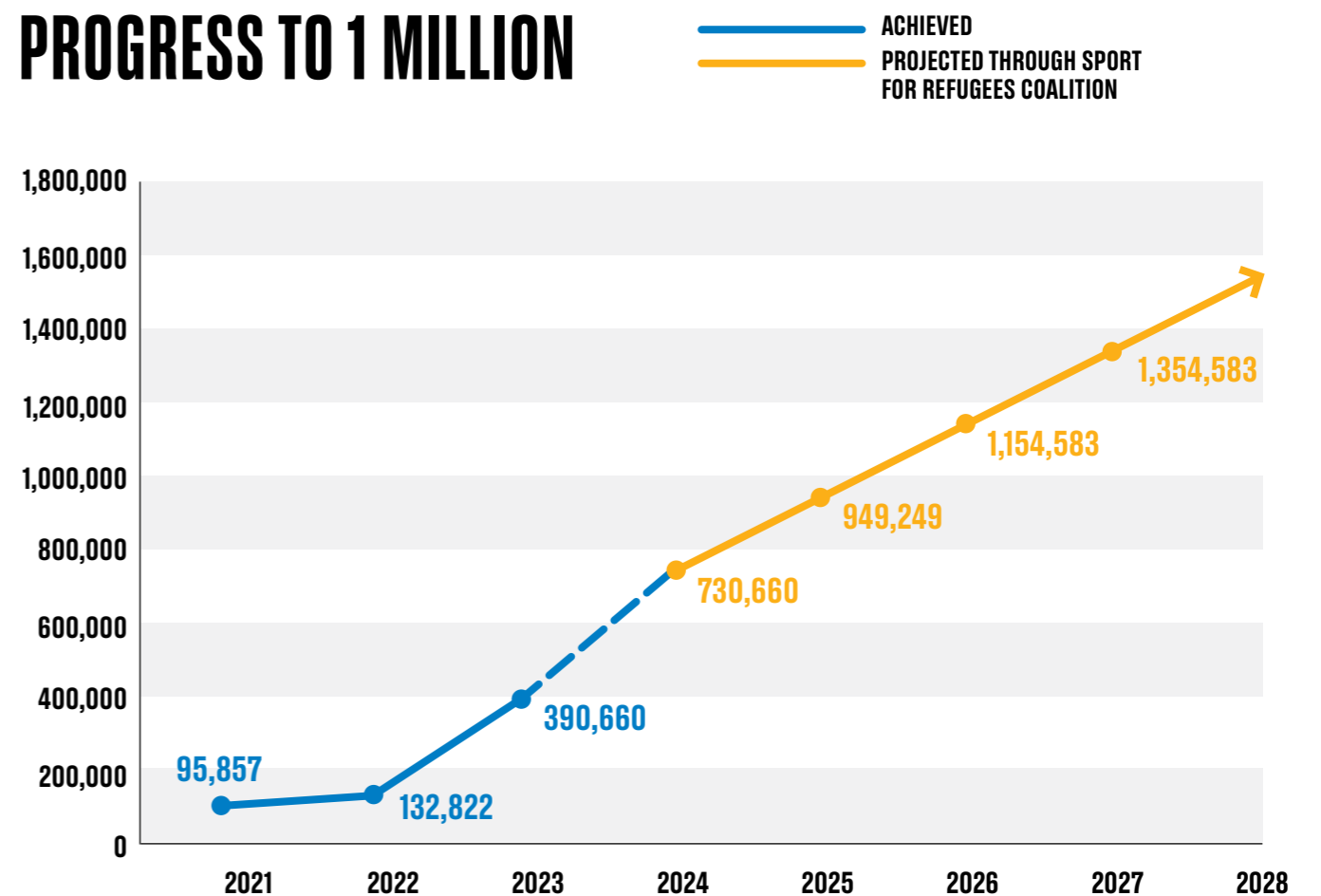
By the end of 2023, 390,660 young people affected by displacement had access to safe sport through the Olympic Refugee Foundation's programmes and impact, according to verified data. Since 2022 the reach of our work has more than tripled, and further exponential growth is expected in 2024 in order to reach the 1 million target.



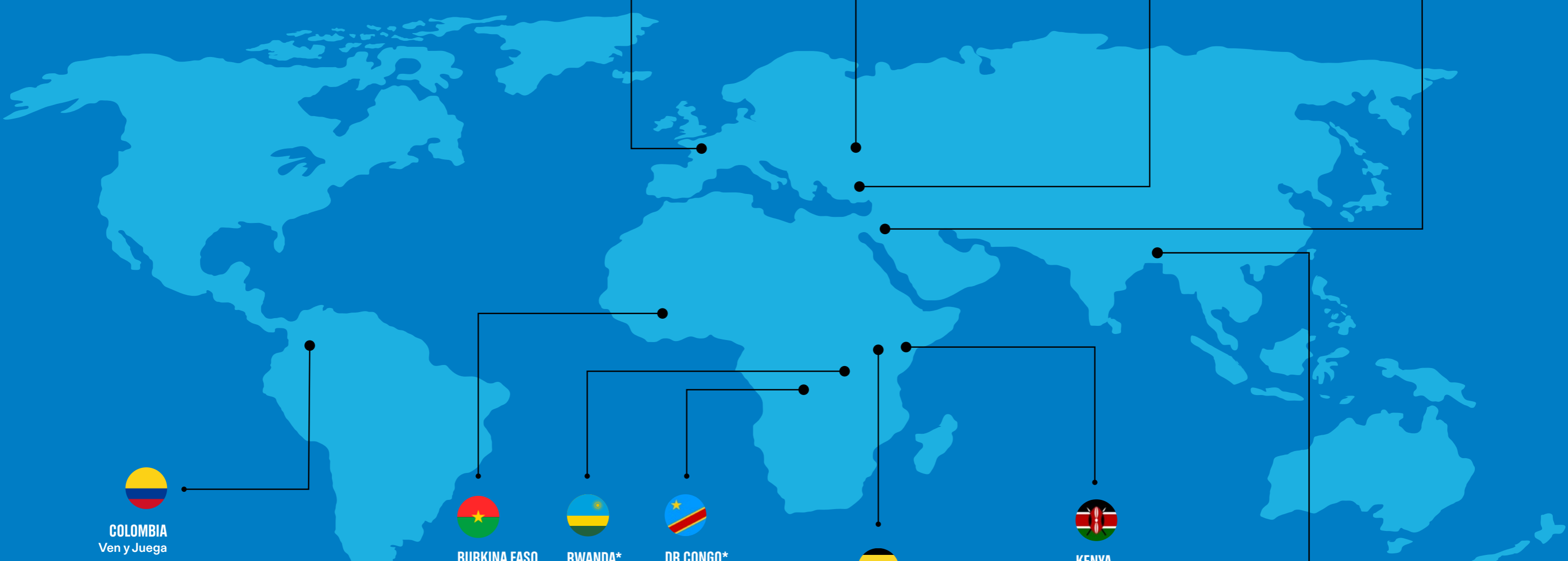
# 1 MILLION GOAL TO BE REACHED THROUGH:



## PROGRESS TO 1 MILLION



# OUR PROGRAMMES



**FRANCE**  
Terrains d'Avenir

**2022-2025**  
7,000 young people to be supported to access safe sport by end of 2024



**UKRAINE RESPONSE**  
Sport Coach+

**2022-2024**  
100,000 young people to be reached through trauma-informed coaching practice



**TÜRKIYE**  
Sport for Solidarity

**PHASE 1**  
**2018-2022**  
7,503 young people supported to access safe sport

**PHASE 2**  
**2022-2025**  
12,000 young people to be supported to access safe sport



**JORDAN**  
Riadati

**PHASE 1**  
**2018-2022**  
19,615 young people supported to access safe sport

**PHASE 2**  
**2022-2025**  
15,000 young people to be supported to access safe sport



**COLOMBIA**  
Ven y Juega

**2021-2024**  
5,772 young people to be supported to access safe sport



**BURKINA FASO**  
RESPECT

**2023-2026**  
11,500 children and young people to be supported to access safe sport



**RWANDA\***

**2017-2019**  
6,959 young people supported to access safe sport



**DR CONGO\***

**2018-2021**  
19,681 young people supported to access safe sport



**UGANDA**  
Game Connect

**PHASE 1**  
**2020-2023**  
12,293 young people supported to access safe sport

**PHASE 2**  
**2023-2026**  
16,550 young people to be supported to access safe sport



**KENYA**  
Sport for Social Cohesion and Development

**2019-2021**  
23,877 young people supported to access safe sport

**Play 2 Protect**

**2020-2024**  
24,000 young people to be supported to access safe sport



**BANGLADESH**  
SPiRiT

**2022-2025**  
10,000 young people to be supported to access safe sport

The figures on the map reflect the number of young people affected by displacement accessing safe sport by December 2023.

\* Programmes initiated as part of the IOC-UNHCR partnership

# OUR IMPACT BY NUMBERS



## 132,600

YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENT PARTICIPATING IN OUR PROGRAMMES



## USD 23.9

MILLION INVESTED IN SUPPORTING DISPLACED PEOPLE THROUGH SPORT



## 1,622

COACHES TRAINED IN DELIVERING SAFE SPORT SESSIONS



## 152

SAFE SPORTING SPACES CREATED OR IMPROVED



## 16

PROGRAMMES



## 11

COUNTRIES



## 5

CONTINENTS



## 140+

ORGANISATIONS MOBILISED THROUGH THE SPORT FOR REFUGEES COALITION



## 13

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS ALLOWING REFUGEE PARTICIPATION



## +2 MILLION

ENGAGEMENTS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

# A YEAR IN REVIEW: 2023

By the end of 2023, 114 million people had been forced to flee their homes due to conflict, persecution or disaster, and 43 emergencies across 29 countries had been declared by UNHCR.

*"It is the obligation of every person born in a safer room to open the door when someone in danger knocks."*

Author and refugee, Dina Nayeri

Imagine a world in which sport is a refuge for people experiencing trauma, fleeing danger and persecution, and finding a place to belong: a club, an activity, a space, a supportive coach upholding the principles of the Olympic Charter to ensure the "practice of sport is a human right" and "with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity". (Fundamental Principles of Olympism)

In 2023, through our work at the Olympic Refugee Foundation, we have seen more than 34,000 young people affected by displacement into supportive sessions; 69 safe sport spaces have been created or refurbished; we have had the most ever refugee athletes on the Refugee Athlete Support Programme; a Refugee Team competed at a continental games edition for the first time ever; and new programmes in Burkina Faso, Uganda and Jordan were launched.

*"Ever since I enrolled with Game Connect, my life and mind is free from stress. I started being fair to myself. I realised who I am, got to know the hidden talents I have. And also I learnt sports activities such as football, netball, volleyball,"* shared a Game Connect participant from Kikuube, Uganda.

We also work collectively with many partners to demonstrate why refugee and displacement responses should embed sport, so that these benefits can continue and be scaled. In 2023, we:

- Mobilised 140+ organisations to join the Sport for Refugees Coalition and the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Sport for Inclusion and Protection that was announced by IOC President and ORF Chair Thomas Bach at the 2nd Global Refugee Forum;

- Developed a partnership with the International Federation of Red Cross Psychosocial Reference Centre (IFRC PS Centre) to deliver and scale Sport Coach+, an innovative response to better support the mental health of Ukrainian refugees;

- Collaborated with the producers of *We Dare to Dream* – a film about five Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holders' journeys towards Tokyo 2020 – which was screened globally, including at the Tribeca Film Festival and Kakuma Refugee Camp;

- Formed a new collaboration with Nike to provide uniforms for the Refugee Olympic Team and strengthen the gender and coaching components of the Terrains d'Avenir programme in France;

- Worked with the IOC and Olympic movement, including 44 NOCs and 24 IFs, to deliver on Recommendation 11 of the IOC's roadmap for the Olympic Movement, Olympic Agenda 2020+5; and

- Increased the number of refugees and people with lived experience within the ORF Board, ORF Think Tank, ORF staff, IOC Athletes' Commission and IOC membership.

Looking back at 2023 allows us to reflect, learn and celebrate. It is also an opportunity to thank and acknowledge everyone who has made what we have achieved possible – from our Board, the IOC and Olympic Movement, Sport for Refugees Coalition members, strategic and implementing partners, donors, refugees and displaced people and local and national governments.

Together, we are a team like no other.

### Looking ahead

In 2024, we are not only preparing for an Olympic year, with the third Refugee Olympic Team competing at Paris 2024, but also delivering on the final year of our current strategic plan and the IOC's roadmap for the Olympic Movement, Olympic Agenda 2020+5 (Recommendation 11).

Knowing that by the year's end there will be a projected 130 million people who will have been forced to flee their homes (UNHCR), we are more motivated than ever to continue our work. In particular, to advocate to humanitarian and development actors the benefits of including sport to enhance their objectives; take steps for governments to better understand such benefits and embed sport into their refugee responses and frameworks; and work together with our many partners to ensure sport can deliver benefits to all those affected by displacement, and at a scale to meet the ever growing needs.

Our key priorities for 2024 are to:

- Use evidence and our network to influence and embed sport in policy and practice into local and national systems and humanitarian or development organisations, e.g. refugee response frameworks and/or MHPSS service delivery and guidelines;
- Ensure the Refugee Olympic Team provides the best experience for refugee athletes to thrive and compete at Paris 2024, draw attention to refugees and shift negative public rhetoric, and raise awareness of sport's role in supporting millions of refugees globally;
- Scale support for Ukrainian refugees through Sport Coach+ in partnership with the IFRC PS Centre in eight countries, including Ukraine and neighbouring countries;
- Ensure ORF programmes across the globe have provided access to safe sport for 200,000 young people affected by displacement by the end of the strategic period;
- Mobilise, support and connect the Sport for Refugees Coalition to ensure collective implementation of the Multi-stakeholder Pledge made at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023; and
- Deliver on the IOC's roadmap for the Olympic Movement: Olympic Agenda 2020+5, Recommendation 11.



Young people affected by displacement are missing out on the benefits that safe sport can bring.



# ACCESS

We know that young people affected by displacement and refugee athletes are missing out on the benefits that safe sport can bring due to a lack of quality provision, as well as barriers to access and participation.

In 2023, three new programmes were launched, including our first programme in the Sahel in Burkina Faso, where the RESPECT programme is supporting children and young people affected by the country's security crisis. The Riadati programme in Jordan evolved from the pilot programme started in 2018 and aims to improve the mental health and psychosocial well-being of 15,000 displacement-affected Syrian, Palestinian and Jordanian young people through sport. Following on from the previous success of the Game Connect programme, we launched the next programme phase in Uganda to support the mental health and well-being of refugees and their host communities through sport. This was off the back of an independent evaluation which allowed us to better understand the positive impact the programme is having for the young people accessing it.

Understanding that access is essential both at community and elite level, we were also delighted to see the first ever Refugee Team competing at a continental games edition, namely, the European Games in Poland.

Our programmes are contextually relevant and needs-based, and place the expertise and lived experience of the young people affected by displacement at the centre of the design, implementation and learning cycle.

The total earmarked programme investment for all programmes is USD 23.9 million. The programme portfolio is supporting outcomes in the areas of social cohesion, social inclusion and psychosocial well-being.

## IN 2023, THE OLYMPIC REFUGEE FOUNDATION:

- Engaged 34,000 displaced young people and host community members (51% girls and young women) in sports activities;
- Upskilled 460 coaches (including teachers, youth workers, social workers and community-based volunteers) to deliver safe and structured Sport for Protection activities;
- Supported the creation, refurbishment or enhancement of 69 safe sporting spaces; and
- Supported 70 athletes with elite potential to be part of the Refugee Athlete Support Programme funded by Olympic Solidarity.

THEMATIC AREA	FUNDING INVESTED/ EARMARKED	NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES
Social Inclusion	USD 6.07m	4
Social Cohesion	USD 9.14m	5
Psychosocial Well-being	USD 8.69m	7
<b>Total programmes</b>	<b>USD 23.9m</b>	<b>16</b>

# ADOPTION

Safe sport at scale needs to be embedded in the practice and policy of local, national and international protection responses in order for young people affected by displacement to access and benefit from it.

To achieve this, in 2023, the Olympic Refugee Foundation presented at a number of forums, including the TAFISA (The Association for International Sport for All) World Congress in Germany, the Council of Europe in Liechtenstein and the Smart Cities & Sport Summit in France. We also leveraged opportunities through Olympic Movement forums, including the IOC Session and Continental Association general assemblies, statements at the UNHCR Executive Committee meeting, and events at national level with round tables organised by Terrains d'Avenir in Paris.

The ORF Think Tank also drafted a number of papers which will be published in 2024, and had an abstract on co-creating a new model for safe and supportive sport accepted as part of an adolescent mental health symposium at the Brighter Futures Conference 2024.

At national level, the leads for the respective programmes in Uganda, Jordan, Türkiye and France are working

in collaboration with the Ministries of Education, Sport and Health, and in Bangladesh, the programme engaged with experts from Loughborough University as a case study in an ORF/IOC-funded participatory action research project on climate action through sport. Advocating for sport for protection to be adopted at central and municipal government level is part of the design of a newly launched programme, RESPECT in Burkina Faso.

The ORF worked closely with Violet Films in 2023 to host over 30 screenings of *We Dare to Dream* around the world at various conferences and community events, continuing to provide various opportunities for debate on the role of sport for displaced populations. Screenings took place at events as diverse as the One Young World Summit in Belfast, the Tribeca Film Festival in New York, the Prix de Bayeux ceremony, which recognises the best in war reporting and journalism, Kakuma Refugee Camp and the Global Refugee Forum.

## IN 2023, KEY EXAMPLES OF THIS ADOPTION WERE:

- Developing a partnership with the IFRC PS Centre to embed sport and deliver and scale Sport Coach+, an innovative response to better support the mental health of Ukrainian refugees;
- Collaborating on the global screening of *We Dare to Dream* – a film about five Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holders' journeys towards Tokyo 2020 – including at the Tribeca Film Festival and Kakuma Refugee Camp;
- Increasing the number of refugees and people with lived experience within the ORF Board, ORF Think Tank, ORF staff, IOC Athletes' Commission and IOC membership;
- Advocating safe sport at forums including UNHCR Executive Committee meeting and high-level dialogues, as well as the Council of Europe's Sport Ministerial Meeting.

To achieve scale, safe sport needs to be embedded at local, national and international level.



Through multi-stakeholder partnerships, we are creating sustained change.



# COLLECTIVE ACTION

We are creating sustained change through multi-stakeholder partnerships, bringing in new players to work with us and acting together to scale, improve and innovate the way in which sport is used in contexts of forced displacement.

The Olympic Refugee Foundation recognises the essential role of partnerships with other organisations and individuals to achieve its objectives and believes that collaboration with numerous different actors, including, most importantly, those with lived experience, can improve the conditions of young people affected by displacement.

To mobilise collective action, we work in consortia to deliver programmes, co-convene the Sport for Refugees Coalition, develop and leverage the expertise of the ORF Think Tank and seek out strategic partners.

As co-convenor of the Sport for Refugees Coalition alongside the Sport Foundation and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in

2023 we mobilised actors in support of the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Sport for Inclusion and Protection, which was presented at the Global Refugee Forum in December. The Pledge brought together more than 140 actors from sport, government, NGOs, the private sector and beyond, who committed almost USD 50 million to reach more than 825,000 displaced people and host community members.

The ongoing and foundational partnership with the IOC and the Olympic Movement is crucial to the impact of the ORF. The ORF has been tasked with delivering on Recommendation 11 of the IOC's roadmap, Olympic Agenda 2020+5, which is to strengthen support to refugees and populations affected by displacement.

## IN 2023, KEY EXAMPLES OF THE ORF WORKING COLLECTIVELY INCLUDE:

- Mobilising 140+ organisations to join the Sport for Refugees Coalition and the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Sport that was announced by IOC President and ORF Chair Thomas Bach at the 2nd Global Refugee Forum;
- Forming a new collaboration with Nike to provide uniforms for the Refugee Olympic Team and strengthen the gender and coaching components of the Terrains d'Avenir programme in France;
- Working with the IOC and Olympic Movement, including 44 NOCs and 24 IFs, to deliver on Recommendation 11 of the IOC's roadmap for the Olympic Movement, Olympic Agenda 2020+5;
- Attending, leveraging and/or facilitating more than 15 advocacy events and opportunities; and
- Receiving a total of USD 1.53 million from existing and new supporters, including the Chinese Olympic Committee, Airbnb, Nike, the Ville de Lausanne, the IOC and private donors.



# 2

# PROGRAMMES



# GAME CONNECT UGANDA

ACCESS ADOPTION COLLECTIVE ACTION

**Programme goals:** Improve psychosocial and mental health resilience for 16,550 young people affected by displacement

**Timing:** Phase one launched in August 2020 for a period of three years. Phase two launched in August 2023 for a period of three years.

**Investment:** USD 2 million

**Partners:** AVSI Foundation, Right to Play, Youth Sport Uganda, the Uganda Olympic Committee (UOC) and UNHCR Uganda.



Sport plays a key role in improving the mental health and well-being of young people. In Uganda we see this first-hand through Game Connect where, along with our in-country partners, we help young people rebuild their lives within their new host communities.

Uganda hosts the largest number of refugees in Africa, with more than 1.6 million refugees mainly from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi. Young displaced people can often feel unwanted or disconnected and suffer from depression, anger and low self-esteem, as well as other mental health difficulties.

Game Connect is based in the Adjumani, Kampala, Kamwenge, Kyangwali and

Lamwo districts of Uganda. Our Sport for Protection curriculum is made up of a range of activities and lessons to help young people develop crucial life skills like conflict resolution, citizenship and accountability, through sport. Through these important activities, we have seen how sport can have an impact – enhancing mental health and well-being.

The main goal is to improve, through sport, psychosocial and mental health resilience for 16,550 young people affected by displacement in Kampala, the Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement, the Kyangwali Refugee Settlement and the Pagirinya Refugee Settlement.

Training for trainers in sport for protection and mental health and psychosocial

support was also delivered. In a further effort to support and upskill coaches and peer leaders to better support young people, the programme ran a number of community of practice sessions to allow participants to share best practices, successes and challenges, as well as forge a way forward for effective implementation of the programme.

Beyond providing access to safe sport through the programme itself, Game Connect is having a wider influence working in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sport and the Ministry of Health. In 2024, Game Connect will develop an advocacy strategy to ensure a lasting legacy in Uganda.

## GAME CONNECT: AN EVALUATION

We are committed to effective monitoring, evaluation and learning that helps us to adapt and improve programme design and implementation and that contributes to the evidence base on the role and contribution of sport as part of a holistic response in situations of forced displacement. In 2023, we commissioned an independent impact evaluation to assess to what extent, how and why the sport for protection approach improved the mental health and well-being of young people in Uganda.

The mixed – quantitative and qualitative – method evaluation demonstrated the efficacy of the Game Connect approach through a robust evaluation methodology that allows us to attribute the changes observed to the programme itself. We evaluated the impact using three main indicators: psychosocial well-being, anxiety and depression. The data indicates a substantial improvement in these aspects among young participants compared to a control group.

- Positive levels of psychosocial well-being were higher for those who took part in Game Connect (84%) compared to the control group (32%).
- Game Connect participants showed a significant reduction in severe depression – 57% to 6%, while the control group exhibited a more modest decrease from 59% to 46%.

- Anxiety symptoms reduced substantially among Game Connect participants (55% to 6%) compared to a marginal decrease in the control group (53.5% to 41.1%).
- Significant improvements were observed among participants, relative to the control group, regardless of gender, age, displacement status or disability. This demonstrates the inclusivity of Game Connect.

“Ever since I enrolled with Game Connect, my life and mind have been free from stress. I started being fair to myself. I realised who I am, got to know the hidden talents I have. And also I learnt sports activities such as football, netball, volleyball,” said a Game Connect participant from Kikuube.

These words are a powerful testament to the hard work and energy put in by all the coaches, partners and young people who are part of the programme.

**“I REALISED WHO I AM, GOT TO KNOW THE HIDDEN TALENTS I HAVE.”**

### KEY 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS:

# 4,975

YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED TO ACCESS SAFE SPORT

# 62

COACHES AND PROFESSIONALS TRAINED

# 14

SAFE SPORTING SPACES IMPROVED

Participants in Game Connect reported higher positive levels of psychosocial well-being.  
© AVSI



Terrains d'Avenir is supporting young people in the Île-de-France region in finding a sense of belonging.



# TERRAINS D'AVENIR FRANCE

ACCESS

ADOPTION

COLLECTIVE ACTION

**Programme goals:** Support 7,200 young people aged 10-24 to access safe sport to find a sense of belonging and a positive life path

**Timing:** Launched in February 2022, for a period of three years

**Investment:** Over EUR 1.8 million

**Partners:** Co-financed by the Ministry of Sport and the Olympic and Paralympic Games, and delivered by Kabubu, PLAY International, Emmaüs Solidarité, Ovale Citoyen, Fútbol Más and the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation, with support from the Ville de Paris, the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games Paris 2024, the French National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSF) and UNHCR France.

Terrains d'Avenir is an inspiring programme that uses sports – such as dance, taekwondo and football, amongst many others – to support displaced young people and those from the host community based in the Île-de-France region of France. The programme also seeks to upskill support workers to use sport and play as part of wider services in order to support the inclusion of displaced people.

Being a displaced person and being able to connect with local communities can be very difficult. Through sport, the programme helps refugees and asylum seekers build all-important connections, reduce stress and regain some sense of normality.

France hosts a large number of displaced people from all over the world. Many of them live in the Greater Paris region – where this programme is based – at least temporarily, and many experience isolation and challenges settling into their new home. For many asylum seekers, this can be a transient experience when they arrive

in the Greater Paris region, before being re-settled as refugees in other parts of the country.

By widening access to safe sport and passing the baton to others by providing them with training on the protective role of sport, the Terrains d'Avenir programme is helping forge friendships, give moral support and build a community.

In 2023, the programme supported 3,116 young people affected by displacement in accessing safe sport, and benefitted their families, volunteers, sports clubs and the general public indirectly. More than 903 sports sessions were run for host communities and displaced young people, and 60 coaches and professionals were trained. In addition, a number of joint events were organised, including a sports event which brought together members of the Olympic Movement, elected officials from the Ville de Paris and community and reception workers for a discussion on the themes of sport and inclusion.

**Terrains  
d'Avenir**

Terrains d'Avenir uses a number of sports, including taekwondo, dance, football and many others, to support young people on a positive life path.







For Shobha, dancing has become an escape from the challenges of the asylum process.

“EVEN IN THE HARDEST TIMES, I ALWAYS FOUND MY HOPE IN DANCE.”



### “IT’S A NEW FAMILY”

When Shobha had to leave Myanmar, she had no idea what impact dance would have on her life. But the Terrains d’Avenir dance sessions, delivered by Kabubu, have given her more than just new steps and self-confidence – they’ve given her a new family.

Shobha arrived in Paris in January 2023 and accessed Terrains d’Avenir just two months later, after the programme was recommended by a refugee support agency.

Dancing has become an escape from the challenges of the asylum process, although she wasn’t dancing with joy at first. Shobha was new to European dance, with only a small amount of Bollywood dance experience, so picking up the new style was hard – but she credits Kris, the coach, and the other dancers with helping her learn and, crucially, making her feel part of a team, part of something special.

“It’s a new family,” she explained. “I’m so stressed. Inside here I’m not, because I like it.

“Kabubu has been a support to me, for settling in mentally. I need a lot of support. I miss a lot of my family. But I come here and forget.”

Dance coach Krisildo left his Albanian homeland at 16 to live in Istanbul before moving to Paris at 20.

Kris tried to ignore the call of the dance studio, set back at times by discrimination and negative views on men and dance. But luckily for the young people in his dance classes – and for his own well-being – Kris followed his heart.

“Dance can change a lot of things about people’s points of view, about life, about a lot of opinions that can be political, social, etc. It can also help with self-confidence.

“Dance ‘saved me’, because even in the hardest times, I always found my hope in dance.”

#### KEY 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS:

3,116

YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTED TO ACCESS SAFE SPORT

+900

SPORTS SESSIONS RUN FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

60

COACHES AND PROFESSIONALS TRAINED

# SPORT FOR SOLIDARITY TÜRKIYE

ACCESS ADOPTION COLLECTIVE ACTION

**Programme goals:** Support more than 25,200 young people through safe sport so they find a sense of belonging

**Timing:** Launched in May 2022, for a period of three years

**Investment:** USD 9.13 million (USD 4 million from the Olympic Refugee Foundation and USD 5.13 million from the Ministry of Youth and Sports)

**Partners:** The Ministry of Youth and Sports of Türkiye (MoYS) and the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM). UNHCR Türkiye and the Turkish Olympic Committee also provide support.



Over 3 million Syrian refugees now live in Türkiye.

With Türkiye hosting the largest number of refugees and asylum seekers in the world, there is a strong need for programmes like Sport for Solidarity to forge connections between communities.

Over 3 million Syrian refugees and over 400,000 asylum seekers now live in Türkiye. Through our partners, we run sports sessions, events and festivals so that young refugees get a chance to mix with host communities. Unfortunately there can sometimes be tensions, bullying, discrimination and gender-based violence towards young refugees. Sport for Solidarity helps diffuse potential conflicts and build bridges.

In 2023, 4,101 young people benefitted from 139 sports courses in 15 different sports in 7 provinces. Young people with 24 different nationalities participated in the project, including 1,987 refugees and 2,114 young people from the host community, allowing those connections to be created through sport and fostering a sense of belonging.

This year, the programme was close to our target of equal gender participation, with 52% of the total participants male and 48% female.

Making sure young people are protected and have access to further support is an important aim of the programme. Throughout the period, we ran 11 'protection' activities, including on young people's rights and bullying, with 488 young people benefitting. We assessed 106 young people to understand if they had access to basic services and if their well-being was at risk. Thanks to this activity, we were able to direct 46 vulnerable young people to counsellors.



Sport for Solidarity works in 7 different provinces across Türkiye, delivering sessions in 15 different sports.

Events were organised to raise awareness around a range of subjects while helping social cohesion. Over 2,600 participants, both young people and their families, attended our seminars. These covered areas including child protection, recognising and expressing emotions, safe internet usage and healthy eating. We also arranged activities such as model aeroplane building, picnics on the beach, and watching and taking part in sports competitions.

The Turkish Olympic Committee also held seminars – with 2,197 attendees – about the Olympic Games, the Olympic values, the physical and mental health benefits of sport, health nutrition, fair play and environmental awareness.

As each sports course came to an end, festivals were held in every province. A total of 2,075 children and their families took part, and the young people had a chance to show what they had learned. The events also gave both young people and their parents the opportunity to try different sports and get involved in competitions.

**KEY 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS:**

**4,101**  
YOUNG PEOPLE ACCESSED SPORT FOR SOLIDARITY AND BENEFITTED FROM SPORT

**84**  
COACHES TRAINED TO DELIVER SAFE SPORT/SPORT FOR PROTECTION ACTIVITIES

**15**  
DIFFERENT SPORTS

# RIADATI JORDAN

ACCESS ADOPTION COLLECTIVE ACTION



**Programme goals:** Improve the mental health and psychosocial well-being of 15,000 displacement-affected Syrian, Palestinian and Jordanian young people through sport

**Timing:** From July 2022 for 30 months

**Investment:** USD 1.24 million

**Partners:** Generations For Peace, UNICEF-supported Makani centres, the Ministry of Education, the Jordan School Sports Federation, the Jordan Basketball Federation, the Jordan Volleyball Federation.

Riadati, which means “my sport” in Arabic, is a programme that gives hope to displaced and host community young people in Jordan. Riadati prioritises sport as more than just an activity and rather as a deliberate tool for protection. Our partner – Generations For Peace (GFP) – is equipping young people with skills for life.

Jordan is one of the countries most affected by the crisis in Syria, hosting the world’s second-highest number of refugees per capita, at around 730,000 refugees.

Our partners spent the first half of 2023 setting up the programme. GFP partnered with local organisations and community leaders to gain an understanding of the specific needs and concerns of the affected communities. Community members were involved in co-creating the programme, fostering a sense of ownership and empowerment.

The Riadati Programme aims to improve the mental health and psychosocial well-being of 15,000 displacement-affected Syrian, Palestinian and Jordanian young people, through sport. Over two and a half years, Riadati will enable an equal number of female and male young people aged 10 to 24 to engage in high-quality sports activities delivered throughout the year at UNICEF-supported Makani centres. The programme also engages young people through summer camps during the school holidays.

As well as taking part in the activities, it is incredibly important that children and adolescents are involved in decision making. This is facilitated by the trained volunteers, who value their lived experiences and embrace their solutions.

Reduced trust resulting from the conflict in Gaza has impacted the ability to recruit the full number of participants and

volunteers to Riadati this year; a total of 2,894 young people have been engaged, approximately two-thirds of the target. However, endline data collection from the first cohorts of participants shows positive outcomes among those involved.

Forty physical education teachers and 19 youth volunteers from Makani centres were given training to run sports activities while integrating well-being opportunities. They were then able to run 18 different activities between them for 894 young people. A further 18 youth volunteers have been trained and are ready to implement the programme during 2024.

GFP also designed a one-day workshop aimed at media professionals and young people to raise awareness and encourage future participation. They also held five meetings with the Ministry of Education’s Protection Department to advocate the importance of ‘Sport for Protection’ within host communities.

**KEY 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS:**

**2,894**  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
ACCESSING SAFE SPORT

**59**  
VOLUNTEER COACHES TRAINED

**Mental health and well-being:** 40% of all young participants reported enhanced levels of subjective well-being following participation in Riadati

**Among those participating in regular activities through Makani centres:**

- **Social and support networks:** the majority reported an improved sense of belonging (84%) and intra group social connectedness (89%)
- **Mental health and well-being:** the majority of participants reported improved socio-emotional skills, including self-management (92%) and social skills (93%)

**Among those participating in summer camps:**

- **Social and support networks:** 90% reported an increased sense of belonging
- **Mental health and well-being:** the majority reported improved socio-emotional skills, including self-confidence (92%) and respect (86%)



Riadati means “my sport” in Arabic.

Sport can support young displaced people in finding a sense of belonging.



# VEN Y JUEGA COLOMBIA

ACCESS ADOPTION COLLECTIVE ACTION

**Programme goals:** More than 5,000 young people directly accessing safe sport to support social cohesion amongst refugees, migrants and host communities

**Timing:** Launched in March 2021, for a period of three years

**Investment:** USD 1.33 million

**Partners:** UNHCR Colombia with Fundación Fútbol con Corazón, Fundación Makikuna, Corporación Opción Legal and the Colombian Olympic Committee.

Ven y Juega – or ‘Come and Play’ – is delivered within a context in which Colombia sees ongoing displacement in the country, due to its ongoing 60-year armed conflict.

Along with Syria, Colombia currently hosts the largest population of internally displaced people worldwide, approximately 6.8 million. Colombia is also home to large numbers of displaced people crossing the border from Venezuela.

Unsurprisingly, young people in these situations are at risk of experiencing adverse effects on their mental health. Through sport, these young people and those from the host communities have a chance to learn new skills and increase resilience, which improves their mental health and well-being.

In 2023, the programme ran regular sports training sessions and ‘protective’

workshops alongside sports competitions and tournaments in three main regions – La Guajira, Norte de Santander and Putumayo – including activities on, and support for, gender-based violence (GBV). The workshops covered subjects from addiction prevention and healthy and responsible sexuality to self-reflection and autonomy. Following GBV protection activities, three GBV cases were identified, and support was provided to those affected.

The project identified and trained 80 youth leaders to work with their peers. Additionally, 60 parents and caregivers took part in workshops on child protection, and 10 sports and psychosocial professionals received training and support in child protection.

Lastly, our partners on the ground worked with local authorities to renovate six sports venues, providing a lasting legacy in the community for the future.



## KEY 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS:

# 534

YOUNG PEOPLE ACCESSING SAFE SPORT

# 48

COACHES TRAINED TO DELIVER SAFE SPORT/ SPORT FOR PROTECTION ACTIVITIES



Young people in situations of displacement are at risk of experiencing adverse effects on their mental health. © UNHCR

More than 200,000 asylum seekers and refugees live in Northern Kakuma and Kalobeyei.



# PLAY 2 PROTECT KENYA

ACCESS ADOPTION COLLECTIVE ACTION

**Programme goals:** Ensure up to 24,000 young people benefit from awareness-raising around gender-based violence (GBV) and use sport as a tool to promote psychosocial well-being among adolescent girls, young women and boys in target communities

**Timing:** Launched in July 2020, until December 2024

**Investment:** USD 1.48 million

**Partners:** The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with Kenya Red Cross, FilmAid and the International Rescue Committee.

Play 2 Protect promotes psychosocial well-being among displaced young people while also raising awareness of, and preventing, gender-based violence.

More than 200,000 refugees and asylum seekers live in the northern Kakuma and Kalobeyei regions of Kenya where this programme is based. Women and girls living in the settlements are at increased risk of gender-based violence as well as other forms of sexual and physical violence. Historically they have had limited access to sport, but through Play 2 Protect this is starting to change.

In 2023, our partners on the ground led sports activities for an incredible 14,995 young people, the majority (55%) female. Safe sport sessions in schools, youth clubs and health centres provided an opportunity to impart health messaging, particularly aimed at the protection of adolescent girls and young women.

FilmAid is an incredible grassroots organisation that uses multimedia content to inform, inspire and engage. It worked with young project participants to create content that advocates better access to sport, especially for young women and girls. Thanks to this activity, other organisations working in Kakuma Refugee Camp now understand our approach and have started to embed sport into their protection responses.

In addition, 173 coaches have been trained, community and school sports tournaments have taken place, and sports equipment and hygiene supplies have been provided for both girls and boys at 11 schools.

The Government of Kenya, in cooperation with UNHCR, the World Bank and many other key stakeholders, is currently drafting the 'Shirika Plan', which aims to transition the existing refugee camps, including Kakuma, and integrate refugees into their local communities. This also offers an opportunity for us to ensure sport is integrated into the plan.

### KEY 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS:

**14,995**  
YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

**8,224**  
YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS PARTICIPATED

**173**  
COACHES TRAINED

Play 2 Protect raises awareness of gender-based violence.



Young women on the SPIRiT programme experience high rates of early marriage.



# SPIRiT BANGLADESH

SPORTS FOR PROTECTION, RESILIENCE, AND TRANSFORMATION (SPIRiT)

ACCESS ADOPTION COLLECTIVE ACTION

**Programme goals:** Support 10,000 young people in overcoming climate challenges and shape a brighter future. Reach over 47,000 people indirectly.

**Timings:** Launched in 2022, for a period of three years

**Investment:** USD 1.57 million

**Partners:** The programme is delivered by Terre des Hommes Bangladesh with SOLIDARITY and Breaking the Silence.



SPIRiT promotes the inclusion and empowerment of young people (aged 15–24) who are displaced or at risk of climate-induced displacement. This is achieved through safe sports activities that enhance physical, mental and psychosocial well-being, and provide them with meaningful engagement opportunities and protection from the risks associated with displacement. Climate-induced disasters have forcibly displaced people living in the north of Bangladesh to slums in the capital, Dhaka. SPIRiT engages young displaced people in the city as well as communities vulnerable to the effects of climate change in Kurigram, a region highly susceptible to events such as riverbank erosion and flooding.

Throughout 2023, the programme team developed a new and exciting climate change curriculum to help young people and their communities take positive action for sustainability at local level. The roll-out of this curriculum began in October 2023.

In 2023, the project engaged 3,884 young people. With high rates of early marriage and women and girls experiencing higher

vulnerability, it is important for girls and gender-diverse young people to feel as welcome as boys to join in the activities. To enable inclusive participation, the team introduced handball and traditional games (such as 'ludo', 'kanamachi' and 'gollachut') alongside football, with positive results – 1,374 boys and 102 girls took part in football for protection sessions, while 82 boys and 1,114 girls participated in handball for protection activities. A further 1,202 girls and 10 gender-diverse individuals participated in traditional games for protection sessions. A community event was also held to encourage new participants and cultivate a shared sense of ownership, with further events planned monthly.

The project established 99 sports clubs, with 89 in Kurigram and 10 in Dhaka. These clubs will assist in organising monthly community events, affiliating with sports associations, fostering a sense of bonding and togetherness, and encouraging young people to thrive.

To create a sense of unity and identity among community members, our partners

customised 10,000 uniforms. They renovated 54 playgrounds to create a safer and more enjoyable environment for children and young people, in consultation with the local community. They also supplied 99 boxes of sports materials, which saw a notable associated increase in community sports participation.

Beyond direct programme delivery, SPIRiT engaged with experts from Loughborough University as a case study in an ORF/IOC-funded participatory action research project on climate action through sport. The research uses creative methodologies (digital storytelling and co-design) to understand the climate realities of different displacement-affected and 'at risk' communities, and to explore what sport can do locally to enhance climate action through sport intervention. The research design and preparatory phases were completed in 2023. Storytelling and co-design is underway.

## SPIRiT BASELINE ASSESSMENT

The SPIRiT baseline assessment clearly demonstrates the relevance of the programme and the need in terms of knowledge, preparedness and empowerment to act on climate-related vulnerabilities. For example:

- **Skills and opportunities:** Only 2% of adolescents and young people felt highly included and empowered in the climate risk and displacement decision-making process at community level.
- **Knowledge and awareness:** Only 8% of adolescents and young people claimed they were sufficiently aware and well prepared to take the necessary steps and mitigate the challenges related to climate-induced vulnerabilities.
- **Access to sport:** Only 16% of adolescents and young people reported that they had full and safe access to sports facilities.

### KEY 2023 ACHIEVEMENTS:


**3,884**  
YOUNG PEOPLE ACCESSING SAFE SPORT


**58**  
COACHES TRAINED TO DELIVER SAFE SPORT ACTIVITIES

**54**  
SAFE SPORTING SPACES CREATED OR IMPROVED

# RESPECT BURKINA FASO

ACCESS ADOPTION COLLECTIVE ACTION

 **Programme goals:** Engage 11,500 children and young people affected by displacement to promote values of peace and protection, and foster their psychosocial well-being

 **Timing:** June 2023 for 36 months

 **Investment:** USD 1.05 million

**Partners:** Terre des Hommes, Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Social Action.

Our project in Burkina Faso is designed to help children and young people affected by the country's security crisis to develop resilience and life skills through sport.

Burkina Faso has experienced a combination of crises, with armed conflict, inter-ethnic violence, poverty, inequalities and food insecurity. This is made worse by climate change, putting even more pressure on scarce resources. Consequently, 1.4 million people have fled their homes to urban areas, making the situation in Burkina Faso one of the fastest-growing displacement and protection crises globally. The Government of Burkina Faso also hosts over 22,700 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Mali.

The RESPECT programme focuses on the highly-populated central region

(Nongr-Massom and Signaghin districts), northern region (commune of Ouahigouya) and Boucle du Mouhoun region (commune of Tougan).

A project team has been recruited and a situation analysis carried out, involving consultations with children and young people, their parents, local and central sports and social action institutions, and community members and leaders.

The findings helped us understand social norms, how we could select participants and identify existing sports clubs. In addition, 17 spaces have been scoped as potential sports venues.

Our discussions have given us more understanding about the sports young people wanted to play. These differed per area but included football as the top sport,

followed by volleyball, handball, basketball and endurance (athletics). In the commune of Ouahigouya a game called 'Linda' was played a lot by girls, and we will look at the possibility of integrating this game into the curricula.

There is much planned for 2024, with the recruitment and training of coaches/facilitators and child protection specialists, the identification and development of sports sites and spaces, ensuring the sports curricula are appropriate for each area, and the external launch of the project. Further, the programme will advocate the adoption of the sport for protection approach at central and municipal government level.

Burkina Faso is experiencing one of the fastest-growing displacement and protection crises globally.





# REFUGEE ATHLETE SUPPORT PROGRAMME

ACCESS ADOPTION COLLECTIVE ACTION

**Programme goals:** Support refugee athletes in pursuing their athletic careers and ensure refugee athletes have access to elite-level sporting pathways

**Timing:** January 2021 – August 2024

**Investment:** USD 3 million in funding from Olympic Solidarity

**Partners:** Olympic Solidarity, National Olympic Committees, International Federations.



Our Refugee Athlete Support Programme makes sure athletes with the talent and determination to be on the world stage have the financial and holistic support to get there, while helping guide them in their hopes for the future.

We believe refugee status should never be a barrier to someone fulfilling their sporting potential. The Refugee Athlete Support Programme provides scholarships, funded by Olympic Solidarity, to elite athletes, contributing to their training and helping them to prepare for and participate in high-level competitions.

In 2023, 70 athletes from 12 countries, who are now living in 23 host countries, were part of the programme. They represent 13 different sports, from athletics to judo and swimming, and those eligible are all training with their sights set on the Refugee Olympic Team and the Olympic Games Paris 2024.

This year, we saw the first-ever continental refugee team as part of the 2023 Kraków-Małopolska European Games in Poland. We also witnessed a refugee athlete win an international athletics competition for the first time, when Anjelina Nadai Lohalith crossed the line at the European Championships Clubs Cross Country in Spain.

But competing at this level is not the only source of pride for these athletes. Together, they represent the challenges and resilience of more than 110 million refugees worldwide, and inspiring other refugees – and the world over – through the media and speaking engagements is also something they tell us is a real honour.

We are grateful to Olympic Solidarity for funding this important programme and to the National Olympic Committees and National and International Federations that help support refugee athletes in their countries and sports.

World Athletics is one of the International Federations we work with to pave the way for refugees to access sport.  
© Getty images



“WE’RE STRONGER WORKING TOGETHER”

“It was really important in the sense that it gives hope to other refugee athletes,” said Alice Annibali, Community Relations & Public Affairs Manager at World Athletics (WA), when asked about the Athletics Refugee Team. “It is also important to show that refugees are an integral part of our organisation.”

World Athletics is one of the International Federations we are working alongside to pave the way for refugees to access sport.

The World Athletics Athlete Refugee Team was founded in 2016, following the formation of the first-ever Refugee Olympic Team, and has since evolved into a year-round full-time refugee team programme.

The project now includes athletes based at several camps in locations around the world, including an elite and under-20s team in Kenya and athletes across Europe. The well-being and care of athletes is vital, with safeguarding sessions now regularly offered, giving athletes a chance to ask questions and seek support. World Athletics also recognises the importance of supporting the holistic well-being of its athletes and of the valuable

contribution of sport for young people more widely in contexts of forced displacement. In Kenya, World Athletics partners with AHEEN (the African Higher Education in Emergencies Network) as part of the Athletics + Education programme, which supports refugee students in developing their athletic ability and with their education. Through this partnership with World Athletics, advanced training certification has been offered to train coaches and teachers, so that a broader audience of young refugees can be targeted.

WA’s partnership with the Olympic Refugee Foundation works well for many reasons.

We work closely together to identify athletes who could benefit from a scholarship through our Refugee Athlete Support Programme and opportunities to compete, with WA running these competitive events.

In our role as co-convenors of the Sport for Refugees Coalition, we invited World Athletics to join the multi-stakeholder reference group – alongside other Olympic Movement partners – to support the co-creation

of the refreshed Joint Sport Pledge presented at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023. WA also played a key role in mobilising support for the Pledge among other International Federations and organisations looking to support refugees through sport (see page 56).

Guiding and supporting International Federations to include refugees in their activities is one of our key roles. In the past, having refugee status has been a barrier to competing on the global stage, but International Federations are working hard to remove those hurdles. As of the end of 2023, there are now 13 International Federations that have regulations supportive of refugees taking part in competitions and that are building programmes focused on supporting them.

On the partnership with the Olympic Refugee Foundation, Alice said: “I want to say to all federations like mine, if you can establish a relationship with the Olympic Refugee Foundation, I think you’ll see that your programme will be more successful.

“We’re stronger working together and complementing each other’s work.”



Refugee status should never be a barrier to someone fulfilling their sporting potential.  
© Getty Images

### Championing access

We continue to work closely with International Federations to help them create their own refugee team and change their statutes so that refugee athletes can take part in clubs and competitions. Many, like World Athletics, also provide funding to cover the cost of athletes attending competitions.

Our goal is for every International Federation to allow for the participation of refugee athletes, and we now have a total of 13 out of 34 Federations on board.

### Support for the future

Many of our athletes are looking to the future and what lies ahead, outside the competitive arena.

We work closely with Olympic Solidarity and other partners to provide access to career development, education and training opportunities. Beyond their sporting careers, wherever possible, we support athletes in applying for citizenship so they can become completely integrated into their new home country, or where possible support with resettlement to new host countries.

In 2023, we continued our partnership with the World University Service of Canada, which provided university scholarships for four refugee athletes who have now resettled in Canada. It can be incredibly difficult for refugees to find accommodation. Through the partnership with Airbnb, which has continued its support for refugees, these athletes were provided with Airbnb credit, enabling them to find accommodation.

The extent of Airbnb's support extends further, with every single refugee scholarship-holder receiving a USD 2,000 travel grant for accommodation while training, during qualification competitions or for other needs.

**70**  
ATHLETES

**12**  
COUNTRIES  
OF ORIGIN

**23**  
HOST  
COUNTRIES

**13**  
SPORTS

## FROM FLAGBEARER TO NEW LIFE

Rose Nathike Lokonyen is an inspiration – a Refugee Olympic Team athlete and flagbearer, a full-time student and, in 2023, a new mum – and she is taking it all in her stride. Now, with a broad cohort of supporters brought together by the Olympic Refugee Foundation, she is building a life for the future.

Rose became a refugee at the age of just 10 when she had to flee South Sudan during the civil war. But sport became Rose's refuge when she took up running as a hobby at Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. After training and competing with the help of three-time Olympian Tegla Loroupe, Rose was selected to compete at the Olympic Games in Rio for the first-ever IOC Refugee Olympic Team. She had the honour of being the team's flagbearer at these Games.

But Rose did not stop there. She competed again at Tokyo 2020, and in late 2023 welcomed a new baby daughter.

"You have to do what you love and be happy," explained Rose. "The more

you have that passion, the more you have to focus and make it happen."

Athletics and a young family might be enough for many of us, but not for Rose. She is also studying to be a service social worker with the aim of working in a refugee settlement and giving back to her community.

We supported Rose as she resettled in Canada in 2021 and, thanks to our work with the Canadian Olympic Committee, the World University Service of Canada and UNHCR, secured a scholarship for her to study at university.

Rose studies full time Monday to Friday and, before her baby was born, trained every evening with a longer run on a Saturday. Rose hopes to be back in training soon and ready when the outdoor season starts in April 2024.

Being a Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder means that she receives funding, through Olympic Solidarity, which helps pay for her training, competition and related costs, and, thanks to a special grant from Airbnb,

with whom we work closely, Rose's accommodation costs are covered too.

"With full-time classes and training, there's no time for work. I'm really grateful to Airbnb."

With many of her financial costs taken care of, Rose can focus on everything else – training, being a new mother, her studies and her future. She does not know what the future holds for 2024, but being a historic member of the team is something she will never forget. "Being part of the team is special because we get to give hope to displaced people from all around the world. The IOC has done something really great."

Rose really is an inspiration to others, and it is something she is incredibly proud of. "Giving speeches and travelling to give a message of hope, especially to young girls – that's the most important thing."

Along with our partners, we supported Rose as she resettled in Canada in 2021.





کوفی در

# 3 NETWORKS

# SPORT FOR REFUGEES COALITION

ACCESS

ADOPTION

COLLECTIVE ACTION



The Sport for Refugees Coalition now comprises more than 140 entities, including from the world of sport, civil society organisations, UN Member States, refugee-led organisations, and public and private sector organisations, to support young people in accessing and benefitting from sport. The Coalition, which is co-convened by the Olympic Refugee Foundation alongside Scort and UNHCR, committed to leveraging sport to support the protection and inclusion of displaced people.

In 2019, at the first Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the members of the Coalition jointly pledged to extend access to sport for displaced people and host communities around the world. Since then, Coalition members have carried out activities globally in over 49 countries, with hubs of activity in Jordan, Lebanon, France and Türkiye. More than 193,400 individual refugees and host community members affected by displacement have accessed sport, with USD 14,562,400 contributed towards the work.

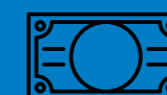
Sport  
for Refugees  
Coalition

## SPORT FOR REFUGEES COALITION BY NUMBERS



# 825,000

PEOPLE TO BE REACHED BY 2027



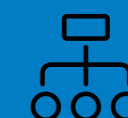
# USD 50

MILLION PLEDGED TO SUPPORT DISPLACED PEOPLE



# 60+

COUNTRIES



# 140+

ORGANISATIONS

The 2019 pledge marked a step change in the way that sport could be seen as a contributor, as part of a holistic response in situations of forced displacement. To follow on from this success, alongside UNHCR and the Scort Foundation, we sought to achieve even more with a new, refreshed multi-stakeholder pledge at the GRF in December 2023. In order to develop a new Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Sport for Protection and Inclusion that was both impactful and representative of the sports ecosystem, we established a multi-stakeholder reference group from the sports sector and beyond.

Aside from mobilising support for the Multi-stakeholder Pledge, the Coalition delivered a number of initiatives in 2023, including:

- A webinar for the Week of Action on sport and displacement in October.
- Two roundtable discussions for Coalition members, the first considering how International Federations and NGOs can work better together, and the second exploring the challenges and good practices in safeguarding displaced children and young people who attend sport-based activities. At the end of this discussion, five safeguarding recommendations were made, and several helpful resources were shared.
- Lastly, we created a new area for the Coalition on Sportanddev.org – the international platform on sport and development. Communicating the work of the Coalition is crucial in order to encourage more people to be part of a team like no other.

## RAISING THE BAR ON REFUGEE INCLUSION AND PROTECTION

An incredible 140+ key actors from the sporting world have joined together and pledged their commitment to improve the lives of refugees through sport – all thanks to a coalition co-convened by the Olympic Refugee Foundation, UNHCR and the Sport Foundation.

Every four years, thousands of people from diverse sectors come together at the UNHCR's Global Refugee Forum and work together to find innovative solutions to the refugee crisis. Over the three-day event in Geneva in December 2023, representatives of the Sport for Refugees Coalition mobilised support from governments, NGOs, the private sector and beyond to sign up to the Joint Pledge on Sport for Inclusion and Protection.

By signing the pledge, organisations have committed to supporting displaced people in one or more of five areas.

The previous pledge mobilised more than USD 14 million in support of over 190,000 refugees and host community members from 2019 to 2023. In the period 2023–2027, the Sport Pledge is set to have an even bigger impact, reaching an estimated 825,000 displaced people and host community members, with almost USD 50 million committed towards implementation.

Pledges spanned the globe, from Colombia to France and Jordan to Australia, and represented a diverse range of organisations, including 33 National Olympic Committees, 24 sports federations, 13 governments and more than 60 civil society organisations. One-third of all organisations committed to implementing completely new activities. Together, thanks to this extraordinary commitment, we will demonstrate how sport contributes to wider outcomes and can be an essential tool in humanitarian and development work.

IOC President and ORF Chair Thomas Bach called on member states to embed sport into their refugee response frameworks and policies:

“Sport is about so much more than physical activity. Sport is empowerment. Sport is health. Sport is inclusion. Sport is respect. Sport is solidarity. Sport is belonging. Sport is peace.”

“This is what brings our Coalition together: a belief in the power of sport as a force for good in the world. With far too many wars and conflicts displacing millions of people on a scale we have never seen before, this power of sport has never been more important.”

“Sport is a low-cost, high-impact tool, especially for displaced young people, to find belonging; to empower them; to rebuild their lives and to shape their own future.”

The ORF Chair reiterated these calls in his meetings with high-level officials, including the Colombian Vice-President and the Ugandan Prime Minister.

As part of the Global Refugee Forum, the Sport for Refugees Coalition also hosted a high-level parallel event on sport. The event attracted more than 160 people in person, and many more online, and they heard from over 20 speakers who were representing a diverse range of organisations committed to supporting refugees through sport. In the evening, guests were also invited by the Olympic Refugee Foundation to a special screening of *We Dare to Dream*, which follows five refugee athletes from Iran, Syria, South Sudan and Cameroon on their journey towards the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

One of the closing statements at the Forum came from Jojo Ferris, Head of the Olympic Refugee Foundation: “Based on the evidence available, we are mobilising a further shift towards sport being utilised in situations of forced displacement; we urge you to embed sport in refugee response frameworks, national action plans and budgets to reduce barriers to access, recognising that young people have the right to play, and that all have the right to the highest attainable standards of health, to which sport and physical activity have so much to contribute.”



IOC President Thomas Bach presented the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Sport at the Global Refugee Forum.

**“SPORT IS SOLIDARITY.  
SPORT IS BELONGING.  
SPORT IS PEACE.”**

# THE OLYMPIC REFUGEE FOUNDATION THINK TANK

ACCESS ADOPTION COLLECTIVE ACTION



Olympic Refugee Foundation



## THINK TANK

We believe that the best way of creating a society where displaced young people find belonging through sport is through teamwork.

The Think Tank is one such team, featuring a broad spectrum of experts from the sports, humanitarian and development and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) sectors. Established in 2020, the Think Tank brings together experts from academic institutions, NGOs and young people with lived experience, as well as the private and public sectors, to progress knowledge and understanding and increase the uptake of sport as a way of supporting young people in situations of forced displacement.

Through the Think Tank, we have created a platform to exchange ideas and experiences. We share evidence and knowledge so that we can make practical recommendations for policy-makers



The ORF Think Tank brings together experts from the sports, humanitarian and development and MHPSS sectors.

and practitioners – and ultimately create the biggest impact for young, displaced people everywhere.

A highlight of 2023 was the chance to meet everyone face to face for the first time in Olympia in March, connect with the origins of Olympism, and set a roadmap for the future of the Think Tank.

Members of the Think Tank often have a direct impact on the work being delivered by the Olympic Refugee Foundation, such as the creation of the Sport Coach+

pilot, the idea for which was initiated in the Think Tank and which received input from and was reviewed by a wide group of Think Tank members. A sub-group will work on research linked to this in 2024.

It's important that we're sharing best practices far and wide. The Think Tank drafted a number of papers which will be published in 2024 and saw an abstract on 'co-creating a new model for safe and supportive sport' accepted as part of an adolescent mental health symposium at the Brighter Futures Conference 2024.

## WHO THEY ARE



**ALASTAIR AGER**  
Co-Chair 2020–present  
Emeritus Professor of Global Health and Development, Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh



**SIMON ROSENBAUM**  
Co-Chair 2020–2023  
Associate Professor, School of Psychiatry, UNSW Sydney



**SABRINA HERMOSILLA**  
Assistant Professor, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York



**PETER VENTEVOGEL**  
Senior Mental Health & Psychosocial Support Officer, Public Health Section, Division of Resilience and Solutions, UNHCR, Geneva



**AJWANG WARRIA**  
Co-Chair 2024–present  
Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary



**HOLLY COLLISON-RANDALL**  
Senior Lecturer, Institute for Sport Business, Loughborough University, London



**MARIA BRAY**  
Global Advisor on Child Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Terre des Hommes, Lausanne



**GRACE GATERA**  
Youth and Lived Experience Expert, My Mind Our Humanity, Kigali



**DAVY VANCAMPFORT**  
Assistant Professor, KU Leuven Department of Rehabilitation Sciences Research Group for Adapted Physical Activity and Psychomotor Rehabilitation, Leuven



**JADRANKA STIKOVAC CLARK**  
Senior Advisor, External Relations, International Basketball Federation (FIBA), Switzerland



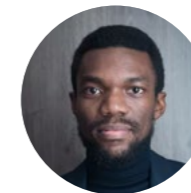
**DICKY PELUPESSY**  
Lecturer, Faculty of Psychology, Universitas Indonesia



**PHIONA KOYIET**  
Senior Technical Advisor, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS); Global Disaster Management Team at World Vision International, Nairobi



**DAVID KARORERO**  
Youth and Lived Experience Advocate, Burundi



**VICTOR UGO**  
Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Youth Engagement Advisor, MHPSS Collaborative



**LESLIE SNIDER**  
Founder, Peace in Practice, Amsterdam



**DICK CLOMÉN**  
Head of Humanitarian Diplomacy, Liaison and Regional Support, International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Europe Region, Stockholm



**CHINWENDU UKACHUKWU**  
Youth and Lived Experience Advocate, Nigeria



**LAM JOAR**  
Youth and Lived Experience Advocate, South Sudan



**ANNA FARELLO**  
Senior Research Associate, Loughborough University, London



**MICHAEL CACICH**  
Technical Head, East and Southern Africa at Educate A Child, a programme of the Education Above All Foundation

# “WE CAN MAKE AN IMPACT IN THE WORLD – AND THE WORLD IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF IT RIGHT NOW.”

With the war in Ukraine continuing to take a heavy toll on the mental health of young people displaced by the conflict throughout 2023, we developed and piloted a new skills training course – Sport Coach+ – to give sports coaches the tools to help young people affected by displacement cope with the fallout of conflict.

Inspired by the ORF Chair/IOC President’s visit to Aigle, where he had the opportunity to speak to Ukrainian athletes, the need for mental health support for displaced Ukrainians was clearly identified. With the support of the experts in our Think Tank, including eminent psychiatrist and public health professional Dr Leslie Snider and Simon Rosenbaum, a new methodology was developed.

Sport Coach+ was then born with the aim of helping coaches recognise trauma and providing them with the knowledge, skills and techniques to create safe and supportive sports environments. Leslie is the lead author of the training package and a master trainer.

As she explained: “Things that buffer or mitigate the impacts of stress are safe environments and supportive relationships. Coaches bring tremendous value – if they understand that their role is not just to coach sport but to coach a young person and be a mentor, and providing that space where everyone feels included and respected.”

The training helps by giving coaches skills as well as practical ideas. “Some young people may fight, they may withdraw, they may not follow the rules. We give the coach the skills to know it’s not personal, it’s because the young person has been through all those experiences and it relates to how their stress system is over-reacting. Here are strategies to lower that: learning everyone’s name, welcoming people, building trust, creating ground rules, giving them some autonomy so they have some control.”

It’s also about giving a sense of routine. “Routine gives us safety and is calming.

If a young person knows they can go to a sports club, that it’s a safe place where they know they belong, in a society where they might be excluded and stigmatised because they are refugees, what the coach needs to do is set up that space, and the way they do activities, so the young person can know what to expect.”

Sport Coach+ has been informed by pilots in France, Moldova and Poland, with attendees from Ukraine. Now, through a ‘training of trainers’ approach, we are upskilling trainers on how to deliver this information and train others. After piloting the Sport Coach+ approach, we knew that to realise the scale of our ambition, we needed a partner with the reach, expertise and capacity to roll the training out at scale, and at the end of 2023 we embarked on the next stage of this project with the International Federation of the Red Cross Psychosocial Reference Centre. Working together, we will take the programme to scale (see table).

We are grateful for the expertise of the ORF Think Tank, without which Sport Coach+ would not have been possible.

Leslie said: “I have to congratulate the ORF for having the idea to form a Think Tank around these issues. It’s not only mental health people on the Think Tank; there are researchers, people from the education space. By bringing in that array of voices on what the power of sport could be in the health and well-being of young people who are displaced, they’ve done something innovative.

“It’s taught me a lot to be around those minds. I’ve learned so much. It’s fostered some great knowledge transfer. We’ve written papers together and got the word out.

“It’s also the way you take a serious approach to marrying disciplines, applying the evidence, ensuring that what you do going forward is well done, researched, that we look at the impacts, things we need to amend. Building that evidence base and building the bridges is hugely powerful.”



Leslie Snider leads a Sport Coach+ session as part of the pilot in Moldova.

NUMBERS TRAINED (ATTENDEES CAME FROM THE RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND FROM UKRAINE)		
PARIS, FRANCE (OCT '22)	CHISINAU, MOLDOVA (FEB '23)	WARSAW, POLAND (MAR '23)
16 sport for development practitioners	12 coaches (6 federations)  25 MHPSS professionals	37 attendees including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sports coaches</li> <li>• Physical education teachers</li> <li>• Psychologists</li> <li>• Academics</li> <li>• Sports psychologists</li> </ul>

PROGRAMME EXPANSION		
2022	2023	2024
France*	Moldova Poland	Bulgaria Romania Czechia Slovakia Poland Moldova Germany Ukraine

\*Work with sport for development partners in France helped inform adaptations to the guidance but programme roll-out will be focused in countries with the most displaced Ukrainian young people.

# PARTNERS

ACCESS

ADOPTION

COLLECTIVE ACTION

In 2023, the Olympic Refugee Foundation continued to develop partnerships and new relationships to expand the scale and effectiveness of its work.

In September, the ORF announced a collaboration with sportswear company Nike. The agreement includes a financial contribution towards supporting the ORF in its work to ensure displaced women and girls benefit from safe sport through the ORF's flagship Terrains d'Avenir programme in Paris, and increase the capacity of coaches to provide a safe and inclusive sports environment. Nike is also making an in-kind donation to the Foundation for the provision of training and competition uniforms for the Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holders and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team competing at Paris 2024, and supporting people with lived experience of displacement so that they can be employed at the Olympic Refugee Foundation. Lastly, Nike is committed to storytelling related to the work of the Foundation, the Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holders and the Refugee Olympic Team.

At the end of 2023, looking ahead to 2024, the ORF and the International Federation of the Red Cross Psychosocial Reference Centre entered an agreement to deliver Sport Coach+, a foundational skills training course in trauma-informed coaching practice designed to reach 2,500 sports coaches working at community level with young people displaced as a result of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and their host communities. We hope to positively impact coaching practice, benefitting the sports experience of up to 100,000 young people. The community sports coaches will develop the knowledge, skills and techniques to create safe and supportive sports environments, to recognise and respond to young people in distress in ways that are trauma-informed and do no harm.

As a co-convenor of the Sport for Refugees Coalition, the ORF worked closely with its fellow co-convenors and key strategic partners UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the Sport Foundation in the lead-up to, and during, the Global Refugee Forum. The ORF led mobilisation efforts which resulted in 140 organisations making a commitment to the Pledge announced at the Global Refugee Forum by ORF Chair and IOC President Thomas Bach. Signatories included Member States, National Olympic Committees, International Federations, sports clubs, non-governmental organisations, refugee-led organisations, and representatives from the private sector and academia. Collectively, pledge commitments amounting to USD 50 million are anticipated to reach more than 825,000 displaced persons and their host communities in more than 60 countries (see page 56).

2023 also saw the ORF work closely with Violet Films, the team behind the documentary *We Dare to Dream*. The film features the stories of five refugees' journeys to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. Following its premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in July 2023, it has been screened in various major cities and at prestigious festivals around the world, winning accolades and prizes. The film also featured in various conferences and community events, had its UK premiere staged in conjunction with the Olympic Refugee Foundation and Choose Love, and had a screening in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya – organised by the ORF together with UNHCR and FilmAid – which brought together 1,200 people. This compelling story has provided and continues to provide opportunities to advocate the role of sport for displaced populations.

The ORF was invited by various stakeholders to engage in a number of key forums throughout 2023 in order to drive support for the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Sport, advocate for sport to support displaced people and develop further partnerships. The ORF attended, leveraged and facilitated more than 15 advocacy events/opportunities and conferences to advocate the role of sport in supporting refugees and their host communities. This included presentations at the TAFISA (The Association for International Sport for All) World Congress in Düsseldorf, the Council of Europe EPAS Diversity Conference in Liechtenstein, the One Young World Conference in Belfast and the Smart Cities & Sport Summit in France. We also leveraged opportunities through Olympic Movement

forums, including the IOC Session and Continental Association general assemblies, and statements at the UNHCR Executive Committee meeting – reiterating the commitment to using sport as a tool for the advancement, protection and inclusion of young displaced people, and encouraging the Member States and international organisations present to embed sport into national/regional refugee response frameworks (RRRPs), and we welcomed the fact that, for the first time, this happened through the Ukraine RRRP. National level advocacy also saw round tables organised by Terrains d'Avenir in Paris, and Game Connect in Uganda being showcased at key events and forums advocating the role of sport in supporting the mental health of displaced young people.



Through partnerships, the ORF ensures the scale and effectiveness of its work.



### The Olympic community

The Olympic Refugee Foundation has been tasked with delivering on Recommendation 11 of Olympic Agenda 2020+5, the IOC's strategic roadmap: strengthen the support to refugees and populations affected by displacement.

In 2023, this included:

- Encouraging NOCs to support the inclusion of refugee athletes in nationwide training camps and supporting through the Refugee Athlete Support Programme.
- Engaging NOCs as consortium partners and members of the Sport for Refugees Coalition and ensuring knowledge and capacity through continental meetings and NOC visits, to effectively support displaced people through sport at all levels.
- Sharing of good practices and recommendations with International Federations on how to embed refugee participation into statutes and support the participation of refugee athletes at all levels. There are now 13 International Federations, plus the IOC Boxing Task Force, which allow for refugee participation.
- Extending opportunities for refugee coaches via Olympic Solidarity programmes, which the ORF can access in the same way as a traditional National Olympic Committee.
- Appointing a member of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team in Tokyo, Masomah Ali Zada, as the Chef de Mission for the Refugee Olympic Team at Paris 2024 which will be led by a refugee for the first time.
- Advocacy with Continental Associations to share recommendations to support the inclusion of a refugee team at regional games, which resulted in the European Refugee Team becoming the first ever refugee team at a continental games edition.

The Refugee Athlete Support Programme is funded by Olympic Solidarity and managed by the Olympic Refugee Foundation. By the end of 2023, the programme had supported 70 scholarship-holders from 12 countries, supported by 23 different host NOCs and representing 14 sports.

In 2023 an agreement was also signed with the Ville de Bayeux, Ville de Caen, Région Normandie and Département du Calvados to host the Refugee

Olympic Team Pre-Games Team Welcome Event from 15 to 18 July, before the team enter the Olympic Village.

Following the earthquake that hit Türkiye and Syria in early 2023, the ORF, along with the IOC, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and the European Olympic Committees (EOC), donated a total of USD 1 million to help the Olympic community in the areas affected by the natural disaster. The ORF made USD 260,000 available for immediate emergency assistance to the local population and refugees in Türkiye.

### Donor network

During 2023, the Olympic Refugee Foundation received a total of USD 1,530,145, bringing the total donations received by the Foundation so far to USD 26.9 million.

The Chinese Olympic Committee continued its support for the Foundation through a donation of USD 1 million as part of its five-year commitment (2021–2025) to the Foundation. The strong relationship with the Ville de Lausanne continues, and resulted in a donation of USD 108,710. Mizuno again contributed a donation of USD 100,000 and, for the first time, the ORF received donations from Nike totalling USD 290,000 in cash and in kind.

Donations from IOC Members and private donors, including the fundraising platform on the Olympic Refugee Foundation website, amounted to USD 31,435.

SOURCE	AMOUNT IN USD
Chinese Olympic Committee	1,000,000
Nike	290,000
Ville de Lausanne	108,710
Mizuno	100,000
IOC Members	28,279
Private donors	3,156
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,530,145</b>



Thanks to our partners, the ORF is able to support young people affected by displacement, through sport.



# WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS:

The ORF thanks the partners that have supported us in 2023, and we also acknowledge our passionate and committed donors that have supported the ORF since its inception. In particular, we thank the Qatar Olympic Committee for believing in our vision and making the founding donation.

## FOUNDING PARTNER



## STRATEGIC PARTNER



## FINANCIAL PARTNERS



## OPERATIONAL PARTNERS



## REFUGEE ATHLETE HOST NOCS



# FROM TRIBECA

# TO KAKUMA



### ***We Dare to Dream* speaks to global audiences from Tribeca to Kakuma**

The ORF worked closely with the independent filmmakers behind *We Dare to Dream*, and 2023 saw the film premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York in June, to much celebration. *We Dare to Dream* is the story of refugee athletes from Iran, Syria, South Sudan and Cameroon who swim, run and fight their way to opportunity and safety in host nations across the world. Spanning a breadth of backgrounds, personal stories and Olympic sports, the film reveals their lives and hopes as they train to compete on the world stage, showing the fire and the drive of young people forced to leave their families, homes and countries of birth to build new lives out of nothing.

The film was directed by Academy Award®-nominated Waad al-Kateab,

executive produced by Angelina Jolie and John Legend, and produced by Academy Award® winner Joanna Natasegara and Emmy-winning producer Abigail Anketell-Jones of Violet Films and ORF Board member Joe Gebbia of Studio Gebbia.

Following its premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in July 2023, the documentary was screened in various major cities and at prestigious festivals around the world, and not only served to highlight the stories of five individuals whose lives have been transformed, but also drew attention to the role sport can play in supporting displaced people with their mental well-being and sense of belonging.

The Guardian called it a “powerful study of what refugee athletes did at the

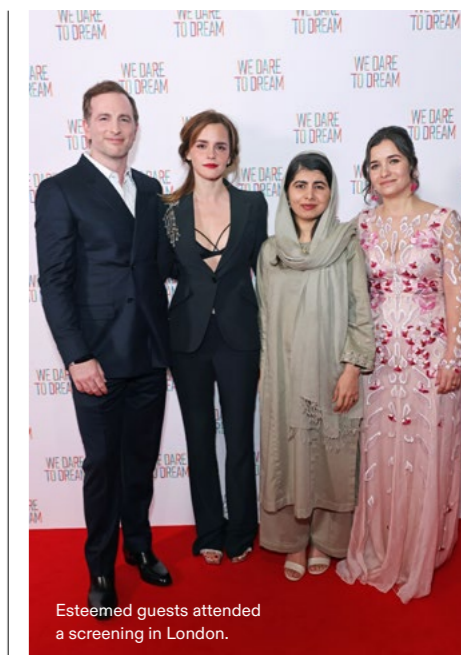
Olympics”, while Time Out said it was “a reminder that every single displaced person has a deeply moving story to tell”.

Working closely together, Violet Films and the ORF have hosted over 30 screenings around the world at various conferences and community events, continuing to provide various opportunities for debate on the role of sport for displaced populations. These screenings took place at events as diverse as the One Young World Summit in Belfast, the Prix de Bayeux ceremony, which recognises the best in war reporting and journalism, the TAFISA World Congress and the Global Refugee Forum.

The film was also bought for distribution by Peacock in the United States and Warner Bros. Discovery in Europe. Perhaps one of the most emotive screenings took

place at Kakuma Refugee Camp, where 1,200 people gathered to watch the film together with Anjelina Nadai Lohalith as she embarked on her Olympic journey from Kakuma to Tokyo 2020. Anjelina was joined at this special screening by her parents, her young son, and ORF Board member and Kenyan Olympic legend Paul Tergat.

Overall, *We Dare to Dream* helped to raise awareness of how sport can be at the service of displaced people, and served to reach key audiences, foster debate and increase understanding of the role of sport to foster belonging. The ORF and Violet Films are planning further screenings in 2024, including at the Manchester and Milwaukee film festivals and on the occasion of the Barbican Refugee Week screenings, to ensure the continued impact of this inspiring documentary.





# 4 ANNEXES

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## 2023

### Olympic Refugee Foundation, Lausanne

#### Statement of Financial Position as of 31 December

(in thousands of US dollars translated into Swiss francs)

Assets	2023	2022	2023	2022
	USD 000	USD 000	CHF 000	CHF 000
<b>Current assets</b>				
Cash and short term investments	3 293	8 204	2 771	7 584
<i>Cash</i>	193	404	163	373
<i>Bank deposits</i>	3 100	7 800	2 608	7 211
Other receivables	218	129	184	120
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>3 511</b>	<b>8 333</b>	<b>2 955</b>	<b>7 704</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>				
Marketable securities	4 944	4 596	4 160	4 249
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>4 944</b>	<b>4 596</b>	<b>4 160</b>	<b>4 249</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>8 455</b>	<b>12 929</b>	<b>7 115</b>	<b>11 953</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	USD 000	USD 000	CHF 000	CHF 000
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Accounts payable	75	77	63	71
Accrued expenses	109	11	92	10
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Fund balances</b>				
Foundation capital	103	103	100	100
Undesignated funds	8 168	12 738	8 585	12 686
<i>Result brought forward</i>	12 738	16 025	12 686	15 823
<i>Net result for the year</i>	( 4 570)	( 3 287)	( 4 101)	( 3 137)
Cumulative translation difference	-	-	( 1 725)	( 914)
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>8 271</b>	<b>12 841</b>	<b>6 960</b>	<b>11 872</b>
<b>Total liabilities and fund balances</b>	<b>8 455</b>	<b>12 929</b>	<b>7 115</b>	<b>11 953</b>

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

### Olympic Refugee Foundation, Lausanne

#### Statement of Activities for the financial year ended 31 December

(in thousands of US dollars translated into Swiss francs)

	Notes	2023	2022	2023	2022
		USD 000	USD 000	CHF 000	CHF 000
<b>Revenues</b>					
Donations received	1	1 530	1 666	1 373	1 589
<b>Total revenues</b>		<b>1 530</b>	<b>1 666</b>	<b>1 373</b>	<b>1 589</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Contributions	2	( 5 196)	( 3 837)	( 4 663)	( 3 660)
Administrative expenses	3	( 1 460)	( 1 168)	( 1 310)	( 1 115)
<b>Total expenditures</b>		<b>( 6 656)</b>	<b>( 5 005)</b>	<b>( 5 973)</b>	<b>( 4 775)</b>
Financial income / (expenses), net		489	230	439	219
Net increase (decrease) of carrying amount of marketable securities		48	( 115)	43	( 110)
Exchange gains / (losses), net		19	( 63)	17	( 60)
<b>Excess of (expenditures) / revenues</b>		<b>( 4 570)</b>	<b>( 3 287)</b>	<b>( 4 101)</b>	<b>( 3 137)</b>

**Olympic Refugee Foundation, Lausanne**
**Notes to the financial statements**

(in thousands of US dollars translated into Swiss francs)

**a. Activity**

The Olympic Refugee Foundation (ORF) was constituted as a Foundation on 5 December 2017, governed by the provisions of the Swiss Civil Code, with its registered office in Lausanne.

ORF's mission is to initiate sports-related programmes directed at children, young people and vulnerable populations contributing to their protection, health, well-being, gender equality, integration, youth development, education, and social inclusion, and the promotion of peace; to support the creation or the rehabilitation of accessible and sustainable sports facilities within disadvantaged communities around the world; to support the creation or the rehabilitation of risk-free play spaces and the practice of sport without harassment or abuse.

**b. Accounting principles applied in the preparation of the financial statements**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of commercial accounting as set out in the Swiss Code of Obligations (art. 957 to 963b CO).

The fair value of the financial instruments traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the balance sheet date.

Where not prescribed by law, the significant accounting and valuation principles applied are described below.

**Donations received and contributions**

The Foundation is financed by third parties. As per the donation deed, donations are irrevocable and may not be reclaimed by the donor for any reason whatsoever. These are recognised in full as revenues (donations received) at the collection date. Donations can be received in the form of cash, goods and services (Value in Kind).

Expenditures are mainly contributions to the ORF's partners in charge of implementing the projects and are recognised as expenditures (contributions) according to the payment schedule as defined in the contracts.

The excess of expenditures or revenues resulting from the period are carried forward to the next year in the undesignated funds.

**Foreign currencies**

The ORF's accounting records are maintained in US Dollars. Assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than US Dollars are recorded based on the exchange rates at the balance sheet date. All exchange differences arising on cash and bank deposits are considered realised.

The statement of activities has been translated in Swiss Francs at the average exchange rate for the year (2023: USD/CHF 0.8974, 2022: USD/CHF 0.9539), the fund balances at historical exchange rates and the statement of financial position at the year end exchange rate at 31 December (2023: USD/CHF 0.8414, 2022: USD/CHF 0.9245). Exchange differences arising from such translation have been taken to the accumulated translation difference in the Fund balances.

**c. Details, analyses and explanations to the financial statements**

(in thousands of US dollars translated into Swiss francs)

1. Donations received	2023	2022	2023	2022
	USD 000	USD 000	CHF 000	CHF 000
Donations in cash	1 440	1 666	1 292	1 589
Donations in kind (a)	90	-	81	-
	<u>1 530</u>	<u>1 666</u>	<u>1 373</u>	<u>1 589</u>

(a) consists of uniforms for refugee athlete scholarship holders

**Olympic Refugee Foundation, Lausanne**
**Notes to the financial statements**

(in thousand of US Dollars translated into Swiss Francs)

2. Contributions	2023	2022	2023	2022
	USD 000	USD 000	CHF 000	CHF 000
Terre des Hommes, Bangladesh and Burkina Faso in 2023	888	553	798	527
Ministry of Youth and Sports, Republic of Türkiye	884	914	793	872
AVSI Foundation, Uganda	750	400	673	382
Consortium "Terrains d'Avenir", Paris Île-de-France region	666	635	597	606
Generations For Peace, Jordan	550	-	494	-
Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants, Republic of Türkiye	455	428	408	408
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Kenya	362	500	325	477
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Colombia	341	433	306	413
Right to Play, Burundi in 2023 and Jordan in 2022 (a)	300	( 26)	269	( 25)
	<u>5 196</u>	<u>3 837</u>	<u>4 663</u>	<u>3 660</u>

(a) Refund of unused funds

3. Administrative expenses	2023	2022	2023	2022
	USD 000	USD 000	CHF 000	CHF 000
Management fees	1 010	742	906	708
Programmes development & support costs	166	36	149	34
Non-recoverable VAT	83	68	74	65
Programmes impact management costs	82	61	74	58
Advocacy costs	80	232	72	222
Partnerships & Fundraising costs	24	15	21	15
Other	15	14	13	13
	<u>1 460</u>	<u>1 168</u>	<u>1 310</u>	<u>1 115</u>

**4. Number of full-time equivalents**

ORF does not have any employees.

# Report of the statutory auditor

## on the limited statutory examination to the Foundation Board of Olympic Refugee Foundation Lausanne

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (statement of financial position, statement of activities and notes) of Olympic Refugee Foundation for the year ended 31 December 2023.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Foundation Board. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of foundation personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of foundation documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the foundation's deed and the internal regulations.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA



Gérard Ambrosio  
Licensed audit expert  
Auditor in charge



Thomas Kohler  
Licensed audit expert

Lausanne, 29 April 2024

Enclosure:

- Financial statements (statement of financial position, statement of activities and notes)

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA, avenue C.-F. Ramuz 45, case postale, 1001 Lausanne, Switzerland  
Téléphone: +41 58 792 81 00, [www.pwc.ch](http://www.pwc.ch)

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA is a member of the global PricewaterhouseCoopers network of firms, each of which is a separate and independent legal entity.

Together, we are a  
team like no other.





Olympic Refugee  
Foundation

