It is often said that our collective resilience, compassion and courage shine brightest in times of darkness. Unfortunately, the past year was marked by a series of catastrophic events that once again put humanity to the ultimate test. Türkiye and Syria were struck by a major earthquake that caused extensive devastation affecting more than 10 million people in the region. The UEFA Foundation for Children and the European football community promptly extended their support to our Turkish friends, providing financial assistance and other forms of aid. At the same time, the foundation persevered in its commitment to support the education of vulnerable groups, with a particular emphasis on young women, refugees and internally displaced people. Significant efforts were directed towards Ukraine, Afghanistan and Yemen, which have been severely affected by armed conflicts. A child’s smile lights up even the bleakest moments with a sparkle of hope, reminding us that joy and resilience can prevail against all odds. This March, I was privileged and profoundly humbled to learn the actual depth of these words during my visit to the Acholi people in the Kampala district of Uganda.

Stepping into the community, I was immediately struck by the stark contrast to the familiar comforts of our everyday lives. This region, home to nearly 20,000 people, benefits from the Sports for Resilience and Empowerment Project, an esteemed partner of our foundation. Ritah Aliguma and her team have created social and economic opportunities for over 2,500 children and 850 coaches. But the impact they have made through football reaches way beyond that. Their stories, hopes and dreams painted a picture of unwavering determination to create a better future. Witnessing their daily struggles yet seeing their indomitable optimism and their love of life and our beautiful game left me with a deep appreciation for the human capacity to endure and the transformative power of community support.

As detailed in this report, with many other examples from the 65 new projects the foundation supported throughout the 2022/23 season, such activities vividly illustrate the true power of football to inspire millions of children and encourage them to dream. It transcends mere skills, tactics and trophies; it fosters aspirations for a more promising future and a world where every child can be acknowledged and respected.
AT THE HEART OF THE FOUNDATION

The board of trustees meets twice a year to review ongoing projects, fine-tune monitoring systems and approve the funding for new projects.

On 14 November 2022, the board awarded funding to 65 projects supporting children’s and young people’s rights around the world.

In addition to 30 European initiatives and a special fund for Ukraine, the foundation approved 12 projects in Africa, 12 in Asia, 7 in Central and South America and 2 in Oceania.

Particular attention was paid to the impact of the foundation’s support on children affected by the conflict in Ukraine. The board welcomed the commitment of the European football community, which had promoted many initiatives to help Ukraine and neighbouring countries affected by the humanitarian crisis.

At its November meeting, the board also approved the appointment of Andrea Radrizzani as a new trustee.

The former chairman of Leeds United, Mr Radrizzani is a leading entrepreneur in the global sports media industry and the founder of Play for Change, an international not-for-profit sports and development organisation dedicated to supporting marginalised and at-risk young people, particularly in developing countries.

It is a great honour and privilege to take a seat on the UEFA Foundation for Children’s board of trustees. I am dedicated to having a positive impact on children’s lives using the power of football and sport, and I look forward to harnessing my experience in cooperation with the other trustees to deliver a better future for our younger generations.

— Mr Radrizzani, commenting on his appointment

After discussions with children and parents from the Dutch foundation for disabled children Het Gehandicapte Kind, the trustees then met in Eindhoven on 3 June 2023. They approved the allocation of €43,500 each to 23 projects run by local organisations nominated by UEFA member associations.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR 2022/23

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Funds allocated (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32 in Europe</td>
<td>€2,458,550 (49.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 in Africa</td>
<td>€902,258 (18.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 in Asia</td>
<td>€866,071 (17.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 in South America</td>
<td>€290,147 (5.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 in Oceania</td>
<td>€270,000 (5.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 in Central America</td>
<td>€156,959 (3.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 in total</td>
<td>€4,943,985 (100%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PROJECT ICONS

All the projects funded by the foundation are rooted in universal values such as the protection of minorities and children against all forms of discrimination. In addition, they are all designed with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in mind.

Employability: SDGs 1 · 4 · 5 · 8 · 10
Protecting children against economic exploitation and any work likely to compromise their health or education, providing training and support when looking for work

Healthy lifestyle: SDG 3
Promoting exercise and a healthy diet

Environmental protection: SDGs 4 · 5 · 13 · 15
Raising awareness among children about the protection and restoration of our ecosystem

Disabled children: SDGs 3 · 4
The right to special care and to live a full and decent life

Conflict victims: SDGs 3 · 4 · 5 · 16
Protecting against all forms of violence, supporting refugees children, protecting children in detention, providing protection during armed conflict

Gender equality: SDGs 5 · 8 · 10
Girls’ empowerment, protecting against all forms of gender discrimination, sexual violence and exploitation

INFRASTRUCTURE/EQUIPMENT: SDG 9
Providing the sports equipment and safe infrastructure needed to ensure the right to play and engage in recreational activities

AWARD-WINNING PROJECT

In March 2023, the Spanish government’s Office of the High Commissioner against Child Poverty presented one of its Break the Circle awards to Deporte por Refugio (Sport for Refugees), a foundation project run by the NGO Fútbol Más in Seville. The project was singled out for its initiatives to combat child poverty, identify best practices and measure social impacts.

The project has benefited more than 2,000 people, mainly children and teenagers, over 40% of whom are girls. In addition, all groups have achieved a weekly attendance rate of 85 to 90%, which is very high compared with other types of school activities. As a result, the project’s original and creative approach and the values it promotes – the values of football – are successfully translated into everyday life.

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PROJECT LIFE CYCLE

Monitoring and evaluations are essential to ensure optimal operation and results and are therefore integrated throughout the project cycle.

Methodology

The methods used by the UEFA Foundation for Children to ensure partner reliability have evolved over time.

Call for projects: selection

Since 2015, projects are assessed on two levels: institutional and operational. The following applies to each level:

- Deal-breakers: if an organisation or project does not fulfil the criteria, it will be rejected.
- Weightings: The selection criteria are weighted to assess and rank each project’s relative value.

Monitoring toolkit

From the moment a project is selected, it is monitored by using a toolkit that covers a broad range of parameters:

- background of the organisation
- management system
- partners involved
- description of activities, number of beneficiaries, impact, achievement
- financial management
- communication
- the organisation’s values
- sustainability and good governance

Regular communication

The foundation stays in contact with the relevant partner throughout the whole funding cycle of each project.

Reports

Each partner is required to send two reports during the project. The first is a mid-term report, used to review progress, identify any problems in implementation and make the necessary adjustments. The final report submitted at the end of the project presents the final results and how they were achieved, and contributes to organisational learning and knowledge-sharing.

Field and virtual visits

A field visit is a direct on-site observation of a project. Its purpose is to enable the observer to see the progress of a project towards achieving its expected results. Field visits ensure that funds are used wisely, activities are organised in line with the agreed objectives and each project complies with the foundation’s code of ethics. The UEFA Foundation for Children now also conducts virtual field visits with a view to reducing our costs and environmental impact. Virtual visits follow the same principles as on-site visits.

KeeX’s Photo Proof Pro

Since 2020, we have been using a remote monitoring solution from KeeX, for which we won a World Summit on the Information Society Prize in 2021. Photo Proof Pro provides operational support to the foundation and its projects by enabling us to monitor activities remotely and securely using blockchain technology. The system includes a mobile application that partner organisations on-site can use to take photos illustrating their activities. The application generates reliable integrity, identity, timestamping and geolocation data in order to verify the origin and authenticity of the information.

Other sources

We also inspect our partners’ administrative databases, training materials, correspondence, legislation, policy documents, media releases, websites and other sources of information to reduce bias, cross-check data and ensure that it is as valid, reliable and complete as possible.

UEFA FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN AWARD

Last year, the board of trustees decided to use the 2022 award to create a fund to finance initiatives run by UEFA member associations and charitable organisations that defend the rights and well-being of Ukrainian children. This year’s €1m award was shared equally between 23 European charities recognised by UEFA’s member associations for their outstanding efforts to support vulnerable children.

On behalf of UEFA, I would like to express my sincere admiration to our award winners for their tireless efforts and dedication, which have had a significant impact on so many children’s lives. Through their selfless work, they have become a beacon of hope and inspiration for countless children, empowering them to overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. The impact of their work extends far beyond the immediate beneficiaries, as it has a ripple effect on families, communities, and society as a whole, laying the foundation for a brighter and more inclusive future.

— Aleksander Čeferin, UEFA president and chairman of the foundation

THE 2023 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) → Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) → Austrian Football Association (ÖFB) → FFBÖ Liga Cup Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) → Football Development Foundation → Royal Belgian Football Association (RBFA) → Juna Foot → Bosnia and Herzegovina Football Federation (BHFF) → Football Club Respekt, Sarajevo → Bulgarian Football Union (BPU) → Social Management Bulgaria → Croatian Football Federation (HNS) → Zaklada Vatreno Srce (Fiery Heart Foundation) → Cyprus Football Association (CFA) → Hope for Children → Football Association of the Czech Republic (FACR) → Special Olympics Czech Republic → Danish Football Association (DBU) → UNICEF → The Football Association (The FA) → The Wheelchair Football Association (The WFA) → Football Association of Finland (SPL) → We Foundation → FC Meltsi → German Football Association (DFB) → Spirit of Football e.V. → Ein Ball, eine Welt → Hungarian Football Federation (MLSZ) → Silver Boot Football Academy for Hearing-impaired Young People Foundation → Italian Football Federation (FIGC) → Calcio Sociale (social football) → Lithuanian Football Federation (LFF) → Futbolko klubas Ataka → Football Association of Moldova (FMF) → AO Sunshine → Irish Football Association (IFA) → Irish FA Foundation → Polish Football Association (PZPN) → Amp Fudbals Polska → Romanian Football Federation (FRF) → Asociaţia Casa Bună (Good House Association) → Scottish Football Association (SFA) → Scottish Para-Football → Swiss Football Association (SHA) → PluSport → Ukrainian Association of Football (UAF) → UAF projects for disabled people
The UEFA Foundation for Children provided emergency assistance to two regions in crisis in 2022/23 – Ukraine, entering its second year of war, and southern Türkiye and northern Syria, struck by a series of massive earthquakes in February 2023.

THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE

European football’s governing bodies, clubs and players have played a key role in supporting the people of Ukraine, especially their children. When the war broke out, the European football community, with the support of the UEFA Foundation for Children, mobilised to provide emergency relief for civilians affected by the conflict. The foundation immediately set up a €100,000 emergency fund for children and refugees. The money went to the Football Association of Moldova, which worked with local humanitarian organisations to deliver medicines and equipment to children’s hospitals in Ukraine.

Solidarity among national associations

The board of trustees decided to share the 2022 UEFA Foundation for Children Award between the football associations of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia and the Cross Cultures Project Association (CCPA), a Danish association and foundation partner working with the Ukrainian Association of Football. After basic aid, such as food and hygiene products, the priority was on mitigating the effects of winter by providing radiators, blankets and warm clothes. Football equipment and training facilities were then provided for local football clubs, and children received trainers and sportswear.

Emergency and psychosocial support

The CCPA and the Ukrainian Association of Football teamed up to provide displaced children in Ukraine with safe spaces and opportunities to play with children from the host communities. The Open Fun Football Schools programme, run by school psychologists, focuses on safety and psychosocial issues. It encourages children not only to play, but also to share their feelings. A special food programme also provides food for orphans and other particularly vulnerable children.

Team Up for Ukraine

The Team Up initiative, led by Common Goal, was developed by a number of Football for Good member organisations and foundation partners already active in the region and was able to provide immediate support.

At the ECA, we are all engaged in assisting clubs and allowing them to continue their excellent work in supporting Ukrainian children and families displaced by this tragic war. I am very pleased therefore that our Relief Committee has already been able to approve 26 projects. The more projects and clubs the ECA supports through this programme, the more children and families we help in these difficult times.

...Dariusz Mioduski, ECA vice-chairman and chairman of the association’s Ukraine Relief Committee

2022 call for projects

Through our annual call for projects, we provided funding for three initiatives in Ukraine:

1. Football for the Future, a project managed by Shakhtar Social, FC Shakhtar Donetsk’s charity arm.
2. First Aid, an educational sports project set up by the Klitschko Foundation to train coaches and teachers in first aid and psychological care for children.
3. Play Together, an initiative launched by the charity Around Football to train a network of professional volunteers to use football as a tool to support children.

Overall, the foundation has donated over €1.3m to the relief effort in Ukraine.

Teaming up with the European Club Association (ECA)

The ECA entered into an operational partnership with the foundation, which led to the creation of a €1m fund in June 2022 to assist Ukrainian civilians affected by the conflict. Every ECA member club was eligible to apply for a grant of between €25,000 and €50,000 to support initiatives helping Ukrainians, whose lives have been turned upside down by the war. These funds enabled the clubs to take practical action to encourage the integration and education of children displaced within Ukraine or abroad, and their families. Many clubs in regions with high influxes of refugees had already invested heavily in various projects. Players from several European leagues have taken similar steps on a personal level. Through two calls for projects, one in August 2022 and the second in January 2023, 26 clubs were able to access funds to address the needs of children affected by the conflict and provide them with appropriate support. Of the ECA’s €1m emergency fund, €930,000 had already been allocated at the time of writing. A third call for projects will be launched before the end of 2023.

NATURAL DISASTER IN TÜRKİYE AND SYRIA

UEFA and its Foundation for Children made an initial donation of €200,000 to support a major humanitarian operation in the wake of two devastating earthquakes in parts of Türkiye and Syria. UEFA donated €150,000 to the Turkish Football Federation (TFF), and the foundation pledged €50,000 to Bonyan and Team International Assistance for Integration (TIAFI), two NGOs working on either side of the Turkish-Syrian border. UEFA’s member associations followed suit by making a joint donation of €877,500.

SPONSOR CONTRIBUTIONS

TOPPS – $100,000 donation to support Bonyan’s activities
Mastercard – Renovation or construction of ten football pitches in the regions affected by the earthquakes, using donations collected at the UEFA Champions League final in Istanbul
Turkish Airlines – Construction of a football pitch in the earthquake zone
FedEx – Funding for Championing an Inclusive Future through Football, a project run by Bonyan
Lay’s – Construction of a sustainable Lay’s RePlay football pitch made from recycled crisp packets in Sanlıurf, Türkiye
ACHIEVEMENTS

The community football pitch was renovated, providing a new safe place for children to play and train. It took six months to add drainage and replace the grass that had been lost because it could not be maintained. The pitch was inaugurated on World AIDS Day on 1 December 2021.

The final of the sixth Annual Slums Soccer Tournament, organised by the Aliguma Foundation, took place on the brand-new pitch on 15 January 2022. The tournament included 46 teams for boys, girls and teenagers.

In October 2022, the Aliguma Foundation won an International Sports Press Association Sport Media Award.

SUCCESS STORY

Gloria Nicole Apio lived in the slums of Acholi Quarters and she became Aliguma’s project coordinator at the age of 18. She had been unable to continue her schooling but wanted to become a journalist. With the foundation’s support, she enrolled in a journalism school to keep her dream alive. In 2019, she applied for a young reporters programme supported by UEFA in Udine, Italy, and she attended the course. She returned to Uganda, and the foundation recommended her for a role with one of the country’s top media organisations, where she is currently a sports and entertainment anchor. Her story is an inspiration to many young people in the community.

A HISTORIC VISIT TO UGANDA

A highlight of this season in Africa is undoubtedly the visit by the UEFA president to one of our projects in Uganda.

While travelling to Africa en route to attend the 73rd FIFA Congress in Kigali, Rwanda, UEFA president and UEFA Foundation for Children chairman Aleksander Čeferin made a stop in the Acholi slum district of Kampala under the aegis of The Aliguma Foundation. This non-governmental organisation aims to use football to improve the lives of young people in slum communities. The initiative empowers beneficiaries to build better lives for themselves and their families by facilitating access to education, essential health care and football training for children.

The UEFA president visited the Okello house in Banda where he met a group of mothers who engage in different small businesses such as making handicrafts and works of art. They told him that football is more than just a game on the pitch, and that it had changed the life of the community. Led by a marching band, the UEFA president then walked through the slums to the community ground of the Acholi neighbour-hoods where he met teams from different schools before watching exhibition football matches.

For Ritah Aliguma, The Aliguma Foundation CEO, this wasn’t just an ordinary visit. It was a game-changer. “The UEFA president walking through one of the largest slum communities in Kampala gave hope to so many destitute people. We can dream again knowing that all things are possible.”

AFRICA

The foundation is giving its support to help the Aliguma Foundation to fulfil its goals, such as:

1. Identify and develop the career goals of individuals through sport
2. Enhance education and literacy among children to promote holistic development
3. Provide decent housing and a safe environment in which women from deprived backgrounds can raise their children
4. Create income-generating alternatives for mothers who are suffering severe hardships
5. Consolidate the progress made by the project by using sport and businesses as catalysts to allow 1,500 women and 5,000 children and young people to move out of social and economic exclusion
6. Extend the Sports for Resilience and Empowerment Project to refugee communities in the West Nile region and parts of western Uganda by organising football tournaments for refugee and host communities
7. Establish a football tournament for primary schools to campaign for the protection of children, and girls in particular
8. Use football matches as a vehicle to offer more educational scholarships
9. Continue the construction of the Sports and Empowerment Centre, including two football pitches, volleyball and basketball courts and dormitories at the Women and Child Empowerment Centre in Masindi
10. Establish a practical skills unit at the Sports and Empowerment Centre in Masindi

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ON GOING PROJECTS IN AFRICA

- Exodos Ljubljana – Burkina Faso, Palestine and Senegal
- Share My Story
- Terre des hommes
- Busajo Onlus
- Protection and social reintegration for street children
- Street Child
- Cameroon
- YES! Youth Empowerment through Sport
- IACT
- Chad
- Refugee-led Sport and Early Childhood Education Programmes
- Triangle Génération Humanitaire
- Central African Republic
- Improving Protection, Educational and Social Reintegration for Vulnerable Children
- Georges Malaika Foundation
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Future Leaders of Kalebuka
- Play for Change
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Kilumpa
- Girls United Republic
- Samusocial International
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Promoting inclusion through sport for street children in Pointe-Noire
- Terre des hommes Egypt
- Egypt
- Football for Climate Change
- Ethiopia
- Busajo Campus: Promotion of education and well-being through sport
- Exodos Ljubljana
- Avenue
- Africa
- La Balle aux Prisonniers
- Ivory Coast
- SCORE
- La Balle aux Prisonniers
- Ivory Coast
- Coaches Across Continents
- Kenya
- Positive climate action for the entire ‘sport for development’ sector
- Water4Wildlife Maasai Mara Foundation
- Kenya
- Football4Wildlife
- Grandir Dignement
- Madagascar
- Growing up with dignity
- Libre Vue
- Mali
- Solidarité Aveugle
- Malawi
- Association Enfants du Désert
- Morocco
- Football in Rissani
- Kick-Life
- Lesotho
- Good Health and Climate Action through Football
- Altius Sport
- South Africa
- Life’s a ball
- Médécins du Monde
- South Africa
- The Game, The Life
- Light for the World International
- South Sudan
- We are the Champions
- Karibu Tanzania Organization
- Tanzania
- Mpira Fursa: grassroots football for girls and child safeguarding
- C.I.E.L.O.
- Cooperation Internationale pour les Équilibres Locaux
- Togo
- Stay at school as long as possible
- International Organization for Migration (DIM)
- Tunisia
- Sport for Inclusion: Football Against Racism
- The Aliguma Foundation
- Uganda
- Sports for Resilience and Empowerment Project, phase 2
- Red Deporte
- Zambia
- Health 360: football for a protected community
- Zeinab, 16

The term ‘slum’ has negative connotations. It is associated with precarity, squalor and poverty – conditions in which no one should have to live. The United Nations (UN, report 2020) defines a slum household as one in which the inhabitants lack one or more of the following: security of tenure (residence permits and other protections against eviction), access to an improved water source and sanitation facilities, durable housing and a sufficient living area. Around a billion people worldwide currently live in slums and other informal settlements.

According to the United Nations, some 300 million people in sub-Saharan Africa lived in slums in 2020, representing more than 50% of the region’s urban population. That’s a higher proportion than in any other region of the world. Despite many countries’ efforts to reduce the number of people forced to live in slums, the rapid growth in towns and cities exacerbates the problem. Africa faces a huge challenge in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers while preventing the formation of new slums.

THE POWER OF FOOTBALL

By establishing partnerships with community associations, the UEFA foundation promotes solidarity and enables the construction of numerous sports facilities. These are not just places to play sport; they foster community-building, promote social development and motivate young people. Like schools, sports centres are places where many social activities are organised, most often by young people themselves. They also act as centres for health promotion, environmental education, food distribution and the promotion of small businesses. Sports centres are safe places for people with disabilities and other minorities.

The UEFA foundation’s support and the values of sport drive innovative development projects that offer a positive and responsible vision for the future, because every child has the right to dream of a better life.
THE NATURAL CYCLE OF INTER CAMPUS

Every year many boys and girls grow out of the project, just as many new children begin their Nerazzurri journey. Once a child reaches 13 years of age, they know that it’s their last season with Inter Campus, which takes children from ages 6 to 14 to enable the project to focus on the little ones. These are the children who take their first steps on the pitch, who discover sociability through the ball and the shared activities, who exercise their right to play. The moment of farewell is always difficult, especially for those who have been part of Inter Campus for a long time. In Venezuela, many boys and girls start very young and leave as men and women – some of them are even mothers by the time they leave. At the same time, dozens of newcomers are eager to join the Inter Campus programme. This natural cycle nurtures and restores the coaches’ energy and enthusiasm and gradually includes more and more of the community. By now, almost everyone in the neighbourhood has come through the ranks of Inter Campus and parents encourage their children to participate. It’s the best compliment you can get.

SPORT AS A TOOL TO PREVENT DEViant BEHAVIOUR IN HIGH-RISK COMMUNITIES

Inter Campus, the international corporate social responsibility department of Inter Milano, is a long-standing partner of the foundation: we have supported projects in Israel and Palestine (2016), Venezuela (2018), Angola, Cameroon, Congo and Uganda (2019), and Colombia and Venezuela (2023). The aim is to let deprived children exercise their right to play.

The two-year programme in Colombia and Venezuela started in January 2023 and will benefit 530 children and their families. It focuses on nutrition and preventing violent behaviour in a difficult socio-economic context. Inter Campus aims to accompany children on the path to healthy growth, keep them away from danger and help them to shape their personalities so that they learn to distinguish between good and bad. This is not easy in contexts afflicted by verbal and physical abuse and ever-increasing poverty. Many families in these situations turn to prostitution or the production, consumption and sale of drugs as a way of earning a precious few extra dollars.

The project is built around three pillars:

1. Training local coaches to instil in children values such as respect for coaches, rules and referees, the importance of education, working hard to achieve their dreams, and training even in bad weather, as well as helping children to develop their self-confidence and skills such as cooperation, strength through adversity, coping with wins and losses, and channeling stress or aggression in a positive way.

2. Promoting integration between people of different languages, cultures, and religions, reducing violence and increasing gender equality.

3. Leveraging the Inter brand to attract support from volunteers, sponsors, local authorities, NGOs and others.

SPORTS AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME

The boys and girls of Caracas come to the camp because they have fun: playing football wearing an Inter jersey makes them proud, and the Nerazzurri philosophy, combined with the kindness of the local coaches, makes every session a moment of joy. And for the last few months, there has been one more reason not to miss training: at the end of the match, before returning home, everyone is given a snack! Sometimes it’s juice, sometimes fruit, sometimes sandwiches – there’s always something new. No one leaves the field early and, indeed, many of the participants’ siblings watch from the sidelines in search of a small snack. There is something for everyone. Eating three times a day is a luxury and it has real consequences for children’s development.

Diana, a coach on the Inter Campus programme in Caracas

THE BEACH

Caracas is just a few kilometres from the coast, and if you travel downhill for about 40 minutes, you reach the white, sandy beaches of Guaira. That said, many children have never seen the sea. That’s why Inter Campus took the participants for a day at the beach to celebrate the women’s team winning the capital city’s social championship with an 8-0 victory in the final! The children were thrilled to see the waves, feel the sand in their toes and paddle in the water, even if they can’t swim.

They got to have football training in this beautiful setting, the Inter jersey over the swimsuit, before jumping into the water and then having a snack together. The bus home was full of music and singing, Venezuelan music alternating with the great Italian classics. It was a great way to get to know each other off the pitch and a unique Nerazzurri experience.

Diana, a coach on the Inter Campus programme in Caracas

AMERICAS

SPORTS AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME
FOOTBALL AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

One of the foundation’s priorities in the Americas in 2023 is to support more than ten education projects.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, an average of 22% of children do not attend secondary school. In Guatemala and Honduras, the figure exceeds 50%. According to United Nations statistics, the proportion of children finishing primary school in Haiti is only 49% for boys and 58% for girls. A 2022 World Bank/UNICEF report found that 80% of sixth-grade pupils (11–12 years old) in Latin America and the Caribbean did not find basic reading skills. While the region was already experiencing an education crisis before the pandemic, these findings show a considerable increase. The two-year school closure in the region during the COVID-19 pandemic could have set learning outcomes back by more than a decade.

The problem is even more pronounced among indigenous peoples. Education is one of the main ways out of poverty, and schooling in indigenous communities is still shorter than elsewhere. In Bolivia, non-indigenous children complete ten years of schooling, whereas among indigenous children it is only six. However, for almost half a century, the indigenous peoples of Latin America have been re-establishing ties with their ancestral traditions, which had often been severely damaged, and school has become the main tool for rediscovering their roots.

In Latin America, the proportions of boys and girls enrolling and finishing school do not appear to differ radically from other parts of the world. Here, girls from poorer backgrounds tend to drop out because of their domestic duties, which do not leave them enough time for an education. Moreover, poorer families depend on their work from an early age.

Poverty is a striking reflection of inequality in society, but it is not the only one. Gender differences have very profound effects, as they generate and anchor poverty in society. This is why the foundation supports projects that focus on education, respect for cultural values and the promotion of positive values among girls.

I have been involved in the Alakaláwa project since it began, and it’s been a very rewarding professional experience, with many challenges that you certainly don’t encounter in other parts of Costa Rica. This project means a lot to our community. The lack of bridges over the rivers, the lack of internal transport and the lack of recreational areas for the women of the community are just some of the challenges we face.

At the start of the project, we had to get to know the different indigenous communities in the region and gradually understand their communication dynamism, their languages, their customs and how to integrate all this into a sporting process, while respecting the indigenous cosmology. We found a group of women, mothers and football players with a great desire to learn and a great desire to play football like a professional team.

... Maria, project sports coordinator

I have been involved with the GOLEES Foundation for a year now. I really enjoy the training and activities, as well as the team outings and meeting other people. Our teachers are fantastic, and I appreciate the advice and attention they give us. The foundation gives us a great opportunity, and, thanks to it, I can make my dreams come true.

... Darling, project participant and beneficiary
Sri Lanka bears the scars of the civil war, uneven development and the 2004 tsunami. Added to this is the COVID-19 pandemic that forced schools to close for up to 18 months between 2020 and 2021, and the worst economic crisis in the country that led to further school closures until June 2022. Many children have suffered from isolation and a lack of social interaction over the last three years.

The long-term impact for many children is that they will be left behind, as it is difficult for them to learn essential life skills without spending time with their peers. Students with irregular school attendance fall significantly behind in class and often drop out. The well-being of young people is a big concern.

Since 2017, Street Child has been working to improve education quality in Sri Lanka. Children have never been able to reach their full potential due to challenges in the quality of education and a lack of resources in schools.

The UEFA Foundation for Children supports the Stay to Play project, which reintegrates boys and girls affected by prolonged school closures, improves regular school attendance for the most marginalised students and introduces regular sports activities to encourage consistent social interaction in the Batticaloa district. Sport helps develop cognitive and non-cognitive skills, providing students with a holistic learning experience and producing well-rounded individuals.

STAY TO PLAY FOR EDUCATION IN SRI LANKA

IMPACTS

4,500 students reached by the programme (indirect reach)

600 direct beneficiaries (boys and girls)

40 teachers trained to deliver interactive and inclusive learning in the classroom

ACHIEVEMENTS

Six primary and secondary schools were selected to implement an active learning and teaching programme.

All the schools had playgrounds that were run-down and unusable. The renovations brought them up to safety standards and turned them into pleasant places to practise sport and play.

The coach drew up a list of football equipment needed to set up a football team. The items were purchased and distributed by Street Child Sri Lanka in May 2023.

Street Child Sri Lanka partnered with a reputable NGO specialising in active learning, which developed a Stay to Play training manual for this project. The manual covers the main topics of literacy, numeracy, nutrition, physical education and the environment. Teachers were trained in these active learning methodologies.

The football coach and the physical education teachers started weekly coaching sessions to teach football techniques and improve physical education. Every two weeks, football matches are organised between the six secondary schools.

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TESTIMONIALS

Stay to Play brought positive change to a slow learner. Vivetha lives in a remote village of Batticaloa. She lost her mother and is raised by her stepmother. Going to school regularly is tough for her. She used to take a long time to understand the lessons, but after the Stay to Play project started, using the new learning and teaching tools, it was a surprise to notice that Vivetha understood things faster, actively engaging in solving calculation puzzles and supporting her peers.

– Sumathy, a grade 3 teacher at a Batticaloa primary school

I never thought that, at the age of 15 and living in a remote area, I would be able to embark on the journey towards my dreams. Since I was little, I’ve wanted to become a professional football coach. The Stay to Play project has provided a great opportunity for me to take on a leadership role within the football team, connect with my peers, and enhance my skills through football coaching techniques and practices. I have gained the confidence to follow my dream and believe in what I can achieve.

– Prashanth, in grade 10 at a secondary school in Batticaloa
ASIA

ONGOING PROJECTS IN ASIA

Action for Development • Afghanistan • Education and sports for vulnerable children • Spirit of Soccer • Cambodia • MINE/Covid-19 Risk Education • Plan International Hong Kong • China • Building Children’s Resilience through Sports • ASA Foundation • Indonesia • Teaching life skills through football • Asian Football Confederation • India • Football for Gender Equality • The Arsenal Foundation • India • Coaching for life • Cross Cultures • Iraq • Open Fun Football Schools • Palestine: Sports for Life • Kick for Trade Festival • Jesuit Refugee Service • Iraq • A safe space for displaced Yazidi youth • AFDP Global • Jordan • Kick For Hope • Institute for Youth Development • Kyrgyzstan • Line Up, Live Up • INTEROS • Lebanon • BRACE • Malaysia • Refugee Youth Empowerment • Football United (University of New South Wales) • Myanmar • Football United Myanmar • Planète Enfants & Développement • Nepal • School for girls in Chapang • Right To Play • Pakistan • Education, empowerment, and employability for girls • Fundlife International • Philippines • Fundlife Dream Academy • Street Child • Sri Lanka • Reintegration to school through sport • Baan Dek Foundation • Thailand • Football4Good • Football Association of Norway/Football for All in Vietnam • Vietnam Football for All • Helpcode • Yemen • Education Through Sports

ASIA

EDUCATION TO FIGHT POVERTY

Asia is a continent of great contrasts. It is home to 60% of the world’s population; though the countries they live in are socially and economically very different. Some of their economies are highly developed, some are emerging and undergoing rapid development, while others are still facing great difficulties aggravated by an unstable political environment.

In South Asia (mainly India), 35% of city dwellers live in slums, and it is estimated that more than 200 million people live in slums in East Asia, corresponding to 28.2% of the whole urban population. Meanwhile, the Asian countries with the largest proportions of their urban populations living in slums are Afghanistan, Yemen and Bangladesh.

The foundation supports a number of projects in Asia, to promote access to sport in these slums and contribute to shaping the urban landscape.

For several decades now, Asia has been at the forefront of educational change. Rapid progress in schooling in most Asian countries, at a time when many of them were poor and the world’s most populous region had to educate millions of children, led some people to believe that there could be an ‘Asian model’ for education. However, in Central Asia and South Asia, around 85 million children do not have access to an education, a situation that is in many cases aggravated by politics or war.

According to UNICEF, eight years of conflict in Yemen have caused a crisis in the education system that has prevented more than 2 million children from gaining any education at all and limited access for another 4 million. This crisis poses a serious obstacle to the country’s reconstruction process.

In Afghanistan, girls have not been allowed to attend school after the age of ten since 2022. Denying access to secondary education and university is clearly discriminatory and extremely detrimental to the country as a whole. The decision to deprive girls and women of their right to an education exposes them to violence, poverty and exploitation. In order to keep girls in school as much as possible, the foundation is supporting primary education projects in Afghanistan.

By supporting projects in Asian countries, the foundation hopes to protect the fundamental human right to education and play its part in the process of rebuilding countries ravaged by years of conflict.

SCHOOLS FOR STREET-WORKING CHILDREN

Location • Afghanistan
Partner • Action for Development

These schools provide lessons, physical activities and nutritious meals – often the only meals the children will receive that day. The aim is to facilitate the integration of street children into the formal education system. Where that is not possible, we offer vocational training and skills that will provide these young people with a means of generating income in the future.

Ten-year-old Maryam (name changed for safety reasons) attends one of our schools. When interviewed about her family’s financial situation and why she works on the streets, she simply replied: “It’s bad. I sell bags on the streets to earn some money and provide food for my family.”

Her favourite activities at school are ‘blestakan (jumping), football and ping-pong’. Football is a fantastic way to work on soft skills such as teamwork, mutual respect, determination, and commitment. Our football training has reached a total of 179 students, but the situation in the country is making it difficult to continue, particularly for girls. Despite the current humanitarian crisis, Maryam hopes to graduate from school and later from university, so that she can become a doctor. Our schools seek to educate this future generation and provide a sense of hope and normality in these bleak times.

Maryam ends the interview by saying “thank you so much for establishing this school so we can continue our education”.

Maryam is just one of the 319 girls out of 606 students benefiting from our education programmes. We have also launched four home-schooling classes for girls aged 12 and over, which have attracted 200 students.
On 9 July 2022, Mytilene Municipal Stadium on the Greek island of Lesbos hosted a tournament for Under-12 players from local football academies and young refugees. It was an opportunity for all participants to come together and share the joy of football free of discrimination.

This project was led by the Champions For Life N.P.C. Legends 2004 team, which is made up of former members of Greece’s winning EURO 2004 team.

Once their playing careers had come to an end, these players joined forces to promote the integration of children through sport, and football in particular. The former stars believe that all children must be able to integrate without discrimination on the basis of social background, gender, disability, ethnicity or religion.

For a long time, the island of Lesbos has been an unhappy symbol of Europe’s refugee population fleeing humanitarian crises. Deadly shipwrecks, overcrowded camps and heavy pressure on the host population have fuelled the headlines of the international press for too long.

Today, Lesbos is no longer overcrowded with migrants. Many have moved on and there are fewer new arrivals. Those who do come are subject to a strict border control policy.

However, the situation remains critical and integration is essential. This solidarity tournament was therefore launched to contribute to stability in the region and the process of integrating refugees.

For this event, refugee children were welcomed into the teams of local football academies under the guidance and mentorship of the legendary EURO 2004 players. More than 120 local and refugee children took part, united by their matching kits and their passion for the game.

Each Legend took a team under their wing, passing on their knowledge, experience and advice. Along with the team coaches, they guided the youngsters through a series of matches culminating in a third-place play-off and a grand final.

It was an event inspired by love, humanity and solidarity, designed to unite children through football. It has also helped to facilitate the integration of people who have lived through extremely difficult circumstances.

The involvement of former star players brought a different dimension to the event. It gave Greek youth academy members the opportunity to meet players who have made a mark on their country’s football history and share a proud moment with them.

The high level of interest in the event illustrates the tradition and willingness of the Greek people to welcome refugees in the best possible way.

UEFA general secretary Theodore Theodoridis and UEFA Foundation for Children general secretary Urs Kluser both attended the tournament, sending a strong message of support for integration and solidarity through football.
KFV PRISHTINA: EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH FOOTBALL, A MEMORABLE TRIP TO FC BARCELONA

With the support of the UEFA Foundation for Children and the donor community, KFV Prishtina has turned women’s football into a powerful tool for empowering girls and developing communities, by breaking down gender stereotypes and promoting equality.

The highlight of this season for the KFV Prishtina women’s team was a visit to FC Barcelona – an extraordinary and very special experience for the 22 girls who took part, making new friends and developing their footballing skills.

They were able to take advantage of the facilities at FC Barcelona’s training centre and play two friendly matches against Barcelona women’s Under-17 teams. This gave them the opportunity to showcase their skills and test themselves against local teams.

During their stay, they also attended the UEFA Women’s Champions League semi-final between Barcelona and Chelsea on 27 April, watching the eventual champions in action and no doubt inspiring a new generation of aspiring professionals.

For the majority of the girls, who had never left the region of Prishtina before, this will have been the experience of a lifetime. Once again, football has shown its ability to bring people together around a shared passion and encourage cultural exchange.

In just three years, the number of young women and girls training at KFV Prishtina has increased 80%. KFV Prishtina currently has the largest number of young women’s teams in Kosovo and is the only club with members from all ethnic communities.

TESTIMONIALS

Visiting FC Barcelona has left an indelible mark on me, motivating me to strive for excellence in my career. Thank you, Barcelona, for this incredible opportunity that I will cherish forever.

– Zana Bajraktari, KFV Prishtina goalkeeper

We were delighted to welcome KFV Prishtina to our facilities. The players enjoyed training with Barça and were among the 72,262 fans at the Spotify Camp Nou who helped the team reach the UEFA Women’s Champions League final. During these days, we realised that we shared the same vision for the autonomy of girls in football.

– Marc Masats, director of the FC Barcelona clinic

Save the Children • Albania • Score for Education, phase 2 • Armenia • Generation Sport 2022 • Caritas Oberösterreich • Belarus • Action and Fun • Belgium • We welcome young refugees • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Generation Football • Bulgaria, Estonia, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom • Welcome through Football • Cyprus, Germany, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, United Kingdom • Welcome through Football • Czech Republic • League of Fair-Play • Croatia • Sport and play for inclusion and integration • Croatia, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Turkey • Community champions • Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom • Community champions • Czech Republic • League of Fair-Play • Croatia, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom • Community champions • Czech Republic • League of Fair-Play • Croatia, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom • Community champions • Czech Republic • League of Fair-Play • Croatia, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom • Community champions • Czech Republic • League of Fair-Play • Croatia, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom • Community champions • Czech Republic • League of Fair-Play • Croatia, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom • Community champions • Czech Republic • League of Fair-Play • Croatia, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom • Community champions • Czech Republic • League of Fair-Play • Croatia, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom • Community champions

European Amputee Football Federation, Poland

Fundación Grande Valores, Spain
Amigos for Children Foundation • Hungary • Visiting ill children in hospitals

Rio Ferdinand Foundation • Ireland • Youth in Action

Sport Against Racism Ireland (SARI) • Ireland • Football versus Discrimination

A New Way • Israel • SMS – Sportsmanship in a Multicultural Society

Katamon Moadon Ohadim • Israel • Neighbourhoods league

Peres Center for Peace and Innovation • Israel • Twinned Peace Sports Schools

Comitato Regionale Emigrazione e Immigrazione CREL ACLU Sardegna • Italy • Together for Ukrainians

Real Madrid Foundation • Italy, Portugal, Romania, Spain, United Kingdom • Social sports schools in Europe

Calciosociale • Italy • Football for social cohesion and regional cooperation

NGO Parents • Montenegro • Learn & Play

Calciosociale, Italy

Calciosociale, Italy

HÁWAR.help, Germany

Development Center for Youth, Serbia

United Way, Romania

United Way, Romania

INEX, Czech Republic

INEX, Czech Republic

Sport dans la Ville, France

Sport dans la Ville, France

Common Goal, Ukraine

Common Goal, Ukraine
Europe generally hosts fewer refugees than most other parts of the world. Refugees used to account for just 0.6% of the EU’s total population, and at the end of 2021, fewer than 10% of all refugees worldwide and only a fraction of the world’s displaced people were living in the EU. However, that all changed in February 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine. Since then, Europe has hosted the largest number of people fleeing armed conflict since the Second World War. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), 8,072,198 Ukrainians had sought refuge elsewhere in Europe by 15 February 2023, almost a year after the start of the war. This amounts to 18% of the population of Ukraine.

The UEFA Foundation for Children supports numerous projects throughout Europe that work with refugees and displaced people of all origins, particularly children. The foundation also continues to support initiatives in favour of minorities across the continent, in particular disabled people. Around 87 million people in the EU are disabled in some way, and many of them do not enjoy the same opportunities in life as others. They often have limited access to schools, workplaces, infrastructure, products, services and information, and they may be mistreated or discriminated against.

Although provisions for disabled people are improving, they still face many challenges. Adapted sports activities can contribute to the inclusion, education, personal development and career prospects of disabled children and provide much-needed support for their families.

In October 2022, something amazing happened in the Dutch town of Ter Apel: an old shipping container was transformed into a lively clubhouse with bright colours. Managed by the NGO and social enterprise KLABU, it helps to welcome unaccompanied underage asylum seekers to the Netherlands through a shared passion for sports. The place has now become a symbol of happiness and positivity for the town.

In May 2023, the whole town came together for the official project launch. They painted the sports facilities and enjoyed food, music and games together. Around 150 children and teenagers take part in KLABU’s social sports activities each month, creating bonds, discovering talents and enjoying themselves. Through sports, art, and togetherness, KLABU continues to inspire Ter Apel.

In December, the beneficiaries participated in a football tournament in the stadium of Dutch Eredivisie club FC Emmen.

The most amazing thing is to be part of this incredible team. KLABU will forever be my special place.

– Yaman

I do not have money, but I have a lot of faith and the desire to help.

– Mur

It’s not just the day that lifts up the spirit, it’s the excitement before and the memories after.

– Manal, a talented 16-year-old central midfielder from Syria
The UEFA Foundation for Children is partnering with the Amigos for Children foundation in Hungary to harness sport’s transformative power for social good. This collaboration aims to lift chronically ill children up by blending sports and fun educational activities with hospital visits to create a friendly and stimulating environment for young patients.

With the foundation’s support, Amigos turns dreams into reality, leaving a lasting impact on children’s lives.

**AMIGOS IN HUNGARY**

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Inex’s Football for Development (Fotbal Pro Rozvoj) League of Fair-Play Football in Prague

This project offers a platform for positive socialisation through a year of activities for children who lack access to quality education and sports activities. The 2022/23 season brought fresh energy after two uncertain years due to COVID-19. Attendance has increased, the organisation’s outreach activities have been expanded and lessons have been learned. The children’s growth is evident: they reflect, share their experiences and forge links. The Ukrainian participants, in particular, have benefited. The training of instructors has flourished and emphasises the importance of mixing diverse contexts for enriched learning. The highlight of the year was taking part in the UEFA Europe Conference League final in Prague.

We show them a world beyond hospital walls, even through their imagination.

— Sára Forgács-Fabíán, founder of Amigos

It is important for me to be part of this project, because both Amigos and the love of sport are very close to me. For me, football is essential because of its ability to bring people together on and off the pitch, to strengthen our love of the game and to give us the opportunity to build friendships, while at the same time recognising the power and importance of a cohesive community.

— Csaba Szlovicsák, Amigos volunteer

It was my dream to enter the pitch in a full stadium.

— Young Karolina, who had the chance to act as a player mascot

Kristóf had a great time; he was totally fascinated by meeting Zoltán Gera in person. Ever since, this is all he can talk about to everyone he meets. He got a memory for a lifetime and motivation; we are immensely grateful for the opportunity.

— The Horváth family

I am so glad I can be part of it. Taking part in the league of fair-play has helped me to find friends but with my psychological health.

— John, beneficiary

Since the start of our participation, our players have made significant progress, especially in their communication with each other and between the older and younger players.

— Instructor

**FEMALE EMPOWERMENT THROUGH FOOTBALL IN OCEANIA – CHANGE IS ON THE WAY!**

Although it might look like paradise, the Pacific region has one of the highest levels of gender-based violence, and women and girls experience discrimination, exclusion and unequal access to education, decision-making, healthcare and sport.

The foundation has supported the OFC – Oceania Football Confederation’s social responsibility project Just Play for many years now. Aimed at schoolchildren aged 6 to 12 years old, this comprehensive programme provides access to sport for all, promoting tolerance, diversity, social inclusion and active and healthy lifestyles.

FIFA’s decision to hold the Women’s World Cup in Australia and New Zealand was a first in more ways than one, and most importantly, it led to the development of a women’s football strategy for the region and a legacy programme that goes beyond the football pitch and will have a positive impact on households and communities across the region, particularly for girls and women.

Another project supported by the foundation is This is How We Football, which uses the sport to promote gender equality and combat violence against women and girls in Oceania.
The project includes:

1. Youth football programmes that foster interaction between girls and boys with a view to changing their perceptions about gender roles;
2. A football participation programme for girls aged 13 to 18, designed to empower them, develop their life skills, improve their health and teach them how to respond to gender-based violence;
3. Regional and national communication campaigns and festivals raising awareness about gender inequality;
4. Gender equality training and capacity-building workshops for coaches in 11 national associations;
5. Tailor-made child safeguarding training for all coaches in the region;
6. Long-term child safeguarding and gender inclusion action plans in 11 countries as part of an initiative to end violence against women and girls.

Adelaide Tu’ivailala, now head of women’s football at the Tonga Football Association, has had a remarkable career. Adelaide’s words are an inspiring testimony to football’s potential to change societal perceptions and promote gender equality. Despite coming from a community where football was not widely played by girls, Adelaide was not deterred. She pursued her passion and played for her country.

“I grew up in a country where soccer wasn’t popular for girls. But I heard about how the king played football. He was the royal patron of football in Tonga, and this encouraged myself and other girls, to play football. When I was in college, I went to try out for the football team. My parents, especially my mum, disagreed with this because they believed that football was designed for men only. However, I started to play. I went on to represent my hometown, and then finally was called to the national team.

“I was the first woman to represent women’s football for the Tonga Football Association executive committee. I worked as a school teacher, but when Tonga Football decided to open an office, I was the first one they approached to see if I wanted to work for them. So I resigned as a teacher and took up the offer. I started working as an administrator for the Tonga Football Association in 1998. In 2006, I decided to concentrate on women’s football, to try to develop the game in my country. After seeing so many girls participating in the Just Play programme, we saw a need to create a specific programme designed to increase the number of girls participating in football in Tonga.”

Each participating club has a female coach, which goes a long way towards encouraging girls to take part in spite of social norms.

The foundation also supported Festival23, which was organised by Football United and took place alongside the Women’s World Cup. Football United is one of 200 organisations belonging to the Common Goal movement, which uses grassroots football to promote changes in society such as increased gender equality, climate action, social inclusion and an end to poverty.

The aim of Festival23 was to strengthen young people’s leadership skills, empowering them to drive positive social change in 25 communities across Australia through concrete actions implemented during the festival.

Gender-based violence is endemic in the Pacific region. A study in Fiji found that 72% of women are subjected to physical abuse, compared to a global average of 35%. Women in the Pacific region are also under-represented in decision-making bodies: out of 560 members of parliament, only 48 are women.

In New Zealand, almost 18% of women experience domestic violence, while in Australia, the figure is 36%. In some countries in the region, the incidence of violence against women is three times higher than in New Zealand. The social repercussions are obviously considerable, as are the consequences for these countries’ development.

These sociocultural problems are compounded by the climate crisis. In this context, women in the Pacific region are demanding a greater role in climate-related decision-making and to contribute to remedial solutions.

Many regional actors have decided to start a social revolution promoting benevolence, caring for others, respect and dignity. They set out to make lasting changes to address the causes of gender-based violence, so that women and girls in all their diversity could live in a world free of abuse. Projects are based on respect for differences and pay tribute to our diversity.

To make this vision a reality, the foundation decided to renew its support for the Just Play project, which has been rolled out throughout the Pacific. The aim of this joint effort is to teach people how to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence. It also teaches children how to deal with anger and frustration peacefully, and their parents how to raise children without resorting to violence and corporal punishment. The project’s work starts in homes, schools and communities, and encourages effective participation without discrimination of any kind.

By putting violence behind them, this community as a whole will be able to look to the future and the action they need to take in the face of the climate crisis that is threatening the region.
SPONSORS PROJECTS

The positive effects of projects run in recent years have helped build loyalty from UEFA’s commercial partners. Throughout the season, we have been fortunate to be able to rely on the commitment of sponsors that have invested in our projects and helped make many children’s dreams come true.

September–December 2022

Fundraising in partnership with Mastercard to support Save the Children, an NGO promoting sport and education as a force for social change in the UK, Italy and Spain. Mastercard ambassadors Jordan Henderson (UK), Giorgio Chiellini (Italy) and Álvaro Morata (Spain) joined Lionel Messi in this campaign to encourage donations and support children in their respective countries.

14 September 2022

Visa donated €50,000 to a charity chosen by Amandine Henry, named best player in the Women’s Champions League final.

October 2022–May 2023

Just Eat Takeaway.com offered children selected by our local partners the opportunity to act as match ball carriers at select Europa League, Europa Conference League and Women’s Champions League matches.

30 November 2022

A Lay’s RePlay pitch made from recycled crisp bags was inaugurated in Iztapalapa, Mexico.

21 February 2023

Team of Leos is the Mastercard promotion campaign featuring player mascot uniforms for children named Leo. Young children from the Paris Saint-Germain Foundation had the honour of escorting the players at the Paris Saint-Germain v Bayern Munich match in their new kit.

17 March 2023

During the Europa League trophy tour in Latin America, sponsored by Enterprise, the beneficiaries of our partner, the Golfees Foundation in San José, Costa Rica, were invited for the unforgettable experience of having their photo taken with the trophy.

24 March 2023

The Europa League trophy made a stop in Bogotá, where beneficiaries of our Colombian partner, the Tiempo de Juego Foundation, on an invitation from Enterprise, enjoyed the trophy tour programme.

14 April 2023

The Europa League trophy also made a stop in Buenos Aires and it was our long-standing Argentinian partner, Asociación Civil Andar, that received Enterprise’s invitation.

20 April 2023

A Lay’s RePlay pitch was inaugurated in Santa Ana, USA.

15 May 2023

A Lay’s RePlay pitch was inaugurated in Cairo, making Egypt the latest country to benefit from the Lay’s RePlay initiative, following the opening of six similar sustainable football pitches in England, Brazil, Italy, Mexico, South Africa and the USA in recent months.

31 May 2023

At the Europa League final in Budapest, Engelbert Strauss donated its player mascot slots to children from two Hungarian charities: Otalom uses the power of football to promote social progress and have a positive impact on children in local communities, while the Amigos for Children Foundation brings support and smiles to sick children.

7 June 2023

More than 50 children had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend the Europa Conference League final in Prague thanks to the support of Hankook and Engelbert Strauss, who donated their player and referee mascot slots to beneficiaries of the Fotbal pro Rozvoj (Football for Development) project.

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10 June 2023

The Champions League final in Istanbul showcased the FedEx Express-backed Championing an Inclusive Future through Football programme. This project is run by Bonyan, an NGO that uses football as a tool to promote inclusion in disadvantaged communities hosting large numbers of refugees. At the final, FedEx invited three Syrian children from the earthquake zone to accompany the referees onto the pitch. Meanwhile, Mastercard and the foundation joined forces to launch the Pitches for Hope project, which aims to create safe football pitches for children affected by the natural disaster, to improve their mental and physical well-being and reinforce peer relationships. Champions League sticker magazine Topps presented the foundation with a cheque for €100,000 to support projects in Türkiye. Finally, Turkish Airlines has committed to building a football pitch in the earthquake zone in Türkiye.
The finals of UEFA’s club competitions provide magical opportunities for children and teenagers who would not normally have access to these prestigious events.

**UEFA Super Cup 2022, Helsinki**

The UEFA Foundation for Children makes it a point of honour to show that football is for everyone. At the Super Cup in Helsinki, it invited young locals with cerebral palsy to an exceptional training session with the whole HJK Helsinki team and well-known local players. Four of those children were selected as Mastercard player mascots and lined up alongside Real Madrid and Eintracht Frankfurt just before kickoff.

**UEFA Youth League final 2023, Geneva**

Youth League finalists Hajduk Split (Croatia) and AZ Alkmaar (Netherlands) joined a training session of SRD Young Stars from Delémont, Switzerland, a team comprising youngsters with psychomotor disabilities. After a few warm-up exercises, they played a series of intense yet fun games. The players then put aside their rivalry to share some entertainment and camaraderie on the pitch.

**UEFA Europa League final 2023, Budapest**

The foundation is helping Hungarian associations Oltalom and Amigos for Children bring happiness and hope to children by helping them to fulfill their dreams of attending the Europa League final. A lucky few were selected to escort players out onto the pitch.

**UEFA Europa Conference League final 2023, Prague**

The UEFA Europa Conference League final cast a spotlight not only on the action on the pitch, but also on the young beneficiaries of the Fótbal pro Rozvoj (Football for Development) project. A small group of them took centre stage as player and referee mascots, rubbing shoulders with the Fiorentina and West Ham United players as they walked out onto the pitch. This honour serves as a symbol of children’s mental strength and limitless potential, reflecting the foundation’s belief that ‘every child is a champion’.

**UEFA Champions League final, Istanbul**

We did our best to provide an unforgettable experience for youngsters directly affected by the devastating earthquakes that rocked Türkiye in February. On the eve of the match, the foundation invited around 40 youngsters from disaster-stricken regions to attend the official training sessions of the two finalists, Manchester City and Internazionale Milano, and a meet-and-greet with the players. At the final itself, three children supported by the NGO Bonyan were given the privilege of escorting UEFA officials onto the pitch before kick-off.

Unity and inclusion were at the heart of this unique event on the UEFA campus in Nyon, where young players representing UEFA Youth League finalists HNK Hajduk Split and AZ Alkmaar took part in a joint training session with intellectually disabled teenagers from SRD Young Stars of Delémont, a club affiliated with the Nyon-based Seven Association.

The aim was to raise awareness of inclusive football among the next generation of aspiring professionals while giving members of SRD Young Stars an opportunity to play with and learn from some of the best youth players in Europe. One of the foundation’s objectives is to promote unity, diversity and inclusion, all of which were well reflected in this special training session. While the elite youth players served as role models and created a sense of belonging and empowerment, they too benefited from the contact with people who function differently but share the same passion for football.

The teenagers from SRD Young Stars arrived with enthusiastic smiles, eager to train with the Youth League finalists. The players offered their guests a warm welcome, helping forge bonds that transcended language barriers and all other limitations to form a diverse group united by football. Having worked up an appetite, everyone involved then went for lunch at UEFA HQ, where they were joined by the Youth League semi-finalists.

This inspiring event showed, once again, that football can break down barriers and create an environment where everyone feels empowered and able to showcase their skills and their love of the game.
Football is a passion for millions of people all over the world. The foundation makes a spectacular contribution to spreading happiness and creating experiences for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Thanks to the support of sponsors like Mastercard, Engelbert Strauss, Just Eat Takeaway and Hankook, the foundation was able to invite children to attend matches of various UEFA tournaments in 2022/23, such as the Champions League, Europa League, Europa Conference League and Women’s Champions League. Throughout the Europa Conference League and Europa League seasons, Just Eat Takeaway provided our project beneficiaries with the opportunity to be official match ball carriers. This initiative not only enabled these youngsters to walk out onto the pitches of major European stadiums, but also to play a key role in the match by bringing the official match ball out for the kick-off. The 42 children who enjoyed this privilege felt a sense of pride and excitement that will forever remain etched in their memories. Besides the immediate experience, these memories are a precious source of strength and inspiration for both the children and their families.

These initiatives highlight the importance of inclusion and show that football has the ability to break down barriers. Through football, the foundation continues to bring hope and joy, by creating a better future for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

After a two-year hiatus on account of the pandemic, the foundation was delighted to finally resume its wish-makers programme last season. For children with chronic or serious illnesses, the fulfilment of dreams is particularly meaningful. They bring comfort and strength in difficult times. In collaboration with its partner the Fondation Étoile Filante, the foundation strives to achieve the impossible and organise unforgettable experiences for these courageous youngsters.

This project aims to fulfill the dreams of children who would like to meet their favourite players and attend high-profile matches featuring the teams they support. During the 2022/23 Champions League season, eight dreams were fulfilled. This was possible thanks to the unflinching support of UEFA staff who volunteer as wish-makers. These experiences are not for the children alone; they are shared with their families, creating unforgettable moments and strengthening family ties.

Two things make me extremely happy and proud to be involved in this project. First and foremost, seeing the face of a sick child light up when their dream comes true, and they and their family finally get to meet their favourite team or player. These are just incredibly precious moments. Those memories will stay forever in their minds and will help them to endure difficult times. Second, seeing everything the volunteers are willing to do so that the child can have that unforgettable experience – the UEFA teams on-site, the club managers, the players... all working together towards the same goal.

...Bettina Manie, a volunteer wish-maker at UEFA
EURO 2024 ON THE HORIZON

The social projects set up by the UEFA Foundation for Children and its partners for EURO 2016 and EURO 2020 left a very encouraging legacy. The foundation will once again undertake a range of charitable projects alongside EURO 2024 in Germany.

Here is a non-exhaustive list of upcoming projects.

10,000 SMILES
This project will give host city children living in deprived communities or from disadvantaged social backgrounds the opportunity to attend a match. A thousand tickets will be made available for these children in each city hosting matches. This project is run in partnership with the host cities and the German ministry of the interior.

FOOTBALL FOR UNITY 2.0
With the support of the European Commission’s Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), UNITY 2.0 follows on from UNITY 1.0, which was deployed for EURO 2020. The project shows the European public that football can help migrants from outside Europe to integrate and feel included.

THE SECOND LIFE PROJECT
The Second Life project was launched after EURO 2016 to redistribute the materials and extra equipment left over from the tournament to local charities. The purpose is two-fold: avoiding throwing away or storing barely used equipment, and supporting projects or associations that work with children.

AWABOT
Awabot is an interactive, remotely controlled robot that helps children who are in hospital or a rehabilitation centre to share the experience of EURO 2024 by bringing them into the stadium virtually. They will be able to discover the pre-match atmosphere and chat to the players of their favourite team.

EURO 2024
The project will comprise three programmes:

1. Team Up for Solidarity provides sports-specific solutions to ensure a long-term, sustainable commitment to migrants and refugees.
2. Switch the Pitch is an inclusive training and education programme to reduce exclusion and discrimination against migrants at all levels of football.
3. Inclusion Card Deck help integrate the values of non-discrimination and anti-racism into the supporter culture in collaboration with Football Supporters Europe.
COMMUNICATION

INCLUSIVE FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
The foundation organised a groundbreaking conference on tackling racism and discrimination in football, funded by the European Commission through its Erasmus+ programme. The TACKLE initiative, aimed at club coaches and directors, promotes a holistic approach to addressing discriminatory behaviour in football. As testament to the importance of this issue, the foundation invited Clarence Seedorf, who is particularly passionate about diversity in football, to speak at the conference.

HIGHLIGHTS
UEFA PRESIDENT VISITS ALIGUMA FOUNDATION IN UGANDA
Aleksander Čeferin, the UEFA president, visited one of Uganda’s largest slum communities in March. His walk around Acholi Quarters in Kampala, where the Aliguma Foundation runs the Sports for Resilience and Empowerment Project, was a very special moment that gave hope and joy to a lot of local residents. He confirmed UEFA’s continued support for the project through the UEFA Foundation for Children. This historic event was covered by various local and international broadcasters such as ZDF TV and Daily Sport as well as the Grand Quotidien, online media outlets and the foundation’s partners.

OUR AMBASSADORS
To mark the foundation’s eighth anniversary, Eugénie Le Sommer of Olympique Lyonnais and Ivan Rakitić of FC Seville told Le Progrès and Diario AS respectively how proud they are to be ambassadors for the UEFA Foundation for Children and how they want to give something back to their sport by taking concrete action to help children in need.

FACTS & FIGURES
2022/23 season
- 65 additional projects
- 23 award winners
- 68 countries
- 12 stadiums constructed or renovated
- 9 sponsor projects or events
- 516 children invited to attend a UEFA match
- 404,807 additional beneficiaries
- 10.4 tonnes of equipment distributed

Since the beginning
- 500 projects
- 135 award winners
- 135 countries
- 92 stadiums constructed or renovated
- 27,828 children invited to attend a UEFA match
- 2,600,000 beneficiaries
- 67.5 tonnes of equipment distributed

SPREADING THE WORD
HIGHLIGHTS

VISIBILITY
The UEFA Foundation for Children is now granted advertising space in the official programmes for all of UEFA’s tournaments and finals. It also has a presence on the pitch, as its logo is displayed on each player’s shirt, on the pitchside LED boards and in clips played on the big screens. UEFA Direct also publishes an article about the foundation three times a year.

Our website has been revamped and the themes and content reimagined.

A picture is worth a thousand words, so we created new videos to be played on the big screens, notably in the Women’s EURO and several men’s competitions. We also worked with the sponsors of the 2022 club finals to produce clips promoting inclusive football. A video played at the UEFA Super Cup in Helsinki featured children with cerebral palsy, while another presented at the 2023 UEFA Congress in Lisbon gave a general overview of our activities.

This season was characterised by close collaboration with our partners and sponsors on communication campaigns, fundraisers and responses to humanitarian crises.
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>30 JUNE 2023</th>
<th>30 JUNE 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(in EUR)</td>
<td>(in CHF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>770,041</td>
<td>752,330</td>
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<tr>
<td>Receivables from UEFA</td>
<td>5,676,979</td>
<td>5,546,408</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>174,000</td>
<td>169,998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other receivables</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td>6,621,020</td>
<td>6,468,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ASSETS</td>
<td>6,621,020</td>
<td>6,468,736</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>30 JUNE 2023</th>
<th>30 JUNE 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(in EUR)</td>
<td>(in CHF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT LIABILITIES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other payables</td>
<td>10,226</td>
<td>9,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision for unrealised exchange gains</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allocated contributions</td>
<td>5,642,056</td>
<td>5,512,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</td>
<td>5,652,282</td>
<td>5,522,280</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOUNDATION CAPITAL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation capital</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,038,350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained results</td>
<td>–57,771</td>
<td>–98,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net result for the period</td>
<td>26,509</td>
<td>6,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL FOUNDATION CAPITAL</td>
<td>968,738</td>
<td>946,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL LIABILITIES</td>
<td>6,621,020</td>
<td>6,468,736</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DONATIONS</th>
<th>2022/23</th>
<th>2021/22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From UEFA allocated to projects</td>
<td>5,942,000</td>
<td>5,842,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From UEFA allocated to administration costs</td>
<td>1,896,317</td>
<td>1,864,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From other parties</td>
<td>807,203</td>
<td>793,746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DONATIONS</td>
<td>8,645,520</td>
<td>8,501,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to projects</td>
<td>6,716,427</td>
<td>6,604,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and social charges</td>
<td>1,030,067</td>
<td>1,012,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building and IT costs</td>
<td>178,885</td>
<td>175,903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other administrative expenses</td>
<td>687,365</td>
<td>675,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative expenses</td>
<td>1,096,317</td>
<td>1,064,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial result</td>
<td>6,267</td>
<td>25,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>8,619,011</td>
<td>8,491,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NET RESULT</td>
<td>26,509</td>
<td>8,665</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOREIGN CURRENCY

The UEFA Foundation for Children’s financial records are maintained in euros, as most of the donations received and contributions granted are denominated in euros. The financial statements are presented in Swiss francs. Assets and liabilities are converted at the closing rate, the foundation’s capital at the historical rate applicable at the date of incorporation and the statement of activities at the average rate for the relevant period. Unrealised exchange losses are booked in the statement of activities and unrealised exchange gains are provided for in the balance sheet.

THE EXCHANGE RATES USED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EUR-CHF</th>
<th>30 JUNE 2023</th>
<th>30 JUNE 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closing rate</td>
<td>0.977</td>
<td>0.977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical rate (foundation capital)</td>
<td>1.038</td>
<td>1.038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average rate</td>
<td>0.963</td>
<td>1.045</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## CONTRIBUTIONS BY HEADING

| Date          | Exceptional donation by founder for migrants | Call for projects 2017 – Outside Europe | Call for projects 2017 – Europe | Match For Solidarity 2018/Related donations | Call for projects 2018 – Europe | Call for projects 2018 – Outside Europe | Call for projects 2018 – Post conflict | Call for projects 2018 – Employability | Call for projects 2018 – Other & additional budget | Match For Solidarity 2018/Related donations | Call for projects 2019 – Europe | Call for projects 2019 – Outside Europe | Call for projects 2019 – Other & additional budget | Other donations | Call for projects 2020 – Europe | Call for projects 2020 – Africa | Call for projects 2020 – CONCACAF | Call for projects 2020 – AMSUD | Call for projects 2020 – Oceania | Other donations | Call for projects 2020 – Other & additional budget | Call for projects 2021 – Europe | Call for projects 2021 – Africa | Call for projects 2021 – Asia | Call for projects 2021 – CONCACAF | Call for projects 2021 – AMSUD | Call for projects 2021 – Oceania | Other projects – Special donation Ukraine | UEFA Foundation for Children Award 2022 Ukraine | Call for projects 2022 – Europe | Call for projects 2022 – Africa | Call for projects 2022 – Asia | Call for projects 2022 – CONCACAF | Call for projects 2022 – AMSUD | Call for projects 2022 – Oceania | Other donations |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 30 JUNE 2023  | 100,000                                     | 20,500                                  | 48,490                         | 31,872                                      | 36,730                         | 11,000                                 | 22,800                                 | 7,856                                      | 209,856                                    | 48,490                                      | 302,827                                    | 286,247                                | 215,394                                 | 109,945                                 | 594,904                                    | 280,025                                    | 145,931                                    | 116,463                                    | 117,570                                    | 80,000                                     | 32,571                                    | 94,601                                    | 210,520                                    | 1,498,223                                  | 415,484                                    | 617,046                                    | 84,821                                    | 300,371                                    | 120,000                                    | 1,000,000                                 | 1,000,000                                 | 34,945                                    | 88,006                                      | 212,994                                    | 1,011,744                                  | 364,363                                    | 48,235                                    | 43,583                                    | 97,208                                    | 64,000                                     | 549,500                                   | 878,006                                   |
| 2022/23       |                                            |                                        |                                |                                             |                                |                                        |                                        |                                            |                                           |                                            |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                            |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                            |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                            |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |                                        |

**TOTAL IN EUR**: 7,112,048
**TOTAL IN CHF**: 7,092,134

**THANK YOU!**

All the projects and activities carried out by the Foundation would not have been possible without the unwavering support of UEFA, our sponsors, and the commitment of our partners for the implementation of the programmes. European football associations, clubs and players have mobilised to make the dreams of many children come true. Together, we have worked for the respect the child’s right around the world and to support them in their life project.

**FINANCIAL AUDIT**

This financial report has been audited by Ernst & Young SA according to Swiss limited audit standards. The audit established that the accounts comply with the law and the charter of the foundation.