**TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING ON RECENT INITIATIVES ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

***Title of Initiative – Olympic Refuge Foundation: Supporting young people affected by displacement to thrive, through sport***

***Task:*** *Provide a summary of the initiative, including a brief overview, proposed/actual outcomes and an assessment of any lessons learned and the way forward.*

***Timeframe:*** *Please only include initiatives that fall within the reporting timeframe of January 2022 – February 2024*

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| **Please provide more details on each initiative including items below:** | | |
| **Objective(s):** | *Please indicate which, if any, of the following fall among the main objectives of the initiative:* | |
| * **Ensuring no one is left behind (advancing empowerment, inclusiveness and equality through sport)** | * Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity |
| * **Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development** | * Conflict prevention/peace building |
| * **Research development, data collection and/or data dissemination** | * Safely harnessing sport for sustainable development, peace and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of technology |
| * Reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises, leading to the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions | * Safeguarding sport from corruption and crime |
| * Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace | * Other (please specify) |
| **Situation** | ***What is the challenge or problem that the initiative aims to address?***  The Olympic Refuge Foundation (ORF) addresses three interrelated *problems* which prevent the value of sport from being fully realised as a tool to support the needs of young people affected by displacement as part of a holistic and whole of society response:   1. Young people affected by displacement are missing out on the benefits that safe sport can bring as a result of barriers to access; 2. The role of safe sport as a tool for enabling young people affected by displacement to belong and thrive is not widely understood or utilised within humanitarian and development responses; and 3. In the face of the growing global displacement challenge, the use of sport as a tool is still ad hoc, small scale and not coordinated.   Over 1 in 70 people across the globe are displaced and the UNHCR indicated that in 2023, over 110 million people were forcibly displaced globally.  Forced displacement has almost doubled since 2010 and 77 per cent of refugees are in situations of long-term displacement as conflict continues and or new conflict emerges. In addition, in the first half of 2020 alone, disasters displaced 9.8 million people and remained the leading trigger of new internal displacements globally ([IDMC, 2020](https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/2020%20Mid-year%20update.pdf)).  The Olympic Charter recognises that access to sport is a human right (Principle 4) and the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution ([A/73/L.36](https://undocs.org/A/73/L.36)) recognizes the contribution of sport to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the broader realization of human rights. | |
| **Implementation mechanisms:** | ***What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?***  ***What are the main deliverables/activities involved?***  The Olympic Refuge Foundation works to affect change for young people and communities affected by displacement through three mechanisms addressing the challenges outlined above – access, adoption and collective action.  In order to extend **ACCESS**, the Olympic Refuge Foundation provides funding and technical support to a diverse, global portfolio of programmes embedded in communities affected by displacement. ORF programmes directly and indirectly extend access to safe sport for displaced and host community of all genders and abilities, with a focus on those aged between 10-24yrs.  Programme design and activities differ according to contextual needs and realities but variously include, identification and training of ‘coaches’ (including sport coaches, teachers, youth workers, community animators and peer leaders) in Sport for Protection methodologies; provision of safe sport activities; creation, refurbishment or upgrading of safe sporting spaces; community engagement and sensitization on the benefits of sport and reducing barriers to access as well as local and national advocacy to promote sustainability of activities and outcomes. In the period January 2022- February 2024 the ORF’s programme portfolio comprised 10 programmes in 9 countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso,  Burundi, Colombia, France, Jordan, Kenya, Türkiye and two programmes in Uganda. Programme funding in this period has been USD $9.033 million and key outputs include:   * + Engaging circa. 46,000 displaced and host community young people in sport activities (130,000 cumulative 2020-2024);   + Upskilling circa. 585 coaches to deliver safe and structure safe sport and sport for protection activities (1,600 cumulative 2020-2024);   + Supporting the creation, refurbishment or enhancement of 36 safe sporting spaces, that are accessible to an estimated 16,000 (in addition to ORF programme participants) community members in communities affected by displacement (103 spaces cumulative 2020-2024);   + Supporting 75 athletes with elite potential as part of the Refugee Athlete Scholarship Programme.   Secondly, to promote **ADOPTION**, the Olympic Refuge Foundation advocates for the inclusion of safe sport, at scale, in the policy and practice of local, national and international actors engaged in protection responses. The ORF (including through the work of the ORF Think Tank) has developed and disemminated guidance, tools, evidence and learning to contribute to improved knowledge, understanding, and technical capacity to deliver safe sport for young people affected by displacement and refugee athletes. In the period of January 2022- February 2024, the ORF has:   * + Developed and piloted the Sport Coach + guidance and training package in Paris, Moldova, and Poland to equip sport coaches and physical activity professionals with skills and practical strategies to deliver trauma informed, safe and supportive sport which supports the mental health of displaced and host community young people in response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Roll-out of Sport Coach + will begin in March 2024 in 8 countries (Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine) in partnership with the International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Psychosocial Reference Centre;   + Published a paper (authored by the ORF Think Tank) ‘[*Realising the cross-cutting potential of sport in situations of forced displacement*](https://gh.bmj.com/content/7/4/e008717)*’* in BMJ Global Health in BMJ Global Health, a leading global health journal;   + Compiled an open source repository of more than 100+ resources and tools on sport and MHPSS;   + Supported 14 International Sport Federations in adjusting their statutes and regulations to enable refugee athletes to compete;   + Supported the creation and inclusion of a refugee team represented for the first time ever at the European Games;   + Facilitated the inclusion of sport in the Regional Refugee Response Plan for Ukraine.   When it comes to the third mechanism of **COLLECTIVE ACTION**, the Olympic Refuge Foundation aims to create sustained change through multistakeholder partnerships, acting together to scale, improve and innovate the way in which sport is used in contexts of forced displacement. In 2022, the ORF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, that broadened cooperation between the two organisations and reaffirmed UNHCR’s commitment to leverage sport to protect and support young people affected by displacement worldwide.  In the period January 2022 – February 2024, the ORF has continued in its role as co-convenor of the Sport for Refugees Coalition, alongside UNHCR and the Scort Foundation; a role taken on in 2019.  In advance of the second Global Refugee Forum in December 2023, the co-convenors of the Sport for Refugees Coalition facilitated the co-creation of a refreshed Joint Sport Pledge presented by IOC President Thomas Bach. The ORF supported mobilization efforts which resulted in over 140 organisations making a commitment to the Pledge that collectively expect to reach 825,000 people affected by displacement and invest circa USD $50million.  The Coalition aims to ensure:   * + Greater access to, and participation in, sport activities and competition at all levels for displaced and stateless persons.   + Greater recognition for the role of sport as a tool to support displaced/stateless people and host community members in contexts of forced displacement.   In support of these objectives the Coalition has recently hosted events /seminars addressing themes on protection and safeguarding in sport, collaboration and partnerships between NGOs and sport sector entities, the role of sport promoting mental health and psychosocial well-being and how sport can better respond to forced displacement crises.  ***What is the time frame of implementation?***  The ORF strategic plan period is 2021-2024. | |
| **.Target Audience(s):** | ***Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?***  Young people affected by displacement (including refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced young people and stateless young people) and young people in host community. | |
| **Partners/Funding:** | Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles?  ORF works with and through the following organizations in the various sectors of work:  Access (ORF Programmes – currently active)   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Programme name | Country | Partners | Website info | | Game Connect 2.0 | Uganda | AVSI  Uganda National Olympic Committee  Right to Play  Youth Sport Uganda  UNHCR |  | | Play 2 Protect | Kenya | UNFPA | [Info here](https://olympics.com/en/olympic-refuge-foundation/programmes/kenya-play-2-protect) | | RESPECT | Burkina Faso | Terre des Hommes |  | | Riadati | Jordan | Generations for Peace |  | | SPIRIT | Bangladesh | Terre des Hommes  Breaking the Silence  Solidarity | [Info here](https://olympics.com/en/olympic-refuge-foundation/programmes/bangladesh-spirit) | | Sport for Solidarity | Turkiye | Ministry of Youth and Sport  ASAM  Turkish Olympic Committee | [Info here](https://olympics.com/en/olympic-refuge-foundation/programmes/turkiye-sports-for-solidarity) | | Sport Protects - Kukivi | Burundi | Right to Play |  | | Terrains d’Avenir | France | Kabubu  Play International  Futbol Mas  Ovale Citoyen  Emmaus | [Info here](https://olympics.com/en/olympic-refuge-foundation/programmes/france-terrains-d-avenir) | | Ven y Jeuga | Colombia | UNHCR | [Info here](https://olympics.com/en/olympic-refuge-foundation/programmes/colombia-ven-y-juega) | | Sport Coach + | Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic, Poland, Moldova, Ukraine, Slovakia | IFRC PS Centre, National Olympic Committees |  |   Collective Action (multistakeholder partners)   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Mechanism | Partners | Website | | Sport for Refugees Coalition Co-conveners | UNHCR, Scort Foundation | [Info here](https://www.sportanddev.org/thematic-areas/sport-and-refugees/about-sport-refugees-coalition) | | Olympic Movement | National Olympic Committees, International Federations |  |   What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?  The ORFs financial supporters include National Olympic Committees, National Governments, city administrations, the private sector and individuals. In the period January 2022-February 2024 the ORF has mobilized funding to the value of USD 3,106,000 from existing and new supporters including the Chinese Olympic Committee, Ville de Lausanne, the French Government, Nike, Airbnb, Princess of Asturias Foundation, IOC and private donors. | |
| **SDG Alignment:** | ***To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?***  ***Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.***  The ORFs programmes and initiatives are aligned with several SDGs. Specifically, ORF contributions are targeted towards:   * + **SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages** (and more directly, target 3.4, ‘*by 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being*’). ORF programmes in Uganda (see also section on outcomes) and Jordan have a specific focus on supporting the mental health of young participants, while all ORF programmes include a broad focus on psychosocial well-being, through sport within their broader frame. The ORFs Sport Coach + initiative (developed and piloted in 2023, to be rolled out from March 2024) will equip sport coaches with skills and strategies to support mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) outcomes through safe, supportive and trauma-informed coaching practice.   + **SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries** (and more specifically target 10.3, ‘*ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard’*). The ORFs work is underpinned by the Fundamental Principles of Olympism recognizing that “*Every individual must have the possibility of practicing sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit.”* In terms of elite sporting pathways, the ORF provides provides financial and technical support to enable refugee athletes to overcome barriers and continue developing their sporting careers. The ORF also advocates and supports International Federations to amend statutes and regulations to enable refugee athlete participation. At community level, ORF programmes address context specific barriers to access and participation in sport faced by displaced young people, and equips providers with skills, guidance and tools to deliver safe sport which recognizes the specific needs of displaced young people and promotes equality of outcomes.   + **Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable** (and more specifically target 11.7 ‘by 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities’). ORF programmes have supported the creation, refurbishment and enhancement of 36 safe sporting spaces in the period. For example, ORF contributed roughly 175,000 USD to develop 7 sporting facilities in and around Norte de Santander, La Pista, and Putumayo. Through these facilities over 7,000 community members have been able to access safe sporting spaces.   + **Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development** (and more specifically targets 17.3 ‘*mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources*’ and 17.16 ‘*enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries’*). The ORFs financial supporters include National Olympic Committees, national Governments, city administrations, the private sector and individuals. The majority of ORF programme contributions in the period January 2022-February 2024 were in low and lower-middle income countries including Bangladesh, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Jordan, Kenya, Uganda. In terms of partnerships, in its role as co-convenor of the Sport for Refugees Coalition, the ORF has brought together a network comprising Governments, National Olympic Committees, International and National Federations, sports clubs, non-governmental organisations, refugee led-organisations, and the private sector in support of the Global Compact on Refugees and with the aim of broadening the base of support as part of a whole of society response to the global displacement crisis. | |
| **Alignment with global frameworks:** | *How does this initiative align with/contribute to the objectives of the* [*Kazan Action Plan*](https://en.unesco.org/mineps6/kazan-action-plan)*,* [*WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity*](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272722/9789241514187-eng.pdf) *or other related internationally agreed frameworks on sport and/or physical activity?*  ORF’s programmes and initiatives, by providing support for young people affected by displacement and host communities to access safe sport, supports the WHO Global Action Plan’s mission “To ensure that all people have access to safe and enabling environments and to diverse opportunities to be physically active in their daily lives, as a means of improving individual and community health and contributing to the social, cultural and economic development of all nations.” Furthermore, ORF’s areas of work align with the Kazan Action Plan’s 1.7 objective to “foster empowerment and inclusive participation, through sport” by promoting access to sport for displaced people and host communities. | |
| **Alignment with United Nations Action Plan on SDP:** | *Which of the four thematic areas of the* [*UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace*](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/06/14.pdf) *is this initiative designed to align?*  The ORF programmes and initiatives correlate to the following *thematic and action areas* of the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace:  3c) integrate relevant thematic areas and crosscutting issues in sport for development and peace programmes, including the allocation of dedicated resources;  4a) support the provision and dissemination of research, monitoring and evaluation, and measurement tools with regard to sport as a tool for development and peace;  4b) encourage platforms and networks for the delivery and sharing of evidence on sport for  development and peace policies and programmes that encourage academic, empirical and practical research leading to enhanced action and sport’s contribution to development and peace  *To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?*  *See above* | |
| **Outcomes:** | *What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative?*  The ORF’s vision is a society where everyone belongs, through sport and its mission is to shape a movement which ensures young people affected by displacement thrive, through sport. The Foundation also has an ambitious goal for 1million young people affected by displacement to access safe sport, aided by ORF’s contributions across access, adoption and collective action as outlined above.  ORF programmes and initiatives are intended to achieve (or contribute towards) improved outcomes for young people affected by displacement in the areas of:   * **mental health** and psychosocial-well being (see example below) * **belonging,** through strengthend social and support networks * **inclusion,** through enhanced skills (including socio-emotional and life-skills) and opportunities * **cohesion,** through changed attitudes and behaviours (challenging gender norms, promoting peaceful co-existence)   Through evidence, advocacy, storytelling and practical and technical assistance, the ORF also aims to ensure sport is embedded more systematically in protection responses globally.   |  | | --- | | **Ex. Impact of ORF programming in Uganda.** The evaluation of our flagship Game Connect, sport for mental health programme in Uganda has reported substantial improvement in psychosocial well-being and a significant reduction in symptoms of severe depression (57% to 6%) and anxiety (55% to 6%) among young participants, in comparison to a control group of young people who had not yet taken part in Game Connect. This evaluation is one of very few robust trials that has been run for a sport for protection programme ; the findings will add to the global evidence base, and are informing ORF programme designs and supporting wide reaching advocacy efforts. | | |
| **Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:** | ***What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?***  The Olympic Refuge Foundation has a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation, research and learning system in place. At output level the ORF collects data on i). the engagement of young people affected by displacement in sport activities (disaggregated by gender, displaced/host community status, persons with a disability and other characteristics relevant to local contexts) ii). the number of coaches identified and trained (disaggregated by gender, displaced/host community status); the number of safe sporting spaces created, refurbished or otherwise improved; the number of evidence based products developed and disseminated; the reach of external engagements in which the ORF plays a lead or contributing role; the number of refugee athlete scholarships awarded; interactions with ORF social media and communicatons pieces. Outcome level data is categorized according to outcome areas outlined previously. Qualitative and quantaitive methods are used depending on the data sought, the operating context and available resources. Output and outcome data is used to track progress (direct and indirect contributions) towards the ORF Goal.  In the period Jan 2022-Feb 2024, the ORF has supported two comprehensive programme evaluations which have contributed to the global evidence base on the role of sport as a component of a holistic response in situations of forced displacement.   * Evaluation on the relevance and effectiveness of Sport Programming for Refugee Inclusion and Protection – Rwanda and Mexico. A joint UNHCR-ORF evaluation. Available [here](https://www.unhcr.org/media/evo-2022-12-evaluation-relevance-and-effectiveness-sport-programming-refugee-inclusion-and) * Evaluation of Game Connect, Sport for Mental Health Programme – Uganda. Soon to be published.   The ORF has also supported a number of research/thought pieces including:   * ORF Think Tank (2022) *Realising the cross-cutting potential of sport in situations of forced displacement.* BMJ Global Health Editorial, April 2022. Available [here](https://gh.bmj.com/content/7/4/e008717) * Griffin et al (2024) *Meaning, trust and belonging: Exploring the factors that foster elite forced migrant athletes’ growth.* Psychology of sport and exercise (72) May, 2024. Available [here](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1469029224000025).   ***What specific monitoring and evaluation tools are involved?***  A range of M&E tools are used depending on the nature of data collection, contextual realities and available resources. | |
| **Challenges/Lessons learned** | ***What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?***  ***What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?***  In the period January 2022-February 2024, activities of the Olympic Refuge Foundation substantially ramped up following significant delays as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic which impacted sports activities globally.  Our multi-stakeholder programme partnerships, comprising (I)NGOs, National Olympic Committees, sports federations and others have demonstrated the value of bringing together organisations representing different parts of the sports ecosystem, when designing and implementing safe, inclusive and sustainable initiatives. In this way we can maximize strengths, pull resources and ensure complementarity of skills, experience and networks. And, while our work as co-convenors of the Sport for Refugees Coalition and in mobilizing support for the GRF Joint Sport Pledge on Inclusion and Protection 2023, demonstrates the motivation of actors across the sporting ecosystem to contribute in this area, cross-sectoral partnership working remains a challenge to both initiate and scale.  Collection of high-quality evidence which contributes to the global evidence base on role of sport as a component of a holistic response in situations of forced displacement has continued to be a challenge. Our evaluation of the Game Connect sport for mental health programme in Uganda has demonstrated what is possible when resources are available and stakeholder buy-in is secured. | |