



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

## Sport for development and peace: UN responses to COVID-19

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### ACTION

**What action is your entity taking to respond to COVID-19 within the context of its mandate? Please highlight specific actions that related to sport for development and peace.**

UNHCR and partners are working to strengthen and support primary and secondary health care and WASH services. UNHCR is also working with governments and displaced and stateless people to put in place preparedness measures; procure and distribute medical supplies; undertake risk communication; identify and respond to protection and rights violations affecting the effectiveness of the health response; and ensure continued access to essential health services.

UNHCR and partners are also working to strengthen risk communication and community engagement and critical protection services, including case management, protection monitoring, GBV and child protection services, and registration. UNHCR has mitigated potential protection risks and ensured continuity of essential protection services, including status determination, documentation, protection counselling, GBV prevention and response and child protection. UNHCR has leveraged existing networks of outreach volunteers and other community-based groups in efforts to prevent, anticipate and address risks of violence, discrimination, marginalization and xenophobia by countering misinformation. UNHCR has also worked to ensure displaced, stateless and hosting communities have access to timely, relevant and accurate information, especially those at heightened risk of discrimination.

UNHCR continues to work with partners to ramp up cash assistance, reinforce shelters, and provide core relief items in congested collective settings, including urban contexts. This includes the use of digital and other innovative solutions. To reduce density in overcrowded living conditions, UNHCR has worked to improve shelter and settlement conditions and provide improved health infrastructure in areas most at risk from a spread of COVID-19. UNHCR has also coordinated interventions in camps and camp-like settings ensuring provision of services and assistance.

Finally, UNHCR is working to support education systems ensuring that schools remain open where health conditions permit, mitigating the risk of COVID-19 spreading through increased access to WASH



and health services and information campaigns. It has also expanded investments in online and offline distance education, or alternative solutions.

UNHCR has continued to engage with sports-focused organizations and entities, recognizing the important role that the sports community has and continues to play in the COVID-19 response.

- UNHCR, together with partners, has been highlighting voices of the IOC Refugee Athlete Scholarship Holders through our social media channels. The athletes have been producing content to support the sports watching public to stay fit at home whilst sharing messages of hope and solidarity.
- UNHCR has engaged in awareness and fundraising activities with high-profile sportspersons to highlight the challenges that the world's refugees face during the covid-19 pandemic and garner support.
- UNHCR has been facilitating consultations with partners to consolidate information on programmatic responses/new approaches to protect and support refugee, internally displaced and Stateless adolescents and youth under the current and the next recovery phase of crisis.
- UNHCR will hold an information session for all sports partners working with refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons on the Covid-19 situation in relation to these populations with the aim of sharing information on the evolving situation, current responses and to discuss innovation and opportunities.

### KEY MESSAGES

**What are the main 3 to 5 key messages you wish to highlight about the impact to and contribution of sport for development and peace as it related to COVID-19?**

- Voices from sporting entities and sports men and women have been a powerful force in raising awareness of the heightened risk and support needed for the most vulnerable in communities globally including refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons as well as promoting messages of solidarity and inclusion.
- For displaced children and youth sport is a very important activity at the local level. With sports projects on hold around the world, it is critical to find alternative ways to engage, support and mobilize adolescents and youth as part of the COVID19 response.
- Sports activities can be a powerful tool to education on health measures against COVID-19 and to address the impact of prolonged isolation and social distancing on refugee and displaced youth and adolescent's psychosocial wellbeing.

### RESOURCES

**Has your entity produced relevant resources on COVID-19 and sport for development and peace? Please attach/provide the links below:**

N/A