



Increasing refugee participation in sports activities – a project from the Refugee Council

NOW WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EXCITING YEAR 2!

WELCOME TO the second issue of SCORES! – our bi-annual newsletter for refugee community organisations (RCOs) interested in developing projects to help their communities access mainstream sports activities.

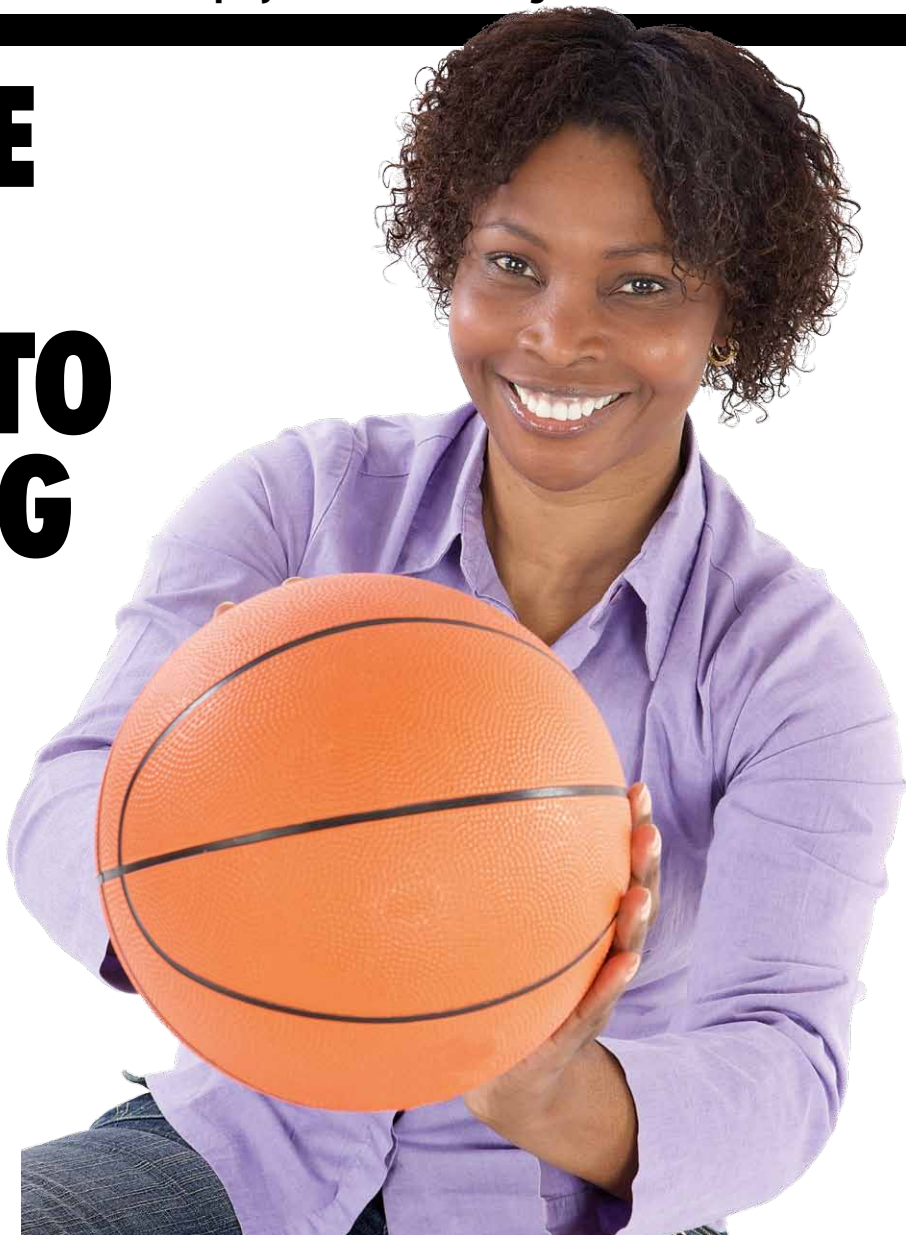
The SCORES (Supporting Community Organisations – Refugees Engage in Sport) project is funded by the Football Foundation.

Its aim is to increase the participation of refugees in sports by helping RCOs to access funding and to develop sports projects which address development issues facing refugee communities and facilitate their integration.

After having kicked off with a successful first year in London, SCORES is now moving to the West Midlands for year two of this exciting three-year project.

The final year of the project will bring the experience and work of both regions together.

🌀 Find out what SCORES has been doing in our project update on page 2.



REFUGEE FOOTBALLER'S JOURNEY PROVIDES HIS MOTIVATION

In a recent interview with the *Guardian*, the Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba said that he wants to go back to the land of his childhood, but doing so could lead to his death.

Fabrice Muamba was born in Kinshasa in 1988, when the country now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo was called Zaire and ruled by President Mobutu Sese Seko. Muamba's father, Marcel, worked as an adviser to the then prime minister



MICHAEL STEELE/GETTY IMAGES

and, as such, was perceived by forces intent on overthrowing Mobutu as an enemy to be removed.

Following increasing threats against his life, his father fled in the early 1990s, eventually arriving in England, where he was granted asylum.

In 1994, three years before Mobutu was ousted, Marcel Muamba's wife and 11-year-old son, Fabrice, were allowed to join him in London.

In the *Guardian* interview Fabrice says: "If I had stayed, they would have seen us as an easy target to

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If you would like more information about how SCORES can support your RCO, call Ezechias Ngensdahayo on 020 7346 1163 or email ezechias.ngendahayo@refugeecouncil.org.uk or penny.mclean@refugeecouncil.org.uk

PROJECT NEWS

SCORES helps to raise the awareness of sport's benefits

One year on and the SCORES project has successfully worked with a number of refugee community organisations/groups to increase their participation in sports activities.

INNOVATIVE SPORTS projects were showcased at the London conference in November 2010 and at workshops organised this year in the London boroughs of Hackney and Hillingdon to inspire other community leaders.

As a result, RCOs are becoming increasingly aware of the positive outcomes they can achieve through sport, such as increased health and wellbeing, community safety and community cohesion, reducing isolation, and skills development.

The SCORES project is also striving to influence funders to invest in community sports projects. Although sports projects can be



delivered with minimal resources and achieve great results for hundreds of people, there is still a lot of work to be done to convince funders in the current economic environment.

To celebrate the diversity that football brings, the SCORES project is holding a football tournament in partnership with the London Playing Fields Foundation on 25 June 2011 as part of the Refugee Week (20-26 June). This event will take place at the Douglas Eyre sports Centre in East London and will mark the end of the SCORES Project's first year.

During its second year the SCORES Project's main focus will be working with RCOs based in the West Midlands. We will keep you updated.

Sir Keith Mills and Lord Coe launch Sported



Lekan Ojumu, London Regional Manager at Sported, explains why community sports projects need to demonstrate impact more than ever before

When the going gets tough show your positive impact

REFUGEES FACE many emotional and practical challenges when they arrive in the UK and finding time for sport is just one issue.

The sporting landscape is a complex one and many refugees can benefit greatly from guidance in terms of accessing opportunities and advice on how to set up a new sports team or even joining an existing one.

Any new sports projects need to understand that, as funding becomes harder to access, it is crucial for groups to demonstrate the positive impact that their work is having to address wider social issues.

One example of this is the London-based Horn of Africa Community Group that worked with Sported to develop a three-year sports project to engage young people aged 14-21 most of whom were not in education, employment, or training. The aim of the project is to link sports

participation such as basketball and football to the personal development of young people.

Areas such as confidence building, CV and interview skills and sports leadership qualifications are all part of the project.

With support from Sported, the group was able to secure more than £130,000 for the project from a variety of sources including a Sported grant and Comic Relief's Sport for Change programme. Inspired by his involvement in the bid team that secured the London 2012 Olympic Games, Sir Keith Mills set up Sported in 2009.

It gives business advice and funding to local community and voluntary based projects offering sport opportunities for the development of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

For more information email l.ojumu@sported.org.uk

sported.

MAKING IT HAPPEN.

THREE TIPS FROM SPOR TED FOR DEVELOPING SPORTS PROJECTS



Plan your project thoroughly before completing funding applications



Look for partnerships with other organisations



Consider how the impact of the project will be measured before you start running it

www.sported.org.uk

We strive to find solutions

Remzije Duli, community development leader at the British Albanian Kosovar Council (BAKC) in London, talks about setting up a football club for their young people.

BAKC WAS set up in 1998 to help asylum seekers and refugees with Albanian backgrounds who fled their homeland due to the Balkan wars.

We help them to integrate in the



UK, while retaining their culture and heritage.

We recently started a football club for our nine to 14-year-olds as part of their Saturday supplementary school activities. It is proving very popular.

At first it was difficult to engage the young people to learn traditional dance and about Kosovar Albanian

history and language, but since the football project started, more and more boys are joining our school, with the understanding they finish their work first!

Our young people are learning about responsibility and respecting their own culture, which is important if they are going to integrate effectively within UK society. We now also have girls who want to play football.

We have faced several challenges in developing our football club, including: high rental fees for football activities; financial and social difficulties faced by parents which affect their ability to bring their children to training; and accessing funding to run sports activities.

Playing sport is important for our young people to regain their confidence and to realise that they are just like any other young person in the UK. So we will strive to find solutions!

For more information email

info@bakc.org.uk
www.bakc.org.uk



WLSC FC with the FA Charter Standard Club Award

Reaching the standard

In 2008 the West London Somaliland community established the West London Somaliland Community Football Club (WLSC FC) to provide young people with an alternative way of socialising.

SINCE ITS establishment the WLSC FC has made remarkable developments and now attracts local pupils to its Saturday football sessions at Rosedale College in Hayes.

The WLSC achieved FA Charter Standard Club status in the 2009-2010 season and now has more than 100 players aged seven to 18, grouped into six different teams.

The club recently started working with girls aged 10 to 18 and now has more than 20 girls playing football.

The club aims to develop competitive football and girls' basketball teams that can participate in local and national leagues and tournaments.

For more information or to contribute towards the club's development, email wldonsomalilanders@gmail.com or call 020 8848 1180.

Helping new arrivals to learn teamwork and communication

Shakir Mohammed coaches Afghan Football Club (AFC) London. He says it is important for new arrivals to participate in sport to help them understand British culture, to integrate and to learn key life skills such as teamwork and communication.

SHAKIR SET up the Afghan Football Club London in 2002 with some friends. Since then they have grown into the biggest Afghan football club in London. They have won many Afghan trophies, however, their best prize was



AFC London won the FA Middlesex junior trophy

promotion from division 2 to division 1 in the Middlesex County Football league in the 2007/2008 seasons. In 2009/2010 they won the FA Middlesex junior trophy.

Shakir says: "refugees face many challenges in accessing sport activities. Many refugee families face financial difficulties which limit their children's participation in certain sports.

"Another issue is that many parents don't understand the value of sports participation.

"One solution is to educate parents about its value, and another is for charities to assist those children in need of financial support."

For more information email: info@shakir-footballcoach.co.uk

www.clubwebsite.co.uk/afclondon

GRASSROOTS PROJECT IS HELPING YOUNG REFUGEES TO EXCEL

Crossworld is a community-based football project run by volunteers who believe in its ability to improve the lives of vulnerable young people.

Crossworld grew out of the Refugee Council's Friday Project, which gave young people from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds the opportunity to play casual football every Friday evening.


It soon became clear that there were some good


players. So Crossworld's founding members set up an 11-a-side team. We have just completed our second season playing in a Saturday league and we are improving every year.

We are currently fundraising for next season and are always looking for new players.

To find out more visit www.crossworldfc.org.uk or email crossworldlondonfc@gmail.com or tweet [@crossworldfc](https://twitter.com/crossworldfc).

Two top tips from Crossworld:

 Listen to young people and involve them as much as possible

 Provide structure and discipline to develop players' appreciation of hard work and respect for others. Timekeeping soon improves if they realise that being late means running round the pitch!

Time to join a football league?

THE LONDON Playing Fields Foundation (LPFF) is organising a series of tournaments for refugee community organisations as part of its All Nations Football programme.

The project, established in 2001, demonstrates how sport can help newly arrived groups assimilate into London life and empower them to provide regular constructive activity within their own community settings.

This year, thanks to funding from the FA's Small Sided Football Development Fund, LPFF will deliver the following activities:

- A one-day 7-a-side festival in Walthamstow on Saturday 25 June 2011 in partnership with the Refugee Council.

- A six-week 7-a-side league on midweek evenings in Walthamstow from 14 July 2011

- A six-week 7-a-side league on Saturday afternoons in Greenwich from 27 August 2011.

All competitions are free to enter and if teams demonstrate good organisation and commitment they may be invited to join the London Communities Football League, an 11-a-side competition that takes place at Douglas Eyre Sports Centre, Walthamstow on Sundays throughout the season.

- For further information on how to join these leagues please contact jo.mckenzie@lpff.org.uk



England coach Fabio Capello on a visit to the Street League project last December

Building confidence and qualifications

Rizwan Aboo, coach educator at Street League, explains how the organisation changes disadvantaged people's lives through football

FOUNDED IN 2001, Street League works with 16-25 year old NEET (not in education, employment or training) groups, offenders and substance users, through structured football programmes.

Street League builds the confidence, lifeskills and relevant qualifications necessary for moving young people into sustainable training, further education and employment.

We have worked with many refugees at Street League who have gone onto bigger and better things. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to get involved in the community while also getting the support of professional staff who can help them overcome barriers and move them towards employment or further education.

Currently 75% of our participants go on to make a positive change in their lives by getting a job or going back into education. As a Number 10 volunteer partner for 2011, we were recently invited to send some of our participants to meet staff at Downing Street. They had the opportunity to experience job interviews with the staff and even the Prime Minister.

- To find out more email rizwan.aboo@streetleague.co.uk
- www.streetleague.co.uk

FINDING FUNDING

The Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund (London)

THE BIG Lottery Fund has announced that it will contribute £1m to the Evening Standard Dispossessed Fund.

Grants of between £2,000 and £10,000 will be available

to charities and community groups in London working to lift people out of poverty.

Projects that will be supported include; training and educating people who have dropped out of education; getting people into work; fighting gangs, knife and gun

crime; improving mental and physical health and well-being, such as through sports clubs; addressing other manifestations of poverty.

- Applications for funding will open in September 2011. <http://dispossessedfund.communityfoundations.org.uk/>

Refugee footballer's journey provides his motivation

- from front page get information from the regime people, to use it against us".

His arrival in the UK meant that he was now safe, but it also meant adapting to an alien world. Fabrice, fluent in Lingala and French, could not speak a word of English.

Determined to succeed, Muamba rapidly learned English and graduated with A levels from a school in north London. He excelled at football and signed for Arsenal as a teenager before being sold to Birmingham City in 2007. In 2008 Bolton bought him for £5m, confirming his reputation as one of the most promising defensive midfielders in the Premier League.

Muamba says that he hopes, at some point, to return to Congo "out of curiosity ... and to see if there's anything I can do to help in any way ... at the end of the day it is where I was born".

In the course of the European Championships in Denmark Muamba, now on 30 caps, is likely to become the second most-used England under-21 player. In the *Guardian* he said: "What I have experienced is what keeps me going and gets me out of whatever difficulty I face. I just set myself up to give it my best shot."

Last summer he rejected an offer to represent Congo due to his family situation there. In the *Guardian* interview he said: "They would see me as an easy target, to get rid of me. I can go back but I have to do it secretly."

The other reason that he turned down the invitation is that he feels indebted to the nation that gave him support, and also a part of it. In the *Guardian* he said: "This is my adopted country. People have helped me, welcomed me with open arms and given me this opportunity. When I hear the national anthem (before a match) I just think about how far I have come. English people have helped me and I feel part of it."

- This is an abridged version of an original *Guardian* article, see: <http://tinyurl.com/6krddmp>