

FACTSHEET

Development through sport

09 November 2021

The IOC's mission

“The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity.”

This has its roots in the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, which can be seen in the [Olympic Charter](#).

These principles express the values and underpin all elements of the IOC's work. Globally, sport is a way people convene, connect, set social norms and celebrate community and it can be a gateway to benefits that lead to opportunities in other areas of life.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, explicitly stressed the role of sport in achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. In 2018 the UN reiterated its call by adopting a resolution to further strengthen the work on sport for development and peace at all levels, promote policy coherence, and foster existing national policies and government-supported programmes that leverage sport as a tool for social and economic development.

IOC President Thomas Bach commented the adoption: *“With its global reach, and its impact on communities and in particular on young people, sport can bring inclusion and empower people all over the world.”*

The IOC cooperates with various partners, including United Nations (UN) agencies, as well as international governmental and non-governmental institutions, to implement projects that use sport to foster development and promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and International Sports Federations (IFs) are also putting their expertise and networks at the service of promoting sport as a tool for development.

The objectives of the IOC are as follows:

- To promote sport for social change and to show how sport contributes to health, gender equality, integration, youth development, education and peace building.
- To increase opportunities for all people to participate in sport and physical activity by supporting the development of accessible and sustainable sport facilities at the local community level.
- Promote safe sport by encouraging incident- and injury-free play and sport free of abuse and harassment.
- Promote sport for all by ensuring that children, girls, refugees, people with disabilities and marginalized groups have access to sport.

While Olympic Agenda 2020 highlighted the cross-cutting principles of youth, credibility and sustainability and acted as a catalyst to take steps in developing sustainability, human rights and gender equality approaches among other measures, the new roadmap for the future, **Olympic Agenda 2020+5**, adopted by the IOC Session in March 2021, is committed to strengthen the role of sport as an enabler for the Sustainable Development Goals (Recommendation 10 of Agenda 2020+5).

More information on Agenda 2020+5:

[Olympic Agenda 2020+5 - 15 Recommendations](#)

Our philosophy

The idea of combining sport and development is not a new one. The founder of the IOC and reviver of the modern Olympic Games, Pierre de Coubertin, was already in his time a strong advocate of international



cooperation and of the social and human values of sport.

Based on this long-time commitment as a socially responsible organisation, the IOC is engaged in sports development at grass-roots level, aiming to both increase access to physical activity worldwide and to improve social and human wellbeing at large.

IOC activities

Sportic

Sportic – Education for the Future, established and jointly developed by the IOC and the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**, is a programme that uses sport and technology to sharpen the digital, physical and socio-emotional skills of young people aged 12-18 years from disadvantaged communities in Argentina, Colombia and Ecuador, increasing their employability and better preparing them for their futures.

Following the first training of trainers in Colombia in February 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the

Olympic Refugee Foundation

The IOC has supported refugees through sport since 1994 in **partnership with UNHCR**, the UN Refugee Agency. In 2016, the first ever **IOC Refugee Olympic Team** competed at the Olympic Games Rio 2016, and Olympic Solidarity continues to support more than 50 refugee athletes around the globe with athlete scholarship.

The Olympic Refugee Foundation, established by the IOC in 2017, is the next chapter. Upholding the belief in a society where everyone belongs through sport, the Foundation aims to give one million young people affected by displacement access to safe sport by 2024.

With programmes in six countries reaching up to 200,000 young people affected by displacement, the Foundation places sport at the centre of its objectives to improve social inclusion, cohesion and psychosocial wellbeing.

More information can be found under www.olympicrefugefoundation.org

postponement of trainer trainings in Argentina and Ecuador. Due to school closure, Sportic then pivoted the planned launch of activities to the creation of a digital platform, supporting the programme's implementers, facilitators, coaches and trainers through an e-learning platform, the Sportic campus. In 2020 a total of 270 digital trainings have been delivered to 3,948 young people, 59 formal institutions and community spaces, and 489 trainers and teachers. The virtual campus now contains more than 200 educational materials on sport, technology and the Olympic Values.

For more information consult: www.sportic.org

One Win Leads to Another

Ensuring the equal participation of women and girls in sport, from the grassroots to the elite level, is paramount for the IOC. One standout project supporting grassroots participation is One Win Leads to Another (OWLA), a joint programme between the IOC and **UN Women**, which provides weekly sport practice and life skills session to girls and young women from vulnerable communities in Brazil and Argentina.

The COVID-19 pandemic meant that OWLA in Brazil was put on hold, and its launch in Argentina was postponed to 2021. The IOC committed to allowing both programmes to be extended for a further year with no additional costs.

To best support girls and young women during the pandemic, the OWLA programme designed specific COVID-19 training for its facilitators and coaches. As a result, they continued to provide safe spaces as well as sanitary materials like masks and sanitisers, while still offering the girls opportunities to disclose situation of violence experienced or witnessed at home.

www.umavitorialevaaoutra.org.br/ (Brazil)

www.unavictoriallevalaotra.org.ar/ (Argentina)

For further information, please contact:

The Olympic Studies Centre

Tel. + 41 21 621 66 11

studies.centre@olympic.org