



**UNHCR
ACNUR**

La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

Signing of the Alliance between
FC Barcelona – UNHCR/ACNUR
Press dossier



FCBARCELONA
més que un club

Signing of the Alliance between FC BARCELONA – UNHCR/ACNUR

Geneva, 22nd January 2008. Joan Laporta, president of FC Barcelona and its Foundation, and António Guterres, high commissioner of UNHCR/ACNUR, are signing a collaborative agreement between both organisations in order to promote initiatives in favour of refugees, concentrating specifically on the children of this group.



STARTING POINT OF THE AGREEMENT

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees, ACNUR, is one of the world's main humanitarian agencies. It was created by the General Assembly of UNO in December 1950 and on 1st January 1951 began its work of helping more than one million European refugees who were made homeless after the Second World War.

FC Barcelona is a private sports association with a 108 year history. It is made up of more than 160,000 members from all over the world and has more than 13 sports teams (5 of which are professional).

In 2006 FC Barcelona entered into a new era. Through support for the "Millennium Objectives", the setting aside of 0.7% of the club's earnings to be given to the Foundation in order to carry out their own international cooperation programmes, in addition to the pioneering agreements with UNHCR/ACNUR, UNICEF and UNESCO, the Blaugrana organisation created a position for its Foundation, with its new projects and alliances, as the social identity of the institution.

FC Barcelona and UNHCR/ACNUR share the same commitment of promoting peace, development and security through the provision of support to those who have had to flee from their homes and their countries in search of the protection that no longer existed there for them.

FCB Foundation: definition and objectives

The FC Barcelona Foundation, created in 1994, represents the social identity of FC Barcelona and organises its activities based on the following general objectives:

- To guide the Foundation towards a “social model” through the development of social, shared, cultural and formative actions that allow the following concept to be consolidated: “Barça is more than a club”.
- To reinforce and internationalise the concept of “more than a club” which involves increasing the value of Barça’s identity and also the number of worldwide supporters for the team.

These general objectives correspond to three pillars or axes of intervention that provide the setting for all the Foundation’s programmes and projects (the social solidarity pillar, the institutional and cultural pillar and the training and assistance pillar)

In attaining the objectives it is necessary for each of the Foundation’s programmes to be correctly systemised and each must be given its own explicit methodology. The activities carried out by the Foundation rely on a resource that is as important to the club as sport. However, in this case it is not an end objective but rather the best tool to promote social integration, development and transmission of values.

The programmes run by the Foundation that use sport as an educational tool for the social inclusion of the young are:

- **XICS:** is the international network of solidarity centres that uses sport as a means of offering children educational, health related and psychosocial support thus contributing to their personal and social development. The Foundation has already inaugurated centres in Senegal, Brazil and will shortly inaugurate more in India, Burkina-Fasso, Equador and Morrocco.
- **Sport Solidarity Days (Jornades d’Esport Solidari - JES):** They are comprised of training courses lasting 30 hours and are aimed specifically at educators, primary school teachers and monitors who work with children or vulnerable adolescents. JES days have already taken place in Richard Toll

(Senegal), Tangier (Morocco) and in the Raval neighbourhood of Barcelona (Catalonia).

- **Play it! (Juga-la!):** Is a teaching resource, outlined in the programme “ Sport and Citizens” and is run by the Foundation in all the educational centres of Catalonia and is available in two different versions, for Primary and Secondary schools. “Play it!” proposes a series of activities aimed at encouraging children to adopt different values and positive attitudes. This programme is also in the process of being implemented in Latin-America in collaboration with the OEI (The Organisation of Latin-American States)

UNHCR/ACNUR: definition and objectives

António Guterres, Ex-Prime Minister for Portugal, was named the tenth High Commissioner for Refugees in June 2005.

At the end of 2007, the number of people receiving assistance from ACNUR was in the region of 33 million, of which almost 80% were women and children.

ACNUR does not only provide assistance to refugees, but also to other groups of people like displaced persons, asylum seekers, stateless persons, repatriated persons, and other people in need. The total number of uprooted people in the world, including those receiving ACNUR assistance and also those outside their area of responsibility, exceeds 40 million, or one in every 156 people on the planet.

During more than half a century since it was first created, ACNUR has provided assistance to approximately 60 million people, for which it has earned recognition by being awarded two Nobel Peace Prizes in 1954 and in 1981 in addition to receiving the Prince of Asturias International Cooperation award in 2001.

Refugees are people that find themselves outside their own country due to founded fears of being persecuted for reasons pertaining to race, religion, nationality, for belonging to a certain social group or for their political opinions. Many have fled to escape war and acts of violation of human rights.

ACNUR’s most important responsibility, known as “international protection”, consists of ensuring that the refugees’ most basic rights are respected, which includes being able to request asylum and ensuring that no-one is made to return against their will to a country where they fear persecution. The organisation promotes international conventions for refugees, it checks that the governments comply with international law and gives emergency assistance and support material to the civilians who have fled, such as food, water, shelter and medical attention.

In collaboration with governments, NGOs and the civilian society, ACNUR looks for permanent solutions for refugees in three main areas: **voluntary repatriation** which is usually the preferred solution for the majority of refugees and host governments. This is, however, not always possible and in those cases ACNUR helps them during the **integration** process to try to rebuild their lives in another place, whether it be in the country of asylum or in a third country that is willing to accept these uprooted persons – a process which is known as **re-establishment**.

ACNUR's budget for operations in 2008 is thousands of millions of dollars. 97% of the ACNUR budget is generated from voluntary contribution, coming predominantly from governments but also from intergovernmental organisations, companies and private individuals. Almost 3% of the regular budget is received from the UNO (United Nations Organisation) for administrative costs. ACNUR currently has 6,200 employees and has 278 offices in 111 countries, the majority of which are working on the ground and thus are constantly faced with dangerous situations.

DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT

Objectives:

The agreement that is to be signed in Geneva on 22nd January 2008 has the fundamental aim **of sensitising the society to the situation of increased vulnerability that affects millions of refugees throughout the world, and to highlight the important role that sport possesses as a tool for education and social inclusion.**

Thanks to this alliance, sport will be utilised as a tool for education and integration for thousands of children and adolescents who are uprooted, both in the context of camps for refugees and displaced persons, and likewise in situations of voluntary return to their country or place of origin.

Moreover, the programmes deployed will have as one of their main priorities the integration of refugees and displaced persons into the local host population.

Duration and Finance:

The duration of the agreement will **be set at three years (2008-2010)** with the possibility of it being extended once concluded. Through this agreement, FC Barcelona **is not obliged to use the logo of UNHCR/ACNUR for its team, nor to make any financial donations.** FC Barcelona and UNHCR/ACNUR will be responsible for generating the resources needed for the practical implementation of the actions of the Alliance.

Creation of a Management Committee:

For the decision-making process and supervision of the actions derived from the agreement, a **Management Committee is created made up of UNHCR/ACNUR and FC Barcelona. This committee will also rely on the presence of the of ACNUR Catalan Committee (Comité Catalán del ACNUR)**

The afore-mentioned committee will meet at least once every six months and **will be responsible for overseeing the proposed project, prioritising, setting schedules and preparing evaluations on completion of each activity.**

Commitments:

1. **The FCB Foundation pledges to adapt and implement its programmes together with UNHCR/ACNUR in areas where refugee children and displaced persons are present.** The programmes to be adapted are:
 - **XICS (International network of solidarity centres)**
 - **JES (Sport Solidarity Days)**
 - **Juga-la! (Play it! –educational resources used for the promotion of sport-related values)**

2. **For their part, UNHCR/ACNUR pledges to participate alongside the FCB Foundation in the adaptation of these programmes to groups of refugees; in addition to offering technical assistance and administrative and logistic support to ensure the practical implementation of these projects.**

3. Both organisations pledge to release and make known both the results and activities carried out by this alliance.

Beneficiaries for the first year of the agreement:

During the first year of the alliance (2008) the Foundation of FC Barcelona and UNHCR/ACNUR will carry out projects in the following countries on behalf of the following refugees:

- **Rwanda (refugees of the Democratic Republic of Congo)**
- **Nepal (refugees from Butan)**
- **Equador (Columbian refugees)**

Moreover, the projects will give priority to the establishment of harmonious relations between the refugees and the host population, and encourage the children and adolescents of local communities to participate in the activities.

REFUGEES AROUND THE WORLD

At the end of 2007, the number of people assisted by ACNUR was in the region of 33 million, of which 80% were women and children. ACNUR not only provides assistance to refugees, but also to other groups of people like displaced persons, asylum seekers, stateless persons, repatriates and other persons in need.

Situation of refugees in Rwanda.

ACNUR's mission in Rwanda is to oversee the protection of refugees in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DCR) and Burundi, as well as asylum seekers coming from other countries.

It is also responsible for improving the facilities in the three camps that shelter some 50,000 refugees from DCR, and to provide education and sanitary aid.

In addition, it also helps the government to promote voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees and establish activities that help refugees to earn an income. Lastly, it provides back-up support to governmental institutions in asylum matters.

ACNUR currently takes care of 59,130 people in Rwanda, of which 47,320 are refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and 3,260 are asylum seekers of the same nationality. The remainder come mainly from Burundi, 2,940 refugees and 550 seekers, 5,000 are repatriates and 60 are other cases.

Situation of refugees in Nepal

One of ACNUR's main worries in this country is the provision of legal aid and long-lasting solutions for the refugees and asylum seekers, one of which is re-establishment, paying particular attention to certain groups of the population who are most vulnerable.

Furthermore, it promotes the registering and recording of refugees, it assists Tibetans on their way to Nepal, encourages the development of a national protection system in accordance with international legislation, and works on areas such as alimentation, health, running water, prevention of HIV-AIDS and other such programmes.

In Nepal there are 1,237,580 people who are either refugees, displaced persons or asylum seekers. ACNUR takes care of 207,430 of this figure, of which 104,500 are bhutanese refugees, and a large number are displaced persons and include asylum seekers and those from other groups.

Situation of refugees in Ecuador

ACNUR began its operation in Ecuador in the year 2000 as part of its mandate to protect and assist victims of the Colombian conflict. ACNUR supports the Government of Ecuador in implementing the refugee process and in identifying permanent solutions for this group of people.

ACNUR's main office is in Quito and has two field offices in Ibarra and Lago Agrio. Operational partners also cover the following provinces: Esmeraldas, Carchi, Imbabura, Sucumbíos, Orellana, Pichincha and Azuay.

The estimation, based on statistical projections, is that there are approximately 250,000 people who could be helped by ACNUR in Ecuador.

ACNUR's strategy in this country is based on the Action Plan for Mexico, a document adopted by more than twenty Latin-American countries that outlines the commitment of the states, the society and ACNUR to improve the protection of refugees and the identification of permanent solutions, mainly for Colombian refugees, on a regional level.

APPENDIX

SITUATION OF REFUGEES ASSISTED BY UNHCR/ACNUR

REGION	REFUGEES	ASYLUM SEEKERS	RETURNED REFUGEES	DISPLACED PERSONS	RETURNED DISPLACED PERSONS	STATELESS PERSONS	OTHERS	TOTAL 1st JAN 2007
Africa	2,608,000	244,000	312,000	5,373,000	1,044,000	100,000	72,000	9,753,000
Asia	4,538,000	90,000	409,000	3,879,000	812,000	5,027,000	157,000	14,911,000
Europe	1,612,000	240,000	13,000	542,000	9,000	679,000	332,000	3,427,000
Latin América *	41,000	16,000	-	3,000,000	-	-	486,000	3,543,000
North America	995,000	148,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,143,000
Oceania	84,000	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	86,000
TOTAL	9,878,000	740,000	734,000	12,794,000	1,864,000	5,806,000	1,046,000	32,862,000

*Includes the Caribbean

Addition of the numbers may not coincide given that figures have been rounded up.

10 main countries of origin

Both tables: data from 1st January 2007

	<i>REFUGEES</i>
Afghanistan	2,108,000
Iraq *	1,451,000
Sudan	686,000
	464,000
Somalia	
RD Congo	402,000
Burundi	397,000
Vietnam	374,000
Turkey	227,000
Angola	207,000
Myanmar	203,000

10 main host countries

	<i>REFUGEES</i>
Pakistan	1,044,000
Iran	968,000
United States of America	844,000
Syria	702,000
Germany	605,000
Jordan	500,000
Tanzania	485,000
United Kingdom	301,000
China	301,000
Chad	287,000

