



A YEAR OF IMPACT

SPORT TOGETHER FUND

DELIVERED BY



MAY 2022 - MAY 2023

CONTENTS



1	INTRODUCTION	02
2	SHAPING THE FUND	03
3	INTRODUCING LEADERSHIP TOGETHER	05
4	IMPACT SUMMARY	06
5	LEADERSHIP TOGETHER GRANTEES	07
6	LESSONS LEARNED	14
7	NEXT STEPS FOR THE FUND	15
8	SPORT TOGETHER FUND SUPPORTERS	16

INTRODUCTION

At the start of 2023, global forced displacement reached nearly 110 million people worldwide due to conflict, human rights violations, oppression, and climate disasters. It is a global phenomenon that affects people of all ages and walks of life.

People with refugee experiences face political, economic, social and personal challenges spanning housing, safety, employment and trauma. These challenges compound the difficult and distressing experiences they face on their journey to resettlement. Personal characteristics like age, gender, ability, socioeconomic status, educational background, sexual orientation and religion also affect an individual's resettlement experience.

Yet, in times of crisis, sport has consistently shown its unique ability to unite and uplift, to create safe spaces for people seeking refuge and to help build sustainable, peaceful communities. In May 2022, Beyond Sport launched the Sport Together Fund to provide grants and capacity-building support to non-profit organisations, sports clubs and collectives around the world who are assisting communities facing displacement. The Fund also supports the transit and host communities where people are rebuilding their lives. This report outlines the impact of the Sport Together Fund in its first year, May 2022 to May 2023.

SHAPING THE FUND

With strategic input from UNHCR, the UN's Refugee Agency, and co-designed by an Expert Advisory Group, the Sport Together Fund was built on strong foundations during 2022. An initial research project scoped the current landscape for refugee and migrant inclusion in sport and physical activity and highlighted the need for collaboration across our sector.

The global Sport for Development sector is not unfamiliar with this issue – there are several other nonprofits, federations and government agencies well-versed in using sport to increase positive outcomes for refugee and migrant communities. Beyond Sport is proud to learn from and work alongside our fellow members of the Sport for Refugees Coalition, contributing to their valuable work across the globe.

Following initial research, Beyond Sport convened an Expert Advisory Group to inform the fund's design, consisting of individuals skilled in trauma and health, conflict resolution, youth sports and social and community cohesion. In addition, several members also have their own lived experience of migration and/or seeking refuge in a new host community.

EXPERT ADVISORY GROUP

Beyond Sport gives thanks to the following individuals who have supported us to develop the Sport Together Fund priorities and principles:



Dr. Soolmaz Aboali

Professional Athlete & Professor,
George Mason University (USA)



Megumi Aoyama

Reporting Officer, UNHCR –
UN Refugee Agency (Ukraine)



Kat Craig

Founder, Athlead;
Human Rights Lawyer (UK)



Adnan Abdul Ghani

Migration Expert,
Save the Children (Sweden)



Lam Joar

Programmes Officer, One Young
World; Graduate, Oxford University (UK)



Gerald Mballe

Special Olympics Advisor –
Unified with Refugees (Italy)



Amina Moustafa

Programme Manager,
Glencree Centre for Peace and
Reconciliation (Ireland)



Carine Nkoue

Project Specialist,
UEFA Foundation (Switzerland)



Fereshteh Rafat

Women's Rights Activist
& Journalist (Spain)



Esther Jones Russell

Senior Volunteering Manager
England and Wales Cricket Board (UK)



Marisa Schlenker

Consultant
Beyond Sport (Germany)



Lucy Mills

Consultant
Beyond Sport (Spain)

WHAT WE FUND

Through the Sport Together Fund, Beyond Sport is proud to support initiatives that are: Intentional (purposeful design of sport to be inclusive, supported by research-based best practices)

Diverse (involve interaction between refugees and host communities and celebrate social interaction between individuals and groups from diverse backgrounds)

Do no harm (identify and mitigate risks and unintended consequences that might cause harm, ensure safety of all participants)

Grassroots (uplift local sports initiatives, volunteer groups, associations and NGOs where refugees are most likely to access sport and physical activity)

Intersectional (prioritize systemically marginalized groups including unaccompanied minors, people with disabilities, people from the LGBTQ+ community, girls and women and older adults)

Refugee led (offer training and professional development, bestow responsibility and opportunity to refugees)

Sustainable and build community (meaningful initiatives that help people to build their lives in their new location, beyond just participating in sport-based activity).

HOW WE FUND

Beyond Sport strives to ensure that grants and capacity building support offered through the Sport Together Fund are:

Empathetic (to grantees, acknowledging the challenging situations facing refugees and understanding if projects do not go as planned)

Expert-advised (Expert Advisory Group and consultants with lived experiences as refugees and / or working with refugee/displaced communities)

Flexible (to reflect the changes in needs and landscapes of entities operating in this field)

Supportive of collective learning (facilitates exchange among grantee organizations and with the wider sport and refugee ecosystem)

Uncomplicated (simple, with time-efficient processes around grant-making) Accessible (especially for smaller associations, volunteer-groups, clubs and non- profits)

INTRODUCING LEADERSHIP TOGETHER

In late 2022, Beyond Sport launched the first iteration of grant opportunities through the Sport Together Fund – Leadership Together. This funding stream offered small grants to non-profits, community associations and sports clubs working across Europe in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, an event that triggered one of the fastest and largest forced displacement crises the continent had seen since World War II.

Grants were available to support organisations to deliver initiatives or events that invest in education, training and leadership development amongst refugees, displaced people and asylum-seekers aged 16+. In addition, funds could also be used to support the training and education of people from local host communities who are working to include refugees and displaced people in their club or organization.

Through a solicited call for applications across the Beyond Sport network in Europe, 7 organisations were selected to receive funding in early 2023. A summary of their achievements, facilitated by the Sport Together Fund, is presented over the following pages.



IMPACT SUMMARY



BY MAY 2023, THE SPORT TOGETHER FUND HAD



DISBURSED

£50,000

IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT
7 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



SUPPORTED BENEFICIARIES FROM
32 COUNTRIES INCLUDING PALESTINE,
AFGHANISTAN, HONDURAS, UKRAINE,
ERITREA AND SUDAN



PROGRAMS DELIVERED **MULTIPLE SPORTS**,
INCLUDING FOOTBALL, MARTIAL ARTS,
BOXING, FITNESS AND YOGA



TRAINED **235 LEADERS AND COACHES**,
REACHING AN ESTIMATED
24,000 YOUTH ANNUALLY

INTRODUCING OUR LEADERSHIP TOGETHER GRANTEES

AMANDLA GMBH

Alex is an immigrant currently studying social work in Berlin-Wedding. He has been a coach at Safe-Hub for a year now – Safe-Hubs are centres providing young people from unsafe and violent neighbourhoods and communities with a safe space where they can access quality after-school programming and a range of services, opportunities and support. Safe-Hubs are built and managed by Amandla, a charity founded in South Africa in 2007.

Through the Sport Together Fund, Alex and other coaches at Amandla's Safe-Hub in Berlin were able to access training centred around trauma-informed practice, dealing with conflict within groups, and using a participatory approach to design and deliver inclusive training.

This capacity building has empowered coaches like Alex to amplify their impact on participants, and sustainably develop the organisation by reforming their internal processes and sharing best practices. Amandla's coaching team work with around 800 young people per year.



LEADERSHIP TOGETHER GRANTEES

ASSOCIACIÓ ESPORTIVA RAMASSÀ

Julitza was originally from Honduras but moved to Spain with her family to seek asylum. Soon after, she encountered AE Ramassà, a soccer club and charity based in Barcelona.

The Ramassà Sports Association was founded in 1975 and uses football as a tool for social integration and a development mentor, working with some of the most vulnerable groups. The Inclusive Women's project is one such initiative aimed at providing refugee and asylum-seeking women and girls with sport as a tool for social transformation, facilitating social inclusion, promoting peace and empowering women.

Julitza was always interested in working with people and children and with the funds from the grant, 16 women (all refugees from South America, Africa, and Asia) including Julitza were provided opportunities to upskill themselves. Several earned qualifications and certifications across a wide range of programs including Bakery and Pastry training, Specialised coach training, Language classes, and Self-development workshops. Beneficiaries spent over 600 hours in training, and AE Ramassà also provided these women with job-seeking support.

Associació Esportiva Ramassà



“Employment inclusion improves people's living conditions, it also offers the same opportunities at labour, social, or educational level, as other people. Playing football is a form of integration to other cultures. It helps to meet more people, and above all, have a great time in each session. I attended the leisure monitor course, which will allow me to find the job that I like. I would like to say that the majority of people that leave our countries are forced by the situation, and difficulties that exist in our country of origin.” **Juliza, AE Ramassà**

LEADERSHIP TOGETHER GRANTEES

BLOOMSBURY FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

Ben is a coach at Bloomsbury Football Foundation, a charity founded in London in 2018 with a simple mission to use football as a vehicle to build stronger communities, support young people to become the happiest, healthiest and most confident version of themselves, and removing barriers to football such as expensive training sessions, inaccessible facilities, and good coaches.

Ben has had extensive experience as a coach and was assigned as the lead coach for a session including young refugees and asylum seekers, a context he is not familiar with at all. With the grant from the Sport Together Fund, Ben and his colleagues at Bloomsbury Football Foundation received specialised training on working with refugees and asylum-seeker groups and embedding mental health within their sessions.

By having a greater knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the journeys that these young people have gone through, and the struggles faced in everyday life, Ben can now better create a welcoming environment for them to feel comfortable, safe and secure. He believes he can better understand behaviour with compassion and understanding, with an appreciation for what may be going on in their everyday lives. He had an awareness of the current context, but he now feels more confident in fostering a healthy environment given the circumstances. He also feels more knowledgeable about the potential struggles that may not be immediately obvious, and how to help.

Ben and his colleagues at Bloomsbury Foundation estimate that they will reach 4000 young people across London in 2023.



Bloomsbury Football Foundation

LEADERSHIP TOGETHER GRANTEES



Girl Power Organisation

GIRL POWER ORGANISATION

Habiba is a young mountain climber from Afghanistan. She sought asylum in Denmark, where she took part in a Leadership Programme with Girl Power Organisation. Girl Power Organisation was established in 2014 as a grassroots entity to use sports and education as tools to empower women and girls from all cultures and social backgrounds. Apart from providing vulnerable groups with access to sport and physical activity, they also have a leadership pathway to empower and facilitate young leaders and role models.

Based primarily in Denmark, they also deliver sessions in Europe (Germany, Italy, Greece, Sweden and Norway), and across the Middle East and South Asia.

In her first experience with the programme, she upskilled herself and built up her knowledge and network in the sector and started coaching refugee girls at a refugee centre in Denmark as part of other Give Back project to the community. With the funds from the Sport Together Fund, she participated in the program again, to connect with more coaches and young leaders like herself from across the globe. Girl Power organised two Leadership Academy sessions – one in England, and another in Denmark. The participants were mostly refugee women, including football players from Afghanistan.

As a result of her hard work and commitment to the role, Habiba is now a volunteer coach with Girl Power, and wants to create her own girls' team in the community and organise sports events and festivals to support and promote their integration into Danish society. In 2023, Habiba and her colleagues at Girl Power Organisation hope to reach 10 young people and 47 adults through their programmes in Denmark.

LEADERSHIP TOGETHER GRANTEES



LEAGUE OF TOLERANCE

Alina Bazhenova was originally from Kherson in Ukraine, and relocated to Osthrammar in Sweden, where she started participating in programmes with League of Tolerance – an alliance of sport coaches, human rights defenders, artists, trainers, and youth workers who use the playground to promote inclusive and accessible human rights education through sport.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the charity moved from Ukraine to Sweden, prioritising work with lesser-served people – those with disabilities, ethnic minorities, the LGBTQ+ community, people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods and people suffering from armed conflict.

With the League of Tolerance, Alina received training in panna – a freestyle version of football. Her mother, Olena testified:

"I'm really happy that my daughter has an opportunity to play football in our new place of living, having suffered to move out from the Kherson region of Ukraine. We, as parents, are glad that children from Sweden and Ukraine could communicate in a friendly and healthy environment, created by a diverse team of coaches and assistants who also represent refugees and the hosting community. I like that the universal language of football has become a bridge for Alina to freely speak with her Swedish peers."

With the grant, the League of Tolerance was able to fund training for 32 coaches, focusing on integrating mixed groups in sessions, enhancing athletic development, creating friendly and safe spaces, knowledge sharing and facilitating intercultural dialogue.

LEADERSHIP TOGETHER GRANTEES



Te Aud Romania

TE AUD ROMANIA

Mihai is a passionate and experienced rugby coach, working with Te Aud Romania. The charity was established in 2014 and focuses on providing orphans and disadvantaged children in Romania improved education, life guidance, sport and social inclusion.

With funds from the grant, Te Aud Romania provided 40 participants with qualifications and specialised training, including communication, inclusivity, empowerment and conflict resolution. Mihai embarked on a transformative journey of personal and professional growth through a leadership training program. Throughout the training, he gained valuable knowledge on communication in sports, the sport for social impact methodology, and working with children with Post- Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Inspired by his learnings, Mihai was determined to incorporate these concepts into his coaching practice and make a positive difference in the lives of the children he mentored.

Over time, Mihai witnessed remarkable transformations in his players. He observed increased self-esteem, improved social interactions, and enhanced resilience among children with PTSD. The entire team benefited from the inclusive and supportive environment he fostered, experiencing personal growth, strengthened relationships, and a shared sense of purpose.

Coach Mihai continues to inspire and positively impact the lives of the children he coaches, demonstrating the transformative power of rugby and sports in general. Te Aud Romania aims to reach more than 6000 young people in Romania in 2023.

LEADERSHIP TOGETHER GRANTEES

YOGA & SPORT WITH REFUGEES

Jamshid is a young asylum-seeker from Afghanistan, currently working as a kick boxing coach in Greece with Yoga & Sport with Refugees. YSR was founded in 2017 on the island of Lesbos in Greece. Their focus is to provide refugees in the country with access to healthy safe spaces, a sense of community, and a place to work on their mental and physical wellbeing.

They have since expanded to Athens and Ioannina, as well as conducting some activities in Paris, France. While in Afghanistan, Jamshid trained in kickboxing for 4 years before he started working with YSR. He wanted to continue training himself, but most importantly for him, he really wanted to give knowledge to his peers and support them to be active and motivated. Using the grant fund, YSR trained their coaches – training emphasized leadership skills, peer-to-peer learning, inclusive spaces, and skill- building. Jamshid was able to access training in a Greek kickboxing gym where he could improve himself to be ready for competitions. It is also a great opportunity for him to improve his cardio and technique, as well to find more training partners that are Greek or international.

He wants to use the skills and knowledge gained from the training to bring his students to a better level, for them to show that they are capable. He wants to give them confidence in themselves and show them that they can arrive at their goals if they work hard. Thanks to the training that Jamshid is offered in the Greek gym, his students are taught more techniques for kickboxing but also more discipline and knowledge of the sport.

Jamshid and his colleagues at YSR hope to reach 12000 people, including 900 young people every month.



LESSONS LEARNED



The 2023 Leadership Together grants provided a valuable opportunity for Beyond Sport to evaluate the Sport Together Fund and make improvements for future funding rounds. Input from grantee organizations, our Expert Advisory Group and wider network were combined to form the following summary of lessons learned:

- **IMPORTANCE OF FUNDING TRAINING AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** – Grants to support leadership/training initiatives are of significant value to grantee organizations, relieving the financial burden sometimes associated with investing in education and allowing them to prioritize it without diverting funding away from day-to-day programming and support for their community. Additionally, a relatively small up-front investment in training can contribute to greater sustainability and impact far beyond the period of the grant.
- **FACILITATION OF CONNECTION** – The opportunity to network, share experiences and learn from others during training/education funded by these grants was praised by grantee organizations. Taking time to reflect and develop as a group proved immensely beneficial for their staff and volunteers.
- **VALUE OF AMPLIFICATION** – Grantee organizations praised the visibility Beyond Sport brought to their work through communications campaigns. Particularly for smaller organizations, this added value to their interaction with the Sport Together Fund beyond the grant.
- **DESIRE FOR LONG TERM COLLABORATION** – Initial Leadership Together grants were short-term. Longer term funding is preferable to contribute to sustainability within the sector and enable greater depth of impact and future funding should be adjusted to reflect this.
- **GLOBAL SUPPORT** – forced displacement is an issue present in every corner of the globe. Future funding opportunities should be designed with a more global perspective to ensure they are accessible and relevant for organizations outside of Europe.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE FUND



As Beyond Sport looks to 2024, our ambition is to scale up our efforts in response to emerging situations where sport can play its greatest role. We are excited to continue funding and supporting the work of multiple nonprofits across Europe and Asia thanks to the support of new Sport Together Fund partners who are joining us in our mission to increase positive outcomes for these communities.

Fundraising remains a key priority as we seek to partner with like-minded brands, foundations and institutions who can join us in our work to support those organizations using sport to make a difference for refugees and displaced communities globally. We recognise that forced displacement is a truly global issue, and our support so far has barely scratched the surface of the huge network of organizations working around the world with shared objectives. We seek to grow the Sport Together Fund so that, in future, our support reaches a wider range of countries, locations and communities that host the highest proportion of displaced people.

Our advocacy around the issue will continue as we strive to bring the sport sector together to provide increased funding and resources – ultimately contributing to greater collective impact.



WITH THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Cake UK
CSM
DAZN
Donr
Ear to the Ground
Fifty Digital
in Crowd Sports
Jump Design
M&C Saatchi
New Balance Foundation
Nimble Productions
Octagon UK

Right Formula
Sport Five
Sport Industry Group
Sport Radar
Sporting News
Tottenham Hotspurs
The FA
The Space Between
Two Circles
Verve Live Agency
World Boxing Council

SPORT TOGETHER FUND

DELIVERED BY



TO LEARN HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE SPORT
TOGETHER FUND, PLEASE CONTACT:
CARLY HEINZ
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
CARLY.HEINZ@BEYONDSPORT.ORG

Beyond Sport is a UK registered charity and US 501(c)(3) organisation.