



FORUM REPORT

RESPONSIBALL

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Refugees and Sport

8 November 2018
Lausanne, Switzerland

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Background of the RESPONSIBALL Forum

The 2018 RESPONSIBALL Forum on Refugees and Sport was organized by SchweryCade, a Swiss-based independent social enterprise. The RESPONSIBALL initiative is financed and managed by SchweryCade. Since 2011, RESPONSIBALL has published an annual RESPONSIBALL Ranking, which looks at the sustainability of top tier professional football leagues around the world.

The RESPONSIBALL Forum was the first event hosted through the RESPONSIBALL initiative within SchweryCade's new structure. The event provided the platform for RESPONSIBALL to deliver on two of its key objectives: showcasing good practices in sport and sustainability and supporting a community of like-minded practitioners in furthering the mission of making sport more socially responsible. As RESPONSIBALL has been primarily a digital platform, the forum was a significant step to advance the role of the initiative and involve more stakeholders in its mission.

Forum Goals

The stated objectives of the forum were the following:

- Discuss the main challenges of using the social value of sport to aid refugees;
- Promote good practices;
- Define future cooperation and activities.

These objectives were pursued throughout the day. The first two objectives were targeted through presentations, panel discussions, workshops, Q&A formats, feedback sessions, and small group discussions. Additionally, space was provided for organizations and initiatives to display their projects through visuals, pamphlets and reports. Breaks throughout the day allowed participants to visit these displays and have the opportunity to network.

Forum Partners

SchweryCade received support from forum partners, including the use of venue facilities, the forum app, the donation of regional wines for apero, as well as financial contributions to cover some of the costs.

The 2018 RESPONSIBALL Forum partners were:

- AISTS
- ASPIRE
- City of Lausanne
- Fare network
- Football Unites Us
- ThinkSport
- UEFA
- University of Lausanne
- Wiz Team
- Women Win

Forum Location

Lausanne is the Olympic Capital, home to not only the International Olympic Committee, but also a large number of international sport federations and organizations.

The Forum activities was held at the University of Lausanne (UNIL) in the Amphipôle building.

The evening apero took place at AISTS in the Synatholon building.

UNIL was responsible for venue services throughout the day. Snacks and meals provided throughout the day were vegetarian, in keeping with RESPONSIBALL's goal to decrease its environmental footprint.

The forum app, provided by Wiz Team, gave participants access to the event schedule, speaker and attendee list, logistics and additional information. In using the app, the RESPONSIBALL team made the decision not to print paper schedules and pamphlets, again in keeping with the goal to be more environmentally-conscious.

Participants

In total, 94 participants took part in the RESPONSIBALL Forum. Attendees represented an assortment of institutions, clubs, and organizations, listed below:

Section Wrestling KNKF	Italian Football Association	SPIN / Liikkukka
International Rescue Committee Deutschland	FC Erlenchbach	Unio de Federacions Esportives de Catalunya
Swiss Volley	SCORT	SPIN / Mahatma Gandhi Human Rights Organization
Equal Education Fund	International Organization for Migration	State of Vaud
Flag21	International Basketball Foundation	City of Lausanne
Impulse Basel / Surprise	Sport Sustainability Journal	Swiss Football Association
University of Berne	International Olympic Committee	Right to Play
Swiss Football Association	IOC	Unio de Federaciones Esportivos de Catalunya
Liechtenstein Football Association	UEFA	Decatorevista
War Child Holland	Afghanistan Taekwondo Federation	Women Win
Sportanddev.org	Streetfootballworld	Right to Play Lebanon
Norwegian Football Association	International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education	Universite Rennes 2
Sport and Citizenship	FC Erlenchbach	Terre des Hommes
Schweizerischen Flüchtlingshilfe	University of Berne	Barca Foundation
Zürich Academic Sport Association / SOLA	ThinkSport	AISTS
United World Wrestling	FC Dürrenast	International Table Tennis Federation Foundation

Hospice General	Royal Belgian Football Association	German Football Association
BC Albisrieden	Football Association of Ireland	Director of Sport and Social Cohesion
International Basketball Foundation	Director of Sport and Social Cohesion	ASPIRE Project / ENGSO
UNHCR		

Of those in attendance, many were directly involved in the activities throughout the day, including giving presentations, speaking on expert panels, leading workshops, coordinating organization displays, and sharing their experiences through photography or written excerpts. SchweryCade’s core team coordinated and managed the event. Four student volunteers, three of whom were from AISTS, provided support during the day.

Forum Agenda

Welcome Addresses: Daniel Cade and Mia Salvemini

Oscar Tosato, Director of Sport and Social Cohesion in the City of Lausanne, gave a bilingual opening address in English and French, wishing attendees a day full of reflection and positive experiences. He thanked all the individuals and organizations for their continual action and implications surrounding the important topics of refugee, sport and responsibility. François Bussy, Vice Rector of the University of Lausanne and Executive Director of AISTS, explored the value of sport for those who don’t have homes, tying this issue to the challenges of refugees integrating into new societies.



Daniel Cade introduced the RESPONSIBALL initiative, highlighting the main achievements since it was founded ten years ago. A recent structural change of RESPONSIBALL’s parent company was noted, with Schwery Consulting renamed as SchweryCade. In addition, the RESPONSIBALL Ranking, the indicators, and the respective framework have improved through assessments, input and revisions done both internally and through the assistance of external stakeholders.

RESPONSIBALL Forum

The ranking framework is based on three key pillars - governance, community and environment - and was designed to support community actors in the field of football and social responsibility. Prior to the ranking, Rolf Schwery and Daniel saw a gap in the way football clubs measured their social responsibility strategies and activities. This gap led to the creation of the RESPONSIBALL Ranking as a point of reference for measuring sustainability in and across football leagues. The goal for RESPONSIBALL in the future is to begin completing club level audits as a means of improving individual clubs' social responsibility strategies.



Next, Rolf Schwery spoke of contemporary society's most challenging issue: migration and forced migration. Using key statistics, Rolf posed the question as to whether the current refugee situation is in fact a crisis, sharing evidence to suggest that the crisis is in fact outside of Europe. Location aside, RESPONSIBALL took the approach that sport can play a role in facilitating social change. Rolf shared examples of sports' role in empowering all types of people and the processes of using sport for social inclusion.

In conclusion, Rolf reminded the audience that the Forum would be directed towards a call to action, which calls individuals and organizations to commit and unite to build off of the forum through actions and activities. He called on attendees to think about true leadership, distinguishing it from ownership and from working around mandates.

To conclude the introductory segment, Rolf introduced two refugee ambassadors, Mamadi Camara from Guinea and Edmar Abdoelav of Chechnya, who shared their personal experiences and described the role sport played in their search for new homes and communities.



From Theory to Practice

Speakers: Nick Sore, UNHCR; Fleure Maricaux, Terre des Hommes (Tdh); Patrice Cholley, International Olympic Committee (IOC)

Nick Sore opened the panel by echoing Rolf's question as to whether the actual numbers of refugees present in Europe constitutes a crisis. In fact, the numbers of refugees in neighboring host countries are exponentially higher, strengthening the argument that these countries require greater support. Mr. Sore reminded attendees that no refugee is a blank sheet, but that each one is a person with his or her own background, set of experiences and individual potential.

In speaking of the UNHCR's work, Mr. Sore introduced seven core actions which serve as general program guidance and are based on findings from numerous consultations. The UNHCR considers sport to be a tool that can bring people together and normalize situations. Recently, the UNHCR began considering the potential of sport within their core mandate and different systems, such as the comprehensive refugee response framework.

Patrice Cholley then explained how sport for protection is a key principle of the IOC Refugee Foundation and translates to creating safe and welcoming environments. Mr. Cholley described the Sport for Protection Toolkit, which concerns the IOC's aim to protect and minimize risk or harm by using sport.

Fleure Maricaux detailed the Terre des hommes's approach to sport. With their focus on the protection of youth and children, the organization went through an intense research process, including an extensive literature review, consultations to develop a shared theory with the UNHCR and the creation of toolkits to guide Tdh's work in sport for development. Partnerships and collaboration have been central to their work.

Workshop sessions

Three workshop panels were offered to attendees. Each workshop had a specific theme and was moderated by a RESPONSIBALL staff member and a member from a partner organization. A group of expert panelists shared their experiences and were open for questions related to their work.

Workshop 1: Organizational Strategy

Moderators: Cristina Joss and Rolf Schwery

Panelists:

- Delphine Schmutz, Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation
- Dominique Blanc, Swiss Football Association
- Leandro Olvech, International Table Tennis Federation Foundation
- Theren Bullock, International Basketball Federation
- Werner Augsburger, Swiss Volley
- Patrice Cholley, International Olympic Committee

The first workshop focused on organizational strategy, with panelists from four international and two national federations. The panelists and discussion centered on individual projects that have or could fit into a federation's strategy.

The Taekwondo Foundation and ITTF shared their specific sport and refugees strategies, proving that it is not necessary to have a large amount of resources to implement a successful strategy.

Two of the biggest challenges agreed upon were creating collaborations and finding partners. To overcome this challenge, one key suggestion was the placement of a contact person or office where correspondence can be maintained, as the UNSDP has. This would aid in facilitating the work of both international and national federations.

Workshop 2: Programme Coordination

Moderators: Monica Namy and Daniel Cade

Panelists:

- Des Tomlinson, Football Association of Ireland
- Monique van der Zijde, Royal Netherlands Football Association
- Benjamin Egli, Swiss Football Association
- Julie Karima Berg, Norwegian Football Association
- Stefanie Schulte, German Football Federation
- Cristina Blasetti, Italian Football Association

This workshop focused on the work done with refugees by national football associations through their platforms and resources. Each panelist had the opportunity to respond to questions on how programming works within his or her program. Attendees received an idea of the various starting points for this type of engagement, including key points on finding complementary partners, clarifying project expectations for stakeholders, determining the needs of refugees, and measuring short- and long-term impact.

Workshop 3: Implementation

Moderators: Marc Probst and Mia Salvemini

Panelists:

- Yvonne Henry, Women Win
- Orsolya Tolnay, ASPIRE
- Kurt Wachter, SPIN/VIDC
- Carine Nkoue, UEFA Foundation
- Mariona Miret, Barça Foundation
- Ziad Kanaan, Right to Play Lebanon
- Tanya Rütli, SCORT

The third workshop focused on program design and implementation. Across the board, panelists agreed that it is imperative to give refugees a voice in all areas of the program development and implementation. Moving away from paternalistic approaches enables more people to be involved in the design and implementation. The common challenges found included designing and implementing programs for girls and women, making programs inclusive for those with disabilities, working with host communities, ensuring overall accessibility, and engaging those with little or no interest in sport. Other common issues included finding funding and ensuring sustainability of projects.

Experts Corner

The experts' corner, moderated by Marc Probst, brought together four experts who each spoke about specific themes and findings from their work with refugees and sport. Marc opened the session with a look at the sportanddev platform, explaining existing sections and highlighting where and how the refugee and sport section could best be utilized. The platform demonstrates how sport is a tool for development and encourages the sharing of evidence. After an internal review of the platform, sportanddev found that there are gaps that still need to be filled. Going forward, sportanddev look to share more information concerning mechanisms for coordination and collaboration, systematic overviews on specific thematic areas, and a diverse mix of methods and research approaches.

Marc encouraged attendees to think and work outside of their silos and focus on the sustainability of projects through proper design and implementation. Through increasing engagement with host communities, investing more in capacity building and paying closer attention to context, programs have great potential to improve. He asked practitioners in the audience to contribute to the case study section and use the sportanddev platform to share good practices, challenges and new approaches.

Dr. Marianne Meier explored gender with an interdisciplinary approach. She began with a theoretical approach exploring the three dimensions of gender: gender identity, gender structure and gender symbolism. In discussing gender, she made clear that gender is not just a women's issue – the role of gender impacts and affects everyone. She challenged attendees to think about the idea that doing sports means doing gender, as it is about the way people interpret, conduct and respond to one other. She argued that much focus on girls and women in sport is about diversity but would be enhanced through an intersectional approach. This means looking at girls' and women's experiences in sport, as well as those of men, boys and those whom identify as outside of the binary.

Dr. Meier's challenged attendees by questioning the oversimplification of the concept of empowerment within sports programs and contexts. She argued that empowerment is a process which entails the examination of who has power, particularly when trying to understand gender. When working with sport, gender and refugees, she focused on the socio-economic barriers, safety concerns, health concerns (including trauma), material infrastructure and technical barriers, lack of female role models and sociocultural barriers, with the latter often being the most difficult to address.

Katherine Koenen's presentation emphasized the importance of the psychosocial dimension when working with refugee populations through sport. Her research institution has published various toolkits, guidelines and curricula which guide practitioners on how to be more aware of and intentionally design their projects to place psychosocial elements at the center. Research has shown that sport can be important to recovery processes because of the space it creates where people come together. When participants are safe and comfortable in the space, they are able to make decisions and strengthen their self-efficacy levels. What must be considered when working with refugee populations in a sport environment is that participants should be in the same groups in order to form and sustain relationships over a longer period and should take on tasks to build their confidence levels and work together on team sports when possible. She emphasized the need to avoid overestimating the power of sport in healing people who have gone through or are going through trauma. Sport has its limitations and when possible, it should be combined with professional help and support networks. In addition, it is important for those implementing sport programs to be aware of their own limitations and not force individuals to speak important suggestion for those working with refugees through sport is to not ask refugees about their experiences but let them come to offer the information of their own will. Coaches and practitioners should aim to coach to the individual. Katerin informed attendees that her institute, ICCSPE, is hosting a five day seminar on psychosocial support through sport in January 2019.

Cristina Joss, a student at University of Bern and a RESPONSIBALL intern, presented her findings from research on refugee and sport programs in Switzerland. Taking on a qualitative approach, Cristina explored and compared different practices being implemented by sport programs.

Amir Khosravi, a FIFA Masters graduate, described his Masters' research, which focused on the question of how the sports world can maximize the efficiency and impact of refugee aid. After an initial literature review, his research cohort found that there was a glaring gap in terms of policies, frameworks and models. Many organizations, institutions, associations and sports programs were working and continue to work in the space, but as others had emphasized, there wasn't a policy or framework.

Some final key points from the panel included:

- Avoid seeing refugees as refugees, but start with seeing them as people and individuals
- Expand notions of inclusion – think about how to include those who have physical disabilities and consider their needs when designing programs
- Explore masculinity in and through sport
- How can top down and bottom up approaches be combined to lead to more sustainable programming?
- Consider the UN Sustainable Development Goals when planning a project

Nick Sore then gave a final presentation on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), touching on the following six topics: shared global responsibility, whole of society approach, support for host communities, well-funded emergency responses, self-reliance, and enhancing durable solutions. The CRRF framework encourages breaking down the silos in order to have a more comprehensive response at the humanitarian and development nexus.

The aim for a refugee is to become self-reliant, wherever he or she is in the world. This is because the concern for human dignity is of central importance. The CRFF is a globally recognized framework which supports bringing alignment and synergies to the various actors and organizations working at nexus of humanitarian response and development. Mr. Sore reflected on the very low number of sport organizations taking a leadership role, but expressed his optimism that more have the potential to lead with the guidance of frameworks, compacts and guidelines.

Moderated Panel Discussion

For the final panel discussion, stakeholders were invited to share their primary takeaways with attendees.

Orsolya Tolnay expressed her concerns on project sustainability particularly around refugee centered projects like ASPIRE.

Monique van der Zijde encouraged others to support projects in host countries such as Turkey, where the real refugee 'crisis' exists.

Jerome Berthoud shifted the focus from football to running and expressed concerns on project sustainability and ways to diversify funding.

Piara Powar encouraged everyone to avoid thinking of inclusion and integration as one way processes and realizing that inclusion also entails decision making and a changing of the rules. Mr. Powar emphasized that refugees today will not have that status forever, which means host communities need to give much thought and design to integration.

Looking ahead beyond the forum, different events and conferences were suggested as the next checkin points. ASPIRE will host a conference on 14 June 2019 in Frankfurt, Germany. Fare network is formalizing refugee in football information on their website to create a more structured report or toolkit. Additionally, the IOC is offering a round of grants for projects focused on refugee opportunities in sport.

Official Closing: Rolf Schwery and Call to Action

Returning to his earlier call for leadership, Rolf asked the room for their commitment to action. Based on consultations with key stakeholders, a Call to Action was presented. This emphasized increased collaboration and exchange of good practices and experiences. The commitment at the Forum needs to be revisited and there were discussions on June 14th as being that point, where actions can be measured in relation to commitments made. Concerning the sustainability of the Forum, it was shared that the forum website would continue to act as a key platform for the sharing of best practices through documents, resources, frameworks and research.

Forum Evaluation: Highlights & Suggestions for improvement

Highlights:

- More than 90 participants attended, representing a diversity of countries, organisations, viewpoints and reference points.
- Overall feedback received from attendees was positive
- [Call to Action](#) has to date (13.12.2018) been signed by 105 individuals and 66 organisations.
- Media coverage was high before, during and after the Forum.
- The next date for reconvening, measuring the commitments was proposed for the ASPIRE Conference on 14 June 2019 in Germany