



## #12 EL MUNDO EN MOVIMIENTO

**Leading organisation:** Fundación Red Deporte y Cooperación

**Country:** Spain

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### **Type of discrimination**

- Racial Discrimination in Sports
- Religious Discrimination in Sports

### **Target group**

Refugee population arriving in Spain, of fourteen different nationalities. They reside in the official Refugee Reception Centers (CAR) of the Government of Spain. While all CAR members are officially recognized asylum seekers, they are often referred to as refugees by the CAR administration and Red Deporte, so these two terms are used interchangeably in the project. Likewise, another target group is made up of players from local soccer teams, belonging to the neighbourhood where the CARs are located.

### **Problem/Solution**

The Refugee Reception Centres (CAR) of the Government of Spain are often located in peripheral, working-class neighbourhoods. Due to biased information in the media, mutual ignorance and lack of contact between refugees and residents, a general climate of hostility towards the refugee is generated. They are seen as “strange” or in other cases “dangerous” elements in society. This is due to the information (defamation) spread on social networks, or biasedly collected by some media, about incidents with a population of Muslim origin (Afghans, North Africans, associated with terrorism), Sub-Saharanans (Nigerians associated with drug trafficking and prostitution) or Georgians, Chechens, and Caucasians in general (associated with organized criminal gangs).

The solution proposed by Red Deporte is based on developing a soccer team/club, made up of refugees and local players who participate together in training and matches. The project also interacts with other soccer teams in the city through meetings and participation in reduced tournaments.

### **Objective**

- Enhance the confidence of refugees in themselves and in the group of fellow CAR participants.
- Empower the participants for their full integration in the immediate environment (neighbourhood) and at the environmental level (in the host city and country), being able to face any type of situation.
- Reduce prejudice and foster ties between refugees and the local community
- Improve the physical condition and mental health of the participants.

### **Activities**

- Conventional football, through training sessions and meetings with third teams
- Workshops and cooperative games based on soccer
- Special events such as the meeting between the CAR
- Skills development workshops
- Workshops to strengthen the employability process
- Workshops to promote the process of inter-cultural dialogue
- Course “Football and Leadership”
- Tutoring and mentoring →

- Classes to improve the Spanish language
- Intercultural coexistence activities
- Socio-cultural activities
- Psychological assistance

### **Results**

- Development of basic social skills and personal development.
- Increased sense of belonging to the neighbourhood community and a commitment and motivation to achieve goals in life.
- Improved physical and mental health: increased well-being, reduced anxiety, making participants feel happier and more motivated.
- Development of better values and integration: enhanced tolerance, integration, an open mind, respect and intercultural skills.

### **Top tips**

It is very interesting that girls can also be integrated into the football program and activities, coming from the local teams. This also helps normalise equal relations on the pitch, and in society. Many participants are not used to interacting with girls in a sports context, which is very useful to open their minds and get to know the host society better.

### **More**

Web site: <https://www.redeporte.org>  
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=A8B62fn7nLw&feature=youtu.be>

