



Risks to Children in Relation to Mega Sports Events

Based on the Sporting Chance White Paper 4.1 “Children’s Rights in the Sport Context” (2017), a literature review and consultations with more than 30 Partners and Stakeholders, the following were identified as risks specific to children in relation to mega sporting events.

The risks to children in relation to Mega Sporting Events (MSE) include, but are not limited to:

- Lack of understanding among key decision-makers of the risks for children specific to the MSE and other related events leading up to and surrounding the MSE
- Not taking views of children into account in decision making related to the MSE, which includes not having meaningful and inclusive consultations with children on matters that impact their lives in relation to the MSE
- Children and their families lack access to information (e.g. government informing a community about forthcoming changes) and accessible communication regarding the event (e.g. inclusive facilities)
- Various forms of discrimination based on age and the intersectionality with other identities (e.g. gender, disability, race/ethnicity, indigenous, immigration status, sexual orientation, religion, birth status, political/cultural affiliation, etc.), as event participants (athlete, volunteer (e.g. ball girl/boy, escort) spectator), workers or residents in the community where the MSE will be held
- Host city and/or municipality and partners do not fully align local laws, policies, and programmes with international law and standards on children's rights
- Violence against and among children (physical, emotional and sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, bullying which also includes cyberbullying, etc.) as athletes, volunteers, and spectators, community members, etc.
- Risk of children being lost or separated from their parents or caregiver at or around FIFA events and related activities
- Lack of safe sport, recreation, leisure, play and cultural spaces near the competition venue
- Lack of mechanisms for reporting violations against children and/or a lack of knowledge of how to report violations among children and their families
- Lack of knowledge among children on how to seek remedy and a process to obtain it
- Privacy for children when reporting violence and abuse or seeking remedy

- Event -related data is collected in a manner that violates children’s rights to privacy and protection
- Lack of access for individuals and families to competition-related activities, facilities, transportation, information and materials for example access to children with disabilities, other minority groups because of language, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status among others
- Lack of resources allocated to ensure the inclusion and equal opportunity for marginalized groups to access sport and recreation programmes, including but not limited to children with disabilities and girls
- Child labour involved in the construction of new venues, on the site of the competition and in the supply chain of goods and services used for the games (e.g. food industry, hotel industry, hospitality sector, agriculture sector, etc.)
- Impact of migrant worker exploitation on families and their children (for example inadequate pay and remittances, non-payment of wages that can lead to child labour to support family members left behind, family separation, lack of parental rights to travel back home in emergencies, etc.)
- The minimum age for volunteers and whether they are aware and have received training on how to protect themselves and report incidences of concern
- Children in volunteer positions without due safeguarding measures (e.g. ball girl/boy).
- Risk of children being trafficked with the influx of visitors to the city for the event and during the construction phase with the influx of migrant workers
- Mass-media, marketing/sponsorship, and advertising materials are not in the best interests of children and harmful to them
- Lack of availability of emergency services that are sensitive and responsive to the particular needs of children (e.g. child identification, the reunification of children with their parents or caregivers, availability of childcare until reunification, access to trauma counselling, etc.)

- Negative social-environmental impacts of the competition for children (this could relate to the actual event or it could relate to infrastructure development for the event)
- Displacement (including forced eviction/relocation) of children from their homes or communities in relation to FIFA events, including children in street situations, and the impact it has on the children (e.g. loss of housing, lack of access to basic services and play areas, disruption of education, loss of friendships, etc.)
- Security and safety risks (e.g. separation, kidnapping, access to illegal substances, etc.) linked to the MSE (e.g. street closures, large crowds, increase in traffic)

