



**FOOT
SOLIDAIRE**
Protection des jeunes joueurs

Which protection for minors in the 21st century football?

Jean Claude Mbvoumin

Play the Game 2015

Aarhus

Foot Solidaire Mission

- ▶ The protection of young African footballers, aspiring for a professional career in Europe or Asia
- ▶ Footsolidaire is an NGO founded in 2000 in France and now headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland with a representative in London

Why Foot Solidaire

The increasing migration of young African football players to Europe has magnified exploitation, notably:

The recruitment process by clubs & scouts

- ✓ The conditions of their stay during their trials at football clubs & academies e.g. visa and working permit duration
- ✓ Their schooling, coaching and development, etc;

15000 young players migrate every year from 0 West African countries

1,5 million others training in official and non official academies with a short-term migration project

Why Foot Solidaire

To fight against exploitation and abuse, Foot Solidaire wishes to:

- ▶ Highlight and speak-out against this exploitation
- ▶ Join hands with footballing bodies, institutions and governments to protect Africa's youth
- ▶ Educate actors at both ends of the 'football market'
- ▶ Establish 'best practices' for the scouting, recruitment and education of young African footballers
- ▶ Like in any labour market, need to protect young talent

Why is there a problem

- ▶ Economic outlook for young Africans is a pull factor
- ▶ Unscrupulous intermediaries, the quick buck
- ▶ Non-licensed FIFA Agents (Fake agents)
- ▶ Short duration working visa for players on trials
- ▶ No enforceable framework governing good practice
- ▶ Weak processes in Africa governing players' exit
- ▶ Lack of cooperation - FA's and Governments in host country

Why is there a problem

- ▶ No reward for good practice at «supply and demand level»
- ▶ No fall back net for failed trials
- ▶ No re-intergration path in non-football sectors
- ▶ Pride/dishonour pushes players to stay illegally in host country
- ▶ Children used as market commodities
- ▶ Human drama/Children abandoned in the streets in foreign countries/ Child Rights issues
- ▶ Wall of Silence

Why is there a problem: Trafficking through Football

- ✓ children are Recruited, Transported, Sold and Exploited by “fake” or unlicensed Agents for the purpose of becoming professional football player
- ✓ Non official football academies: breeding grounds for exploitation
- ✓ Payment of large sums of money: up to USD 10000
- ✓ Destination unknown
- ✓ Transported via roads. Boats
- ✓ Forged documents/tourist visa
- ✓ Operating in transit countries
- ✓ Discarded in the streets with nothing/no-one
- ✓ Forced in criminality to survive

The question

- Which protection for minors in 21st Century football?
- How can we reverse the trend?

What solutions?

- ✓ Face the problem and break the wall of silence
- ✓ Sport movement to comply with Child protection conventions (Calling for a Higher Regulation and Protections of Minors)
- ✓ Respect and Implement existing sport regulations
- ✓ Prevention Work at source
- ✓ Promote Best practices on scouting, recruitment, education...
- ✓ Strength cooperation between World sport, public authorities and civil society together

What solutions?

- ✓ Develop training in developing countries
- ✓ Good governance and Ethics in football/sport
- ✓ Establish a set of rules for good governance for both African and European/Asian academies training young Africans
- ✓ Federate international football institutions to our mission
- ✓ Gain firm support and commitment from FIFA
- ✓ Educate and communicate
- ✓ Fund and support programmes

Foot Solidaire Next steps

- ✓ Conference in Dakar (7-8 Dec.)
- ✓ Charity match in Dakar (June 4th 2016) with former professional players
- ✓ Opening of 2 Information centers (sept. 2016) - Dakar & Yaoundé

Thank you

www.footsolidaire.org

Email: contact@footsolidaire.org