

## Guidance: To know more on the topic

**Children Win** is part of the **Sport and Rights Alliance (SRA)**, a recently formed alliance that includes Terre des Hommes, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, FIFPro – World Players’ Union, Football Supporters Europe, Supporters Direct Europe and Transparency International Germany. The Alliance seeks to ensure that host countries of Mega Sporting Events respect human rights, the environment, and anti-corruption requirements at all stages of the process—from bidding through construction and preparations to host events as well as during events themselves.

**Children Win has identified a number of different violations that happen before, during or after Mega Sporting Events.** These include, but are not limited to:

- **Children’s rights:** child sexual exploitation, clearance of street children, child labour, neglect, displacement of children, etc.
- **Human rights:** police violence, human trafficking, police repression of protests, media freedom, etc.
- **Labour rights:** fundamental worker’s rights in the infrastructure preparation and in the supply chains for the production of sponsored merchandise, etc.
- **Environmental rights:** pollution of rivers, destruction of local vegetation, etc.
- **LGBT rights:** harassment, homophobia, systematic discrimination, etc.
- **Women’s rights:** domestic violence, representation of women in the media, etc.
- **Corruption:** corruption related to infra-structure constructions, etc.

These violations were identified in **past** Mega Sporting Events such as:

- FIFA World Cup™ in South Africa 2010
- Winter Olympics in Sochi 2014
- FIFA World Cup™ in Brazil 2014

... and **future** events:

- European Games in Baku 2015
- Summer Olympics in Rio 2016
- FIFA World Cup™ in Russia 2018
- Winter Olympics in Pyeong Chang 2018
- Summer Olympics in Tokyo 2020
- FIFA World Cup™ in Qatar 2022

Some examples of the **negative impacts** of Mega Sporting Events are:

- **Corruption:** Quite often it is corruption depriving children and their families from fundamental rights, increasing the costs for education, health services etc. That is why anti-corruption measures are important, too, in connection with MSE, starting with the bidding and awarding process.
- **Forced evictions around the FIFA World Cup™ in Brazil 2014 and Summer Olympics in Rio 2016:** around thousand homes were torn down and 12,275 people in 24 communities were forcibly moved to make way for the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ and 2016 Olympic facilities in Rio<sup>1</sup>.
- **Child labour around the Summer Olympics in Beijing 2008:** Evidence of children as young as 12 years old producing Olympic merchandise for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.
- **Police and military violence around the FIFA World Cup™ in Brazil 2014 and Summer Olympics in Rio 2016:** Military occupation since April 2014 in Mare, a complex of favelas which is home to 130,000 people.
- **Human rights violations around the European Games in Baku 2015:** At least 98 individuals detained by the regime amid a worsening crackdown on freedom of expression and freedom of assembly<sup>2</sup>.
- **Forced evictions and environment issues around the Winter Olympics in Sochi 2014:** The Russian government is resettling some 2,000 families to make way for Olympic venues and infrastructure. In several striking cases the government forcibly evicted families and demolished their homes without providing any compensation. Environmental experts and scientists have warned that the preparation for the Sochi Winter Olympics 2014 could have a profoundly negative impact on Sochi's unique environment<sup>3</sup>.
- **Mistreatment of low-paid migrant workers in preparation of FIFA World Cup™ in Qatar 2022:** Hundreds of thousands of mostly South Asian migrant construction workers in Qatar risk serious exploitation and abuse, sometimes amounting to forced labour<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Comitê Popular da Copa e Olimpíadas do Rio de Janeiro, "Megaeventos e Violações dos Direitos Humanos no Rio de Janeiro" (June 2014).

<sup>2</sup> European Stability Initiative (ESI), "The List – Political Prisoners in Azerbaijan" (August 2014).

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Russia's Olympic Abuses".

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Qatar: Migrant Construction Workers Face Abuse" (June 2012).