

## Fact Sheet: Effects of Mega Sporting Events on Rio's Children

Mega Sporting Events such as the FIFA World Cup or the Olympic Games may cause direct human rights violations related to the event or aggravate those already existing in the country.

Hosting both the FIFA World Cup and the Olympic Games, Rio de Janeiro has been deeply impacted by Mega Sporting Events. A [UNICEF \(2014\)](#) study, based on data from 190 countries, highlighted that globally in 2012 Brazil had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest rate of child homicide, especially among young males, aged 10-19. Yet, statistical data from the National Dial 100 hotline suggests that the number of reported violations against children increased by 17% in the 12 host cities during the month of the FIFA World Cup compared to the same month in 2013 (National Secretariat for Human Rights of the Federal Government, 2014).

Taking as a baseline the research '[Let's Win This Game Together](#)', Terre des Hommes has contributed to the fourth 'Mega-Events and Human Rights Violations in Rio de Janeiro Dossier' with the chapter on 'Children and Adolescents' in collaboration with the University of Dundee. Two main key violations of children's rights in Brazil were identified:

- **Evictions**

Many disadvantaged communities in Brazil have been forcibly removed to clear space for large infrastructure projects connected to Mega Sporting Events. In Rio, at least 4,120 families have already been evicted from their homes and 2,486 are still threatened with forced removals to make way for projects directly or indirectly associated with the Olympic Games. Due to these evictions many children are no longer able to go to school, they could become victims of exploitation, child labour and sexual violence. They lose access to education, health and other vital social services.

- **Police and army violence**

The 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games have both greatly aggravated the level of police and army violence in Rio de Janeiro. Violence against homeless children and adolescents, during protests and evictions, and in favelas - particularly by the "UPPs (Brazil's Military Police Force)" - was reported. These "security measures", especially in the so-called "pacification operations" have caused many casualties and human rights violations. Children and adolescents have shown signs of psychological and emotional distress due to these traumatic experiences.

Terre des Hommes is calling for an end of this violence and for the rights of children and families to be fully respected before, during and after the Rio Olympics in 2016.

The effects of police and army violence as well as forced removals in the lives of children and adolescents of Rio de Janeiro were portrayed in a series of films produced by Terre des Hommes. Because of the FIFA World Cup, the house of 14 year-old Felipe was destroyed to make way for a parking lot which was never built [["The Parking Lot"](#)]. Gabriel, 13, reports on the police violence he suffered linked to the Mega Sporting Event in his city. In the video '*A Bala*' [["The Bullet"](#)], he talks about the day when he was hit by a bullet while playing marbles. The feature film '*A Lutadora*' [["The Fighter"](#)] tells the story of Naomy, a 12 year-old girl living in Vila Autódromo who sees everything she loves being destroyed by constructions for the Olympic Games. Up to now, 204 out of the 583 families who lived in the community of Vila Autódromo were transferred to Parque Carioca complex.

The Olympic Games should not harm the local population and its children at any time. Although host states bear the responsibility for the abuses that occur in their countries, sport-governing bodies, such as FIFA or IOC, also have the responsibility to respect and assure human rights.

It is time that the IOC lives up to its own values enshrined in the Olympic Charter.

**Let's stop the violations related to the 2016 Olympic Games #Olympics4People**



Terre des Hommes has collected these facts through the Children Win campaign ([www.childrenwin.org](http://www.childrenwin.org)) launched in 2014 to ensure that leading sports bodies mitigate risks and enhance opportunities of Mega Sporting Events on children, both direct and indirect.

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