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# **Children's Rights & Mega Sporting Events: Opportunities and Risks**

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# Children's Rights and Mega Sporting Events: an evidence based review of selected intersecting themes

- Research commissioned by Terre des Hommes International Federation to support the 'Children Win' initiative
- Covered six thematic areas:
  - Labour rights
  - LGBT rights
  - Women's rights
  - The environment
  - Housing rights
  - Security issues
- Process: rapid evidence review and interviews with informed stakeholders
- Outcome: Final report incorporating six stand-alone briefing papers

# Children

- Among the “most marginalised and vulnerable” members of society and frequently excluded from decision-making processes (UNICEF *et al*, 2012: 2)
- Low levels of awareness concerning specific needs and interests
- Frequently overlooked in planning processes
- Rights advocates recommend child-centred or child-informed focus as routine practice in policy development
- Lack of adequate leadership on children’s rights in political contexts

# Sport Mega Events

- Recognised use as a policy tool for economic, social, political and cultural purposes
- Contextual nature of impacts and outcomes
- Pre-event / economic focus over post-event / social dimensions
- Knowledge base concerning social impacts is has yet to develop critical mass around children's rights and interests

# Findings – common across the themes

- MSEs present risks AND opportunities to children's rights and interests
- These risks and opportunities are present across the event life cycle (bid, preparation, delivery and legacy) and may occur simultaneously
- Impact can occur at three distinct, but interrelated and overlapping levels:
  - The individual (direct)
  - The family (indirect)
  - The broader community (indirect)
- The scale, nature and consequences of risks and opportunities for children are not well understood

# Thematic Findings - some examples

- Children left behind by migrant workers are at risk of physical and psychological harm and MSEs may exacerbate this
- MSEs could help extend understanding of child protection to include the creation and maintenance of non-discriminatory social environments
- Risks concerning sexual exploitation may be higher in the pre-event period

# Thematic Findings – some examples

- Environmental processes introduced for MSEs can improve a child's quality of life
- Forced evictions may cause long-term trauma to children of affected communities
- The increased policing and surveillance that accompanies MSEs can exacerbate the exclusion and injustice experienced by children, particularly those at risk

# Overarching Recommendation

- A pro-child framework embedded within the human rights requirements established for MSE hosting opportunities
  - United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
  - Business Principles
  - Lessons learned – UNICEF & Glasgow 2014



# Any questions?

Further information

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