



PRESS RELEASE

30th November 2010

A Ball Can Change the World: 64 Teams Announced For Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup

- **70% of the players at the Homeless World Cup experienced a significant life change**
- **Homeless World Cup supports and works with grass roots projects in over 70 nations, involving over 50,000 people globally**
- **International football personalities Arsène Wenger, Eric Cantona, Didier Drogba, Rio Ferdinand and UEFA President Michel Platini pledge support**

From 21-28 August 2011, France and the City of Paris will host 64 teams – 48 teams in the Homeless World Cup and 16 all women's teams, uniting together at the 9th Homeless World Cup. Over 500 players will unite on the Champs-de-Mars, in the shadow of the Eiffel tower, for the week long tournament which uses football to energise homeless people into changing their own lives.

The 64 teams will represent homeless competitors from 53 nations all over the world. Teams heading to Paris include last year's winners Brazil, India, Kenya, France, Cambodia and Indonesia, who will be attending the event for the first time. During the tournament, the players will be demonstrating their football skills in front of an estimated 50,000 strong crowd on specially designed pitches at one of France's most iconic landmarks.

The Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup is supported nationally by Collectif 'Remise en Jeu', and Arsène Wenger, Manager of Arsenal Football Club, who is President of the Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup Local Organising Committee. He joins former international professional footballers Emmanuel Petit and Lilian Thuram, as ambassadors of the Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup.

Mel Young, Founder and President of the Homeless World Cup, is expecting an unprecedented level of interest in this year's tournament. He said:

"Due to the increasing impact of this global event we have received more applications than ever before from nations wishing to appear at the Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup. This is a phenomenal opportunity for France and the City of Paris to unite and show the world the true power that football has to change lives.

"The Homeless World Cup exists to end homelessness. The impact of this competition is profound. It has engaged over 100,000 homeless people since it started and over 70% of participants have changed their lives for the better. The Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup is an opportunity for homeless people to move from being invisible to stand proud on a global stage, and be the true ambassadors for their country that they are."

The Homeless World Cup is pioneering a radical level of change not seen before. 73% of players changed their lives for the better by coming off drugs and alcohol, moving into jobs, education, homes, training, reuniting with families and even going on to become players and coaches and set up social enterprises enabling other homeless people to change their situation.

Arsène Wenger, President of the Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup Local Organising Committee said: "What is important for a guy who is homeless is to give him a target again in life, for him to know that when he gets up he has training. He takes a shower, has lunch and knows that he has training again the next morning. It gives him something to think about, it gets discipline into his life again. When you lose that discipline, it becomes one of the big problems for young people. They cannot find a job because they are not shaved, not showered. Everybody rejects them, they feel on the outside, excluded."

Global Support for Paris

The Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup supporters include UEFA, United Nations, Nike, and Global Ambassador Eric Cantona and international footballers Didier Drogba, and Rio Ferdinand.

UEFA President, Michel Platini, explains why UEFA is involved with the Homeless World Cup and why more people need to be involved said:

"UEFA have partnered the Homeless World Cup since its first edition in Graz, Austria in 2003. We share its vision of helping homeless people through football. UEFA not only cares about football, UEFA cares about ending homelessness."

Patrick Mbue, from France is one of four Global Ambassadors for the Homeless World Cup. Patrick arrived in France from Rwanda. He found himself in a strange country, without a work permit, and unable to earn an income he became homeless. Patrick is now a coach with top French football club and 8 times French Cup Winners Paris St Germain.

Patrick joined the football team at the homeless organisation Collectif 'Remise en Jeu' where his talent was clear and his team spirit was noted. He was soon selected to play for France at the Copenhagen 2007 Homeless World Cup. Committed to Collectif 'Remise en Jeu' and supporting people on the margins of society he went on to become the coach for the French national Homeless World Cup team and led them to the Melbourne 2008 and Milan 2009 tournaments. He is also the secretary of the organisation and a member of Local Organizing Committee for the Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup.

Patrick said: "My participation in the Homeless World Cup brought about a profound personal change. It allowed me to regain my self-respect to take important steps in my life and I was also able to regain a high standard of play in my game."

ENDS

For more information, interviews with players and ambassadors or images please contact:

Raemond Charles, Head of Global PR, Homeless World Cup: +44 (0) 131 652 8197 | 07554 998544 or raemond@homelessworldcup.org

Eva Vicens, Press Officer, Homeless World Cup: +44 (0) 131 652 8190 | eva@homelessworldcup.org

Notes to Editors:**Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup Teams (48)**

Argentina	Austria	Australia	Belgium
Brazil	Cambodia	Canada	Chile
Costa Rica	Croatia	Czech Republic	Denmark
England	Finland	France	Germany
Ghana	Greece	Hong Kong	Hungary
India	Indonesia	Ireland	Italy
Japan	Kenya	Kyrgyzstan	Lithuania
Mexico	Namibia	Netherlands	Nigeria
Norway	Palestine	Philippines	Poland
Portugal	Romania	Russia	Scotland
Slovenia	South Africa	South Korea	Spain
Sweden	Switzerland	Ukraine	USA

Paris 2011 Women's Homeless World Cup Teams (16)

Argentina	Brazil	Canada	Colombia
France	Haiti	India	Kenya
Malawi	Mexico	Netherlands	Norway
Paraguay	Scotland	Uganda	USA

Homeless World Cup (www.homelessworldcup.org). Beating homelessness through football, the Homeless World Cup is an annual world class, international football tournament inspiring 64 national grass roots football projects and over 40,000 homeless players a year to change their lives: over 70% change for the better. The 9th Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup takes place from 21 – 28 August 2011 at Champs de Mars, Paris, France, before the baton is handed to the Mexico 2012 Homeless World Cup. Homeless World Cup is supported by UEFA, Nike, and global ambassador Eric Cantona, international footballers Didier Drogba and Rio Ferdinand.