

SPORT DIPLOMACY ON A HIGHER LEVEL



Title: IOC Refugee Olympic Team – A message of hope and solidarity

Country: Global

SHORT DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

¹Building on the success of Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020, the IOC decided in March 2021 that there will be an IOC Refugee Olympic Team Paris 2024 and Dakar 2026.

At the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in October 2015, confronted with the global refugee crisis that has seen millions of people in the world displaced, IOC President Thomas Bach announced the creation of the Refugee Olympic Team – the first of its kind – to take part in the Olympic Games Rio 2016.

“The IOC Refugee Olympic Team sends a great signal about what an enrichment refugees are for our Olympic community and for society at large. Watching them compete is a great moment for all of us, and we hope everyone will join. The athletes are welcome in our Olympic community, among their fellow athletes – competing with them, but also living with them together under one roof.”
Thomas Bach IOC President

Ten months on from the announcement, 10 athletes, who originally hailed from Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, were competing alongside 11,000 fellow athletes in Brazil, sending a

¹ <https://olympics.com/ioc/refugee-olympic-team>

message of hope and inclusion to millions of forcibly displaced people around the world and inspiring the world with the strength of their human spirit. In October 2018, the IOC Session decided that there would be an IOC Refugee Olympic Team for Tokyo 2020. Through “Olympic Scholarships for Refugee Athletes”, a dedicated programme created after Rio, Olympic Solidarity supported 56 promising refugee athletes from 13 countries. The IOC Refugee Olympic Team participated in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, with 29 athletes competing in 12 sports. Strengthening the support provided to refugees and populations affected by displacement continues to be a priority for the IOC and forms part of Recommendation 11 of Olympic Agenda 2020+5, the new strategic roadmap of the IOC and the Olympic Movement through to 2025. To achieve this, not only will there be an IOC Refugee Olympic Team at the Olympic Games Paris 2024 and the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026, but increased access to sport for displaced young people is being ensured 365 days a year through the work of the Olympic Refugee Foundation.

FURTHER READING

<https://www.iris-france.org/164716-the-power-of-recognition-the-story-of-the-refugee-olympic-team/>

