

# DARFUR UNITED SOCCER ACADEMY A MOVEMENT FOR HOPE



Darfur United Soccer Academy received Beyond Sport's 2014 Sport for Social Inclusion award.



## THE ACADEMY

Since 2003, approximately 300,000 Darfuri refugees have been living in twelve camps in eastern Chad. They continue to experience trauma and loss, with a generation of children born into an environment of little hope. Building on the need for programs that address trauma and promote education, peace-building and social integration, i-ACT began working with the Darfuri refugee community to develop and implement the Darfur United Soccer Academy (DUSA) for children and youth.



Using the power of soccer, the Darfur United Soccer Academy offers refugee children a safe place to play, move, heal, and be empowered. Through DUSA, men and women Coaches become leaders in their community, children ages 6 to 13 have a safe place to gather and participate in a healthy and enriching activity, and youth further develop their skills and chance of joining the Darfur United mens and womens teams.

Expert coaches from the U.S. and Europe travel to the camps to recruit and train the refugee coaches. This forms cross-cultural relationships, awareness, introduces new communities abroad to the Darfuri refugee crises and allows the refugees to feel connected and less isolated.

## IMPACT



"When I feel alone, I go to the Academy and make friends and see my friends."

Based on interviews with participating children, DUSA is the first structured sport activity they've been a part of, and the first time girls have been given the opportunity to play soccer with their peers. Because of DUSA, children now interact and meet children from other camp "zones," and parents feel that their children have a safe and enriching after school activity.



Darfur United Soccer Academy is a project of i-ACT. i-ACT seeks to empower individuals within communities, institutions, & governments to take personal responsibility to act on behalf of those affected by genocide, mass atrocities, and crimes against humanity.

