



UGANDA 2025

EVALUATION REPORT



Report date: December 2025

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FOREWORD

Dear reader,

In October 2025, we celebrated the graduation of 45 Young Coaches in Uganda, marking the conclusion of our Young Coach Education.

When we began our assessment visits earlier this year, it was clear that opportunities for sport-based activities for young children – particularly girls – were extremely limited. Recognising the vital role that sport can play in children's protection, wellbeing, and development, we set out to change this.

Today, all Young Coaches who completed the education are delivering weekly activities in their communities, with many doing so twice a week. Although the enrolment of female Young Coaches remained a challenge, it is encouraging to see an increase in the number of Young Coaches offering inclusive activities for both boys and girls, as well as children with disabilities. In the report, Agnes, a Young Coach, reflects on the importance of female role models and how the education can help girls believe in themselves.

The pages ahead also highlight how the education strengthened the Young Coaches' confidence and enhanced the structure of their sessions – helping them

combine football with educational messages. Importantly, the education also strengthened their knowledge of child protection and gender-based violence prevention, with almost all Young Coaches reporting increased confidence in identifying risks and knowing how to respond when a child needs protection. In a context where formal protection services are overstretched, these Young Coaches now play a vital role in creating safe spaces for children to play, learn, and help process trauma associated with displacement.

Overall, Young Coaches demonstrated good coaching skills and felt prepared not only to act as role models for children but also to lead others. By the end of the education, they had trained more than 100 additional young people in their communities, extending the reach of the education to over 4,000 children.

Thank you to all partners who made this possible!



Lea Hinnen
Project Manager
Scort Foundation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2025

45 YOUNG COACHES



completed the education and received a certificate in October 2025.



100



PEER YOUNG COACHES

have been trained by Young Coaches in 2025.



>4,200



CHILDREN & YOUTH

benefitted from sport-based activities led by Young Coaches and their peers in 2025.



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BACKGROUND

Project description: Uganda hosts more than 1.8 million refugees – over 50% children. While refugees live alongside host communities and have access to many services, there are few structured sport activities and positive role models for children that can support their development in an informal setting.

The project provided a free coaching and life skills education to young adults (84% refugees from South Sudan; 22% female) from refugee and host communities in Rhino Camp and Imvepi refugee settlements in northern Uganda. These coaches learnt how to create safe and inclusive spaces for children to learn, grow, and interact.

Project timeline: June to October 2025

Partners: Scort, FCSA, Global Rehabilitation and Transformation Response, Hope Foundation, UNHCR Uganda, Fondation Botnar

KEY OUTCOMES

Improved coaching: All Young Coaches became more confident in coaching children, planning sessions, and delivering both football and educational-based activities.

Strengthened protection: Young Coaches improved their understanding of Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence and are better able to identify and respond to protection concerns.

Strengthened Inclusion: Young Coaches enhanced their ability to adapt activities to the needs and abilities of children as well as the situation, helping ensure that every child can participate.

Improved leadership: Young Coaches strengthened their positions as role models for children and became more confident in leading others, resulting in 100 peers benefiting from the education.

Young Coaches' current activities

89%

of Young Coaches are **currently delivering activities** with children at least **twice a week**.

100%

have **trained Peer Young Coaches** to deliver activities for children.

65%

have **improved their knowledge** of Child Protection.*

100%

incorporate **educational messages** into their activities.

96%

deliver inclusive activities for **boys & girls**.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Uganda is home to almost 1 million refugee children – many of whom have fled violence, natural disasters and insecurity in neighbouring countries. Despite Uganda's openness to provide safe refuge for many, recent global aid cuts have severely affected child protection, education, health, and social services. This is already having a devastating effect on many lives.

Additionally, there are limited safe spaces for structured play, led by positive adult role models: Following an assessment in February 2025, it was evident that existing activities are often designed for older youth, leaving younger children – particularly girls – without inclusive opportunities to learn, play, and help process trauma associated with displacement.

Recognising a need for trained coaches to facilitate safe and educational spaces for children, a Young Coach Education was delivered in 2025 (see Fig. 1).

Figure 1: Project Timeline



*The FCSA is a network of 6 professional European football clubs (FC Basel 1893, SV Werder Bremen, Bayer 04 Leverkusen, FK Austria Wien, FC Schalke 04, 1. FSV Mainz 05) that team up for social change.

PROJECT AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The project put an emphasis on protection outcomes and aimed to equip 48 young adults with the knowledge and skills to deliver safe and structured football and educational-based activities for children from refugee and host communities. Key project outcomes included:

1. Improved coaching skills
2. Strengthened protection
3. Strengthened Inclusion
4. Improved leadership skills

The education was comprised of 3 modules – 2 in-person and 1 hybrid module involving online and in-person learning days (see Fig. 1). The project was funded by Fondation Botnar, Scort, and the FCSA*, with in-kind contributions of local partners Global Rehabilitation and Transformation Response, Hope Foundation, UNHCR Uganda and its various protection partners on the ground.





EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

YOUNG COACH EDUCATION

The project combined three core pillars – coaching, leadership, and life & soft skills (Fig. 2). At the end of the education, 45 of 48 Young Coaches completed the education. Three YCs dropped out of the final module due to work, security and health reasons.

The majority (91%) of Young Coaches reported that their expectations had been met – with over half (53%) indicating that the education had exceeded their expectations. The education was deemed to offer a good balance between practical and classroom sessions. Furthermore, the hybrid nature of module 2 was well received by Young Coaches.

Figure 2: Content overview (nb. Not every workshop is shown)

| 1 st Pillar COACHING SKILLS | 2 nd Pillar LEADERSHIP SKILLS | 3 rd Pillar LIFE & SOFT SKILLS |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warm-up & Fun Games• Football Techniques• Small-Sided Games• Structuring activities (incl. trainings & events)• How to adapt activities• Football for persons with disabilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Goal Setting• Role Model & Responsibilities• Mentoring• Impact of a Coach• Peer Education• Video analysis | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educational Games• First Aid Training• Child Protection• MHPSS• Gender-Based Violence & Prevention of Sexual Exploitation• Peaceful Co-existence & Conflict Resolution |
| FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT | | DEVELOPMENT THROUGH FOOTBALL |

The following captures the topics Young Coaches rated as most important for each module:

Module 1 (in-person):

- Goal Setting
- Grassroots Football
- Role Model & Responsibilities

Module 2 (Hybrid: Online / In-person):

- Educational Games
- Inclusion of Children with Disabilities
- Adapting activities

Module 3 (in-person):

- Adapting activities to needs/situations
- Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Creating Educational Games

KEY OUTCOME: COACHING

IMPROVED COACHING

A key goal of the education was to establish sport and educational activities for children aged 6-12 in two refugee settlements in northern Uganda.

Importantly, by the end of the education, all Young Coaches (YCs) were delivering weekly activities with children – up by 13% since the start of the education. Notably, 89% of the YCs are delivering activities more than twice a week.

YCs consistently reported a shift in how they plan and deliver sessions, moving from mainly football exercises to well-structured activities that combine fun, learning, and protection focused topics. The majority (93%) noted that they had learnt new games and exercises and could better structure activities with warm-ups, main parts (specific exercises), and games.

As alluded to above, learning extended beyond the football-specific skills. All YCs indicated an improvement in teaching educational games through sport – a 46% increase since the start of the education. YCs reported teaching children about safe and unsafe spaces, health and hygiene, and prevention of drug and substance abuse. Many also

introduced key life skills such as problem-solving, communication, respect and teamwork. Others incorporated basic academic learning (e.g., colours and maths), and environmental awareness.

All YCs became more confident in coaching children as a result of the education, with many linking this directly to an improved ability to adapt activities to children's needs and abilities.

This confidence was evident on the pitch. During the practical activities with children, FCSA instructors observed that YCs could select appropriate exercises, were able to effectively use materials, and communicate and interact well with children. By the end of the education, 84% of Young Coaches were assessed by the instructors as having excellent or good coaching skills, with the remaining 16% still performing at a satisfactory level.

Did you know?

100% of the certified Young Coaches are now better able to plan training sessions with children.



Young Coaches' feedback at the end of the education*

100%
are **more confident**
coaching children.

100%
are better able to
teach educational
games through sport

84%
were observed by
FCSA instructors to
have **excellent or**
good coaching skills.



Young Coaches' current activities*

96%

are **more confident** in identifying protection risks children face.

65%

Improved their **knowledge of Child Protection**.

93%

are better able to **apply First Aid** when a child gets injured.

*Data is reflective of 43 certified YCs

KEY OUTCOME: PROTECTION

STRENGTHENED PROTECTION

Young Coaches (YCs) are informal leaders in their communities who have close contact with children. As a result, they have a key role to play in protection. Workshops on Child Protection, prevention of Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse aimed to increase YCs' awareness of the protection risks faced by children, while also equipping them with the skills and knowledge to help create safe spaces on and off the pitch.

By the end of the education, 95% of participants reported increased confidence in identifying protection risks, and 100% indicated they now know what action to take when a child requires protection. This is vitally important, as YCs play a central role in creating safe spaces for children in their communities. Local partners noted that reductions in humanitarian funding have placed additional pressure on child protection services, with existing staff struggling to meet the volume of cases. In this context, equipping coaches with the knowledge to recognise and respond appropriately to protection concerns can help strengthen community-based support mechanisms.

Pre- and post-tests were conducted at the start and end of the education to measure knowledge change. These covered conceptual definitions, categories of abuse, preventive measures, and appropriate reporting and referral procedures. Results show that 65% of YCs increased their Child Protection knowledge, and 51% strengthened their understanding of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention - with an additional 19% already scoring full marks in both GBV assessments, leaving no available room for further improvement.

To further support the creation of safe spaces, all YCs also completed a First Aid training and received a small first aid kit to help them respond to injuries during their activities. At the end of the education, 93% of YCs noted that they were better prepared to apply First Aid when a child gets injured.

Did you know?

100% of Young Coaches now know what action to take to protect children.

KEY OUTCOME: INCLUSION

STRENGTHENED INCLUSION

A key focus of the education was to promote regular and inclusive activities for all children, irrespective of gender, ability, language or nationality.

Female participation

During the assessment visit, female participation was noted as a particular challenge. This was reflected in the application process, where, despite putting an emphasis on female participation, females represented only 22% of enrolled Young Coaches (YCs), considerably below the 50% target that is often set for projects.

Despite the low number of female YCs, it was encouraging to see that by the end of the education most activities were being offered to both boys and girls, representing an 18% increase since the start. Whilst boys form the majority of the participants attending the activities, it is positive to see a shift in the number of coaches providing inclusive activities.

Refugee and host communities

In Uganda, refugees and host community members live side-by-side each other. Prior to the project start, an application process ensured that YCs from across all zones in Rhino Camp and Imvepi were represented in the final selection. Refugees from South Sudan represented

84% of the selected YCs, the remaining 16% were Ugandans from the host community. Given the diversity of the settlements, it is not surprising to see that many (78%) of YCs' activities include both refugee and host community members together, a further 18% are offered to refugees only, and 4% to just host community members.

Disability inclusion

The vast majority (98%) of YCs consider themselves better able to adapt activities for children with different abilities, including those with disabilities. Notably, by the end of the education, 84% reported already working with children with disabilities – up from 49% at the beginning of the education – with a further 11% planning to in the future.

While the level of representation across gender, ability, and nationality requires further exploration, it is encouraging that the majority of the activities are being offered in an inclusive manner.

Did you know?

Adapting activities to different participant needs and situations was cited as one of the most important learnings of the education.



Young Coaches' feedback at the end of the education*

96% ♀ ♂

deliver inclusive
sport-based activities
for **boys & girls***

78% ⚡

include **refugee AND host community children** in their activities.*

95% 🧠

include or plan to
include **children with disabilities** in their activities*

*Data is reflective of 43 certified YCs



Young Coaches' feedback at the end of the education*

100% 

feel better equipped
to be **role models** for
children

95% 

feel more **confident**
leading other coaches
or peers.

87% 

are better able to
organise football /
sports festivals for
large groups of
children (e.g. 100+)

*Data is reflective of 45 certified YCs

KEY OUTCOME: LEADERSHIP

IMPROVED LEADERSHIP

Strengthened leadership is a key outcome of the education. The education aimed to enhance Young Coaches' (YCs) leadership both in how they lead activities for children and how they interact with peers and the wider community.

Many YCs highlighted goal setting as an important element of the first module. It strengthened their leadership by encouraging them to define a clear sense of direction and understand how to achieve their goals.

When working with children, 100% of YCs reported feeling better equipped to be role models for children by the end of the education. This is especially important in contexts where children may have limited access to positive role models who can guide them on and off the pitch.

Furthermore, leadership was also reflected in the YCs' ability to organise large events. 87% of YCs indicated that they are now better able to organise football and sports festivals for large groups of children. Their direct involvement in planning and delivering four events with 100+ children during the education likely contributed to this increased confidence.

Putting an emphasis on strengthened leadership skills is also vital for the long-term sustainability of activities. While the education directly builds the coaching and leadership capacity of 45 YCs, sustainable structures are needed to ensure activities continue and grow.

YCs not only learnt how to adapt activities with limited resources, but also how to pass on their coaching knowledge to other young adults in their communities. By the end of the education, 95% felt more confident leading other coaches or peers, and 100% had already trained at least one additional person to deliver activities with children. This peer-to-peer approach expands the reach of activities and supports the continuity even in the absence of the originally trained YC.

Did you know?

Collectively, the Young Coaches have already trained 100 additional peers to be coaches in their communities.

TESTIMONIALS

FEMALE ROLE MODELS



"Through this programme, I learnt that girls can do everything that boys do: they can play, they can train, they can lead. It is very important to have female role models in our communities so that young girls look up to them and feel inspired. When they see women like us who are active in sport, they start to believe that they also belong and that their dreams count."

Agnes, Young Coach

WIDER ROLE OF FOOTBALL

"[Before this training], I didn't know that football can involve singing, football can involve educational games, where people can learn... I didn't know that. But through this training, I am able to acquire these skills, and these are the skills that I am really going to use to support the refugee children in our settlement."

Remo, Young Coach



MENTORING OTHERS

"...The zone I live has 7 villages and I am the only one that was picked [for this education]. So, it's going to be challenging but I have to go back and can mentor more coaches to see how we can move forward. If I am alone, I cannot manage 150 children alone, so I need to bring more in to see how we can work as a team."

Aloro, Young Coach



IMPROVED COACHING SKILLS

"I have learnt more coaching skills. For example, including fun and educational games in my training sessions. I used not to include such games in my training... The other thing I learnt is the aspect of inclusion. For example, building a team that includes every child irrespective of sex, gender or even the physical ability or inability. This aspect had been missing in my previous coaching activities."

Thomas, Young Coach



PROJECT PARTNERS



MAIN PROJECT PARTNERS:

- [Football Club Social Alliance](#)
- [Fondation Botnar](#)
- [Global Rehabilitation and Transformation Response](#)
- [Hope Foundation](#)
- [UNHCR Uganda](#)



“... with this training we can enable young people to mobilise children and create a safe environment for them through these structured sports offers. This provides a basis for further child protection measures within their communities to prevent risks such as sexualised violence.”
Tonny Kasiita, UNHCR Uganda

“For us, it's very important that the Young Coaches offer football for everyone. Every person, with or without a disability, who wants to play football should be able to take part. That is our social task. It's not about winning, but about community, fun and inclusion.”
Willy Schmid, Instructor FC Basel 1893



“I have already clearly experienced the impact of the programme. It has had a major impact on the Young Coaches: Some have already been given the opportunity to offer training in other settlements. For the children, the programme promotes peaceful coexistence, increases girls' participation in sports and reduces conflicts between the different ethnic groups.”
Stella Adongo, Hope Foundation



PR & COMMUNICATION

MEDIA COVERAGE

Articles about the Young Coach Education were published on the Scort website and social media channels.

The project also received coverage on the websites of the FCSA clubs, as well as on the social media channels of the local partners.

Website

<https://scort.org/en/project/uganda-2025/>

Facebook

Module 1: [Post 1](#) / [Post 2](#) / [Post 3](#) / [Post 4](#)

Module 2: [Post 1](#) / [Post 2](#) / [Post 3](#)

Module 3: [Post 1](#) / [Post 2](#) / [Post 3](#) / [Post 4](#)

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/football.alliance>

LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/scort-foundation>

Did you know?

You can visit the Scort website to read more about the project, including stories from Young Coaches



| Date | Publications & reports (updated 18.11.2025) |
|------------|---|
| 18/11/2025 | FC Basel 1893 - Erfolgreicher Abschluss Der Young Coach-Ausbildung In Uganda |
| 04/11/2025 | SV Werder Bremen - Abschluss der Young Coach Ausbildung in Uganda |
| 31/10/2025 | Bayer 04 Leverkusen - FCSA: Ausbildung von knapp 50 neuen Young Coaches im Norden Ugandas |
| 20/10/2025 | SV Werder Bremen - Young-Coach-Ausbildung In Uganda |
| 24/07/2025 | FK Austria Wien - Austria Wien bildet Trainer:innen in Uganda aus |
| 14/07/2025 | Bayer 04 Leverkusen - FCSA: Ausbildung von 48 neuen Young Coaches im Norden Ugandas |
| 07/07/2025 | SV Werder Bremen - Werder Unterstützt Erneut Young-Coach-Ausbildung |