

# REAL CHANGE IN BRAZIL

Since 2013, we have had a Brazil office based in Rio de Janeiro to provide a platform for street children ahead of the world's two biggest sporting events: the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Rio Olympics.

The office has also been committed to the national campaign, "Children are not from the streets", which is currently advising the Brazilian Government on its first policy for children at risk of the streets. The national campaign is run by our partner project, O Pequeno Nazareno, in Fortaleza. In Rio, we support the Ibiss-Favela Street football programme, which works with young people living in areas of social exclusion, and AMAR – a local street-child organisation that provides shelter, education, healthcare and psychological support to children living on the streets.



## STREET CHILD GAMES 2016

Ahead of the Rio Olympics, we will host the Street Child Games. Our Olympic-inspired event for street children will provide a unique platform for them to make their voices heard as the world's attention returns to Rio de

Janeiro – and at a time when we know street children are particularly vulnerable.

From the streets to the starting blocks, in March 2016, 100 former street children from 20 countries will come together in Rio to take part in the Games of their lives, as they represent their countries and the millions of children surviving on the streets today. Our Games will take place amid the spectacular natural setting of Guanabara Bay and Sugarloaf Mountain, and the rock upon which Rio was founded 450 years ago.

Alongside the sports, a festival of arts will offer the children taking part the chance to express themselves through music, dance, art and more – free from language barriers. Central to our event will be a Street Child Congress, modeled on the United Nations, where the children will be able to discuss the issues that matter to them. The Congress will empower the children who attend as delegates for their countries to demand their rights as children.

These young ambassadors are living proof that when street children are given protection, support and opportunities – the universal human rights they are often denied – they can realise their full potential. The Street Child Games will inspire the world to support the rights of all children. Our plans are gathering pace and we are actively seeking partners and supporters to join us.



Photograph: Claudianne on Ipanema beach in Rio. Bart Van Bambost

**"Since the Street Child World Cup, I have been offered opportunities that, unfortunately, not many girls of my background receive"**

Claudianne Santos, captain Brazil's Favela St Girls, Street Child World Cup Rio 2014

## A LIFE TRANSFORMED: CLAUDIANNE'S STORY

Claudianne Santos was the captain of the winning Team Brazil's Favela Street Girls. Here, she shares her story and dreams for the future

When Philip Veldhuis invited me to take part in Favela Street in Complexo da Penha, I did not know it would change my life. I have always enjoyed football and soon after I started practicing, Philip not only asked me to be the captain of his team but he invited me to lead the team at the Street Child World Cup. I didn't know then that taking part would be much more than a game.

I created a strong friendship bond with my teammates. We were very motivated. The SCWC was a dream and

it brought me brothers and sisters from all over the world. There are no words to express my gratitude, it was wonderful! Being the captain was not easy. I had to get used to the responsibility of being the role model to younger girls in the project and the leader to my teammates. I could not have done it without the support of the girls in the team.

Our team lifted the trophy of an international tournament, but we're all champions! Not just our team but all 230 children who experienced the magic of SCWC. Since then, I can proudly say: "I am Somebody."

Many things have changed in my life since the SCWC. Apart from being respected in my community for our team's victory, I have been offered opportunities that unfortunately not very many girls of my age and background can be proud to receive.

During the FIFA World Cup we had a beach training session with former soccer stars Fabio Cannavaro and Patrick Vieira – they are World Cup winners just like me.

I even got to attend the World Cup final at the Maracanã – I never dreamed I would have this opportunity. The girls from Favela Street and I led a discussion at the Street Football World exhibition during the FIFA World Cup talking about "our" world cup and our team. We then took part in a model UN event in Rio. I am studying English and have been invited to take part in a two-month programme in America, where I will live with a host family, attend school and do extra-curricular activities, including football. This is part of the Global Girl Project and their partnership with Favela Street.

Philip, our coach, has always been there for us and I am very grateful that Philip, Favela Street and Street Child World Cup are in my life. I believe my future can be brilliant if I have dedication and faith so I will improve my English and want to attend college soon. I am solely responsible for my future and will always be willing to help people – like Philip helped me. My team is like a family to me. We care, support and respect each other.