

UEFA's partnership with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) UEFA has a partnership with the ICRC since 1997, to provide support to victims of war. Since 2002, the new powerful partnership theme is focused on Children in War. For UEFA, to develop the concepts of fair play, solidarity and team spirit among youth is essential in order to maintain the spirit of football. For the ICRC, there are basic humanitarian principles which should be respected in order to protect youth and children, who are among the most vulnerable in times of war.

To date UEFA has contributed a total of CHF 5.1 million in support of ICRC humanitarian activities.

The Meridian Football Cup 2003: dedicated to ICRC

As the relation between UEFA and ICRC grows, so do new platforms of partnership. The Meridian Cup is one such example: for the first time, a UEFA football event is dedicated to a charity.

## UEFA rejoins ICRC's awareness campaign to...

### PROTECT CHILDREN IN WAR!

All too often children in times of war are helpless, first-hand witnesses of atrocities committed against their family members. At times, children are first-hand victims themselves. These situations of war inflict deep psychological wounds that may seem incurable, but from which well-targeted care can help them recover. The ICRC is constantly confronted with the heartrending situation of children affected by war. It draws from its extensive humanitarian experience to assist them in appropriate ways.

### FAMILIES TORN APART

Children are often forced to flee their homes and in the chaos of war become separated from their families or even abandoned. They are then left to their own devices, struggling to survive and rejected without an identity. Cut off from the environment familiar to them, even those who manage to survive lack any certainty as to their future or to the fate of their loved ones.

#### THE LAW SAYS NO!

Humanitarian law promotes the right to preserve or restore family unity.

### CHILD SOLDIERS

Children living in conflict zones are also potential candidates for recruitment as soldiers. Deprived of a family, deprived of an education and all other advantages that would otherwise help prepare them for adulthood, these child recruits find it almost impossible to conceive a life without war. For some of them, joining an armed group is a way of ensuring one's own survival.

#### THE LAW SAYS NO!

Humanitarian law bans the recruitment and participation of children in armed conflicts.

### SHATTERED CHILDHOODS

Sometimes children are themselves wounded, even mutilated or killed. In addition to the physical harm that some encounter, others fall victim psychologically to the horrors of war because of what they have witnessed or endured first-hand.

#### THE LAW SAYS NO!

Humanitarian law protects children by promoting the right of child victims of conflict to receive medical, psychological and social assistance.



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