



# Aniko

**Empowering displaced people  
through football**

“Football means life  
for me, I can’t say  
anything else.”

- Sulaiman, Syria





## **Our mission is to use the universal language of football to promote health and social inclusion for displaced people.**

Working with displaced people, it doesn't take long to notice that the boredom and immobility that come with waiting for an asylum application make an already difficult situation even harder. Once busy people are left to their own devices in camps or accommodation centres, with hours and hours in every day, and very little to do to pass the time.

This is why we have chosen to use football as a tool to address health issues, both mental and physical, while promoting integration and community-building.

Through Aniko FC, we provide an outlet for people to come together, to get active, learn new skills and become part of a team. The benefits of connecting people through sport are multiple; it promotes bonding and social inclusion, teamwork, discipline, stress and trauma relief and trust-building.

## **Why sport?**

The right to play and practice sport is included in 1959 United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child, but is something that is often overlooked in emergency situations like that with displaced persons in Greece.

Sport for Development and Peace was developed in 1990s in response to socio-political and economic challenges of the modern world. It was designed to address gaps in traditional approaches to development, peace-building and social inequalities. In 2003, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the A/RES/58/5 Resolution on Sport to promote education, health, development and peace.

## **Why football?**

Football is the most widely played sport in the world. Almost half of the people in the world are interested in the sport, and one fifth actually participate in it. It's relatively inexpensive and can be played almost anywhere (grass, streets, sand etc.), it's accessible for all genders and the rules are simple enough that people can pick them up quickly.



“I really enjoy coming to football because we are out of the camp and we play with people that are from this city. It is important for me to play football and I hope I will play for a Greek team.”

Rashid





In the first four  
months of our  
project we delivered  
**30 sessions to 200  
players from 25  
nationalities.**



## Our future.

We have big plans for the future at Aniko, with a number of new projects in the pipeline for 2018.

### **One-on-one and small group coaching sessions.**

We aim to add more specialised coaching options to target areas of need, particularly for women who want to play football.

### **Tickets for Refugees.**

This is an initiative through which we aim to connect settled refugees to local football clubs in their communities. We plan to engage fans of local teams to participate in a buddy system to encourage refugees to attend local games and become part of the local football community.

### **Mentoring and pathway-building for refugees to join amateur and professional Greek teams.**

We plan to develop relationships with local football clubs in order to pave the way for refugees to access local football on an amateur and professional level. We will spend time with those people who would like to take this path, and assist them with the processes they will need to follow to get there.

### **Community social events to watch televised football matches.**

Football isn't just about playing the game, it's about the pride, passion and connection that come with supporting a team, too. We plan to unite football fans through community social events where we watch televised football matches, from the Greek League to the World Cup.

### **Campaigning to change the rules of football associations to improve access to football for refugees and displaced people in other countries.**

Football as a sport claims to be inclusive, but often the rules of football associations require paperwork that many displaced people just don't have. We hope to petition for change on a local level, so more displaced people can access the sport.

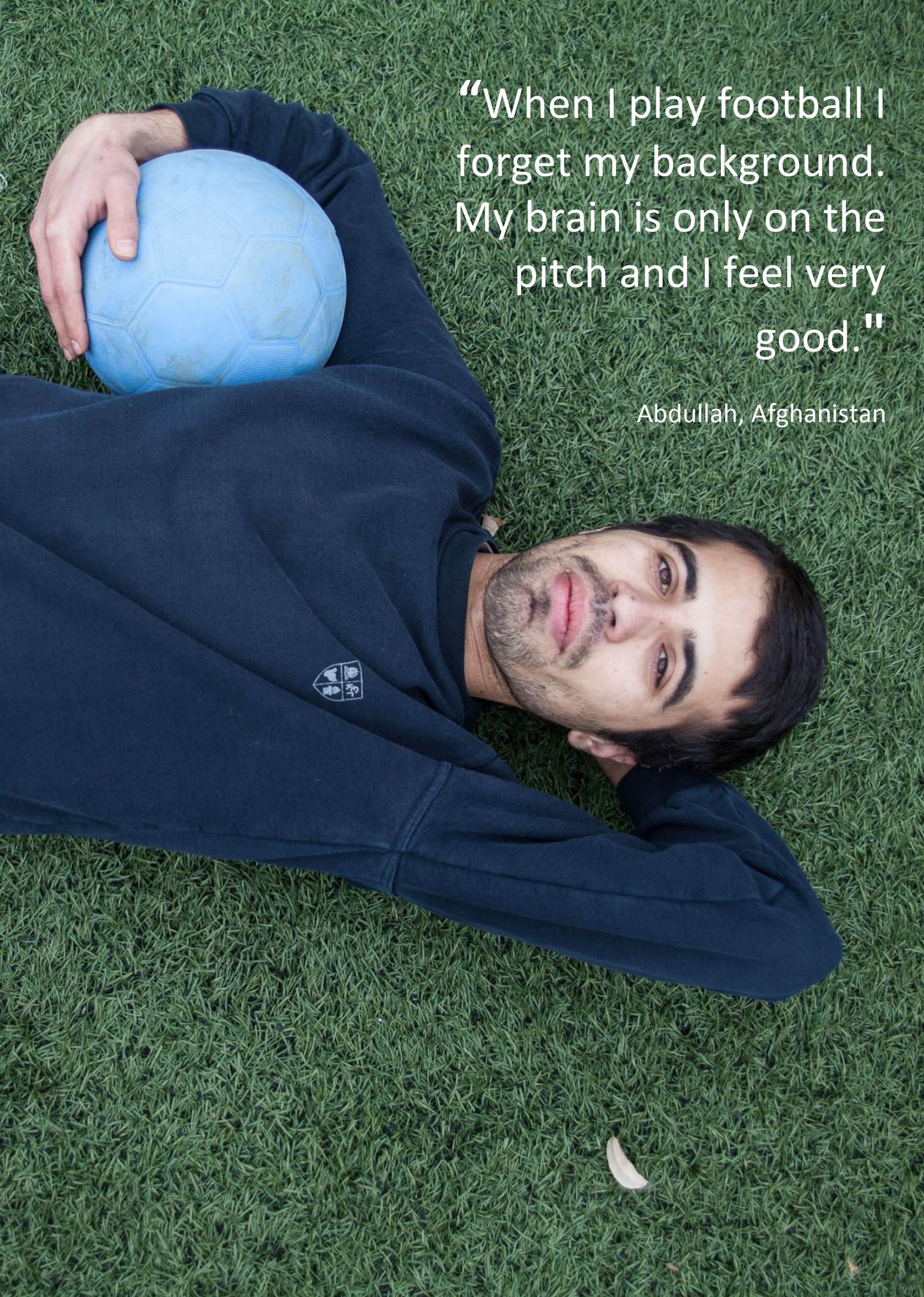
We also hope to recruit a Player Liaison, a qualified social worker who can identify and address the needs of our players, and support in improving health and achieving social inclusion.

Beyond 2018, we aim to expand Aniko projects to various locations throughout Europe, galvanising football clubs from local to national level to take accountability and get involved in making football open for displaced people.

Within 5 years we hope to host our first international Aniko FC tournament, bringing together Aniko FC players from all over Europe to compete and connect, on and off the pitch.



We aim to become  
the leading provider  
of football for health  
and social inclusion  
for displaced people  
in Europe.



“When I play football I forget my background. My brain is only on the pitch and I feel very good.”

Abdullah, Afghanistan



## Our team.



**Dan Teuma.**

Aniko Founder Dan's 2+ years experience in the refugee crisis have seen him distributing aid in camps, working shoreline rescue on the island of Lesbos, running a community space in Thessaloniki and so much more.

Now, Dan takes the lead with planning the future of Aniko, while coaching alongside Thomas, running training sessions for our multiple Aniko FC projects.

In his personal time, Dan will continue to participate in search and rescue missions and direct action when, and where, he's needed.



**Thomas Farines.**

Since autumn 2016, Aniko FC Project Leader, Thomas, has been working to provide football sessions for displaced people, first in France, and now in Greece.

As a qualified football coach with experience working on Sport, Development and Peace at the UN Office in Geneva, Thomas knows just how life-changing sport can be.

Thomas works alongside Dan to develop training plans for all of the football sessions we run, to coach our Aniko FC players and to organise our Football for All community events.



**Jess Johnson.**

Jess is our Operations Manager, taking the lead on everything from maximising our operating procedures to managing communications to drafting policy to keeping up with all of our admin.

Jess also manages all of Aniko's digital presence, including our website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter channels, and really loves to tell a great story.

As well as this, Jess takes the lead on fundraising for Aniko, while supporting with strategy-planning and implementing the action-steps we need to take to continue to grow.

