Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Abdullah Sediqi
Country of origin: Afghanistan
Host country: Belgium
Date of birth: 25 December 1996

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Taekwondo
Discipline: -68kg
Coach: Davoud Etminani and Alireza Naser Azadani
Training location: Antwerp

BACKGROUND

Abdullah is a Taekwondo athlete and became a refugee in 2017, when he was forced to flee Afghanistan, in search of safety. He began practicing Taekwondo at the age of 8 and achieved a range of impressive tournament results when living in Afghanistan, securing 1st place at Open Middle Asia 2011, Bahrein Open G1 2013, and the ILYO Open 2017. Abdullah now lives in Belgium, where he has continued his winning streak, winning 1st place at the International Brussels Cup 2017 and Tess Cup 2017. More recently, he won silver at the 2019 Spanish Open.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-Holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Abere Kassw Belay
Country of origin: Ethiopia
Host country: Australia
Date of birth: 8 December 1994

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Marathon
Coach: Frances Lipscombe
Training location: Melbourne

BACKGROUND

Abere grew up on a farm in Gondor in Ethiopia where he used to help his family before and after school. His talent for running was discovered at school when he was 15 years old. He then competed for his school in regional competitions in 5km, 10km and half marathon events. Having obtained good results, he was selected for the Ethiopian national cross-country and road events team. He trained with the national team for two years in Addis Ababa. While at a competition in Australia, a lot conflicts started in his region of origin. Fearing for his life, he decided not to return home and instead sought asylum.

Starting a new life in Australia and trying to pursue his sporting career, he had no other choice but to find full-time employment. But, during a workplace accident, he injured his hand and lost a finger. He now has limited use of his left hand. Despite all the obstacles he has had to overcome in his life, including a long recovery period of two years, Abere is now more committed than ever to achieving his dream: competing at the Olympic Games.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Ahmad Badreddin Wais
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: Switzerland
Date of birth: 15 January 1991

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Cycling
Discipline: Road
Coach: Micah Gross
Training location: Bern

BACKGROUND

Badreddin was born in Aleppo and lived with his family as the youngest of 6 siblings. Following the lead of two of his brothers, he began cycling at the age of fourteen and as his talent began to show, he moved to Damascus to live with the national team and study sports science in Homs.

From 2008 to 2014, he became a national and regional success. He was the most successful junior rider in Syria, winning the Arabic Championship road race and the Syrian championships. He was also the first junior to participate in the World Championships for Syria. His biggest influence was his older brother Samer, who was by now the junior national coach.

With the outbreak of war, life became far more difficult and in 2014, he decided he had no choice but to flee and arrived in Switzerland after a long journey. He was welcomed by a friend and his family in Lausanne. He continues to train as a cyclist in Switzerland and also hopes to study sports science.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Aker Al Obaidi
Country of origin: Iraq
Host country: Austria
Date of birth: 21 September 1999

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Wrestling
Discipline: Greco-Roman -67kg
Coach: Benedikt "Mo" Ernst
Training location: Inzing

BACKGROUND

Aker is an Iraqi refugee who grew up in Mosul with a wrestling trainer for a father who ran his own club. He fled Mosul when ISIS began recruiting young men in the city and escaped to Iraqi Kurdistan where he had to leave his family behind and travel onwards. At age 17 after being granted subsidiary protection in 2016, he competed alongside the Austrian juniors at an international event in Riga and secured a gold in Juniors and a silver in Open at the same event. Now he trains 7 times a week at the local wrestling club Ringer Sport Club Inzing and helps train local children. The head of the club assisted Aker with finding accommodation in the small mountain town. He most recently won bronze at the U20 European Sporting Championships 2019 in Spain.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS
Name: Alaa Maso
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: Germany
Date of birth: 1 January 2000

SPORTING DETAILS
Sport: Swimming
Discipline: Freestyle and butterfly 50m and 100m
Coach: Emil Guliyev
Training location: Hanover

BACKGROUND
Alaa lived in Aleppo with his family and began swimming at an early age thanks to his father, who became a swimming coach following his retirement from the army. He trained as a swimmer and a triathlete and knew fellow refugee swimmer Yusra Mardini when they were both young.
Alaa left Syria in 2015 after his training facilities were damaged and he felt the pressure of the conflict all around him. Following a long journey throughout Europe, he settled in Germany and began swimming training once again with Emil Guliyev. He has also returned to school and is making up on the years lost due to his flight from Syria.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Ali Noghandoost
Country of origin: Iran
Host country: Croatia
Date of birth: 12 January 1992

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Taekwondo
Discipline: -58kg
Coach: Yousef Karami
Training location: Zagreb

BACKGROUND

Ali is an Iranian refugee who fled from religious persecution to Croatia in 2016, after a short amount of time in Austria. He grew up in a sporting family and has practiced Taekwondo almost non-stop since he began at age 8 in Iran. Whilst he was in a refugee hostel, he used to train outside in freezing conditions as it was too crowded indoors. He now lives and trains in Zagreb, under the guidance of Korean trainer Hong Seung-ki, who has lived in Croatia for 22 years. He has a strong record, having coached two Croatian women to bronze medals at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Amir Al Awad
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: Egypt
Date of birth: 25 April 1984

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Wrestling
Discipline: Greco-Roman -97kg
Coach: Mohamed Selim
Training location: Alexandria

BACKGROUND

Amir was already a well know wrestler in the Syrian national team before the war began. After his home was destroyed, he left for Egypt with his wife, who was then pregnant with their first child. For three years, he concentrated on caring for his growing family and worked in a restaurant where he kept meeting fellow Syrian sporting enthusiasts and decided to get back into the sport. He currently trains refugee children in the evenings in an academy he established with the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and has once again started training himself.
# Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

## PERSONAL DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Amir Mohammad Hosseini</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Iran</td>
</tr>
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## SPORTING DETAILS

- **Sport:** Taekwondo
- **Discipline:** -58kg
- **Coach:** Nader Jahangard
- **Training location:** Hamburg

## BACKGROUND

When Amir was forced to flee his home in Tehran due to the dangers faced by his family, it was taekwondo that helped him restart his life anew in Germany. Arriving in a new country, Amir says, was one of the hardest things he has ever experienced. In the early days, he would train in a parking lot with no equipment or coach. Having lived in Germany for 6 years, he now trains eleven times a week, with fellow Iranian refugee and training partner Kasra Mehdipournejad, and says that sport was central to his integration in his new country. His intensive training schedule sees him travel widely across Germany. He won silver in the 2016 German Open.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Anjelina Nadai Lohalith
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1995

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 1500m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

Anjelina arrived in Kakuma with her aunt in 2002 after escaping South Sudan because of the war. While at high school, she participated in many running competitions. In 2015, one of her teachers told her that she should participate in a 10km run organised by the Tegla Loroupe Foundation. Based on her promising results, she was selected and has been training with the Foundation ever since. She was selected to compete in the Olympic Games Rio 2016.

In 2018, Anjelina was selected to join other young people from around the world in the first ever “Sports at the Service of Humanity – Young Leaders Mentoring Program” ahead of the International Olympic Committee’s Olympism in Action Forum and the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Since her participation in the Olympic Games Rio 2016, she has become a mother.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Aram Mahmoud
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: The Netherlands
Date of birth: 15 July 1997

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Badminton
Discipline: Singles Men
Coach: NA
Training location: Almere

BACKGROUND

Aram is a badminton player who was forced to flee war-torn Syria after he could no longer safely go to school or continue his training. He and his sister used to play for the Syrian National team, where they secured a silver in doubles at the Bahrain International Tournament U19.

Now pursuing his sporting goals in The Netherlands, Aram is excelling in his badminton career, most recently reaching the Quarter Finals at the 2019 Portuguese International Championships. He considers himself incredibly lucky to have found his current club in Almere, that helped him settle into his new life, meet new people and return to his sport.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Asif Sultani
Country of origin: Afghanistan
Host country: Australia
Date of birth: 31 December 1995

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Karate
Discipline: -67 kg
Coach: Daniel Spice
Training location: Maitland

BACKGROUND

At the age of seven, Asif was forced to flee the country he used to call home, in search of safety and freedom. After returning to Afghanistan from Iran as an unaccompanied minor, he fled persecution and travelled to Indonesia, where he then took a precarious boat journey to Australia.

Having long harbored a passion for Martial Arts, he has risen in the ranks of his sport and now trains with one of Australia's leading karate squads. Asif credits Martial Arts with teaching him important life lessons, such as respect, discipline, determination, bravery and, crucially, and most importantly resilience, which helped him overcome difficult periods. In a bid to pass on these lessons to others, and to teach future generations about Martial Arts, Asif became a Personal Trainer and Martial Arts Instructor. His ultimate goal is to stay active as an athlete, and to inspire and empower people to be the best versions of themselves.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Chajen Dang Yien
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 2001

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Field – Javelin
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

Chajen trains at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre in Ngong and counts Tegla Loroupe among her primary sporting heroes, who Chajen describes as an “inspiration”. She sees her scholarship from Olympic Solidarity as a second chance in her life and hopes to see females make the team for Tokyo 2020. She hopes to advocate peace through sport and is determined to help other refugees forge sporting careers.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS
Name: Clementina Ihure Rilando
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1994

SPORTING DETAILS
Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 1500m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND
Clementina grew up in the Kakuma Refugee Camp. Her mother fled the conflict in South Sudan when Clementina was just two months old and sought safety with her newborn in Kenya. Clementina has always had a talent for sports, winning countless running competitions and playing football for 11 years. However, it was when she came first in a 200m sprinting competition at Kakuma that she realised she had especially bright prospects as a runner. Clementina currently lives in Kenya and trains at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre in Ngong.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Cyrille Fagat Tchatchet II  
Country of origin: Cameroon  
Host country: United Kingdom  
Date of birth: 1st August 1995

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Weightlifting  
Discipline: -96kg  
Coach: Shyam Chavda  
Training location: London

BACKGROUND

Cyrille came to the UK from Cameroon in 2014. Whilst waiting for his asylum claim to be assessed, Cyrille had some difficult times, and says weightlifting saved him from some of his lowest moments. Three years after his asylum claim was approved, he now has multiple British weightlifting records under his belt, including having won the British, English and BUCS weightlifting championships for 2017, 2018 and 2019. He recently graduated with a first-class degree in Mental Health Nursing from Middlesex University and sees caring for others as a way of “giving back”. He now hopes to begin a Master’s degree alongside his training.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Dina Pouryounes Langeroudi
Country of origin: Iran
Host country: The Netherlands
Date of birth: 1 January 1992

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Taekwondo
Discipline: -49kg
Coach: Manni Zareei & Ramin Padidar
Training location: NA

BACKGROUND

Dina was forced to flee Iran in 2015 but continues to pursue her sporting career as a Taekwondo athlete in her new home in The Netherlands. Dina has an impressive amount of 34 world ranking medals since she has been competing in 2015.

She is the silver medalist at the European Senior championships in 2018 in Kazan. She is the winner of the Turkish Open 2017 and 2018 and the winner of the Dutch Open 2018 and 2019, two of the toughest world ranking tournaments in the world. She has won three silver medals in 2020 at world ranking tournaments: Fujaiarah Open, Helsingborg Open & the Dutch Open. She is number 3 of the World ranking in April 2020. She says sport is essential for her physical and mental health.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Dominic Lokolong Atiol
Country of origin: South Soudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1999

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 1500m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

Dominic is a South Sudanese refugee and runner over the 1500m distance, who currently lives in Kenya. Dominic became a refugee at age 11, when he became an orphan. He moved from South Sudan to Kakuma Refugee Camp, where he discovered his talents as an athlete and now trains at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre in Ngong. He dreams of winning a medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, which he says is “a matter of training” and making sacrifices – which Dominic proves he is willing to do by training at 5 a.m. in the morning, before going to school at 7 a.m.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Dorian Keletela  
Country of origin: Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville)  
Host country: Portugal  
Date of birth: 06 February 1999

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics  
Discipline: Track – 100m  
Coach: João Abrantes  
Training location: Lisbon

BACKGROUND

Dorian Keletela became an orphan when he was just a teenager. Having moved to live with his aunt, he was then forced to flee at age 17, eventually making his way to Portugal. He only started running at the age of 15, so he feels he has a lot of possibilities ahead of him, and now trains 3 hours a day, 6 days a week in pursuit of a place on the IOC Refugee Olympic Team.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
<td>Charles Elijah Duol</td>
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</tr>
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BACKGROUND

Charles currently lives in Kenya and trains at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre in Ngong. He has long harboured a passion for athletics, and says that sports help him to feel happy, healthy and help him forget the hardships he faced in his past. He counts Usain Bolt amongst his heroes and hopes to follow in his idol’s footsteps by making it to the Olympics.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Ehsan Naghibzadeh
Country of origin: Iran
Host country: Switzerland
Date of birth: 15 March 1990

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Taekwondo
Discipline: -58kg
Coach: Lisa Vogt
Training location: Winterthur

BACKGROUND

Ehsan Naghibzadeh is an Iranian refugee based in Switzerland. Before fleeing his homeland in 2015, he had been a member of the Iranian national team for eight years, winning multiple prizes in competitions around the world. Including a gold medal at West Asian Games, a 2nd place at Asian Club Championships and at World University Championship. He also competed in the World Championship in Mexico.

Since arriving in Switzerland, Ehsan has continued to win multiple prizes at international events, including 3rd at European University Games. He is also studying for a degree in sports management and is training to be a taekwondo and fitness coach.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

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<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Eldric Samuel Sella Rodriguez</th>
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<td>Venezuela</td>
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SPORTING DETAILS

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<tr>
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<td>-75 kg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach:</td>
<td>Edward Sella</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

BACKGROUND

Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Eldric used to live with his parents, older brother and younger sister in the popular “23 de Enero” neighbourhood. He finished school but decided not to go to university in order to focus on his boxing career, which allowed him to secure a place on the national team. Despite the fact he didn’t continue with his studies, he considers himself as a person who is passionate about knowledge and always tries to keep learning.

The uncertainty of the life that he and his family lived in Venezuela, the increase in violence and the humanitarian crisis made him and his girlfriend leave the country to find a safer place to live, in Trinidad and Tobago. He has been now joined by his father, who is his coach, and he is training with full dedication and commitment to his dream: taking part in the Olympic Games.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Eyad Masoud
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: New Zealand
Date of birth: 10 January 1995

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Swimming
Discipline: Freestyle 50m and 100m
Coach: David Wright
Training location: Auckland

BACKGROUND

Eyad Masoud had to flee Syria because of the war. With his family, he first reached Saudi Arabia and later ended up in New Zealand, where he claimed refugee status. He now trains and teaches at the AUT Millennium Sports Centre, part of the Auckland University of Technology, where he also studies Mechanical Engineering.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Farid Walizadeh
Country of origin: Afghanistan
Host country: Portugal
Date of birth: 2 May 1997

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Boxing
Discipline: -57kg
Coach: Paulo Seco
Training location: Lisbon

BACKGROUND

Farid arrived in Portugal in 2012 after being separated from his family when he was a child in Afghanistan and spending years alone in Pakistan, Iran and Turkey. He began taekwondo and kung-fu at age 10 in Turkey and has described how it not only helped him deal with the trauma of his past, but at times has protected him from people who wished him harm. When he arrived in Portugal, he starts practising boxing and gets really good results quite fast. After claiming the title of 2013 Portuguese National Champion for the -57kg category, the Portuguese Parliament awarded him the Human Rights Medal Prize. He now follows very intense training under the supervision of his coach, Paulo Seco, who runs one of the smallest boxing clubs in Lisbon.
PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Gaston Nsazumukiza
Country of origin: Democratic Republic of the Congo
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1992

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Taekwondo
Discipline: NA
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

Gaston is a Boxer, Taekwondo athlete and runner (1500m), who has been a refugee three times. Gaston fled the Democratic Republic of the Congo alone in 2003, after he became an orphan. Gaston encountered great hardship in his search for safety and a new home, fleeing to Burundi, then Uganda, before settling in Kenya. Despite the difficulties he has faced, he has found new hope in sport, which he describes as a force of good that encourages peace. Gaston currently lives in Kenya and trains at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre in Ngong, whilst working as a Yoga Instructor at the Africa Yoga Project.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Habtom Amaniel
Country of origin: Eritrea
Host country: Switzerland
Date of birth: 05 May 1990

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 10’000m
Coach: Cyrille Gindre / Volodalen
Training location: Aigle

BACKGROUND

Habtom is a refugee living in Switzerland, originally from Eritrea where he used to live in a small village with his 12 siblings. For political reasons, He had to take the difficult decision to flee in order to protect himself. He then started a long journey until reaching Lausanne in Switzerland.

He began running following his arrival in the country in 2015 after meeting Catherine Colomb, a former athlete and coach in Gland. He now trains at Volodalen Center in Aigle. As well as training every day, he is also working to become a painter and decorator.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Jamal Abdelmaji Eisa Mohammed
Country of origin: Soudan
Host country: Israel
Date of birth: 1 June 1996

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 10’000m
Coach: NA
Training location: Tel Aviv

BACKGROUND

When Jamal was just 8 years old, he fled his home in Darfur as a teenager – parting with his mother and siblings – and travelled through Egypt and the Sinai Desert before finally reaching Israel, where he was granted refugee protection. In his new home, it was the Alley Runners Club, a sports club in Tel Aviv providing opportunities to underprivileged athletes, that helped him get on his feet and on the tracks. Jamal credits the club with helping him integrate in a new country, teaching him Hebrew and serving as a strong support network for him.
PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: James Chiengjiek Nyang
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 2 March 1992

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 400m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

James is from Bentiu, South Sudan. His father was a soldier who died in 1999 during the war. When he was a young boy, he took care of cattle. He escaped from South Sudan when the war broke out as he was at risk of being forced to participate in the war by the army. He arrived in Kenya in 2002 and integrated the Kakuma Refugee camp where he was supported by the UNHCR. He went to school and started running there. The UNHCR persuaded him to participate in a selection process to join the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation in 2013 and he has been training there ever since. In addition to taking part in various international athletics competitions, James also competed in the Olympic Games Rio 2016 as part of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS
Name: John Lokibe Taban
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1996

SPORTING DETAILS
Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 5000m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND
Initially, John was a footballer, but since discovering his talents as a runner in 2016 at the Kakuma Refugee Camp, he has been training at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre in the 3000m and 5000m. John is both a proud supporter of the Refugee Olympic Team and says he would feel incredibly proud of himself if he made it onto the team for Tokyo 2020.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Joseph Elia Ernesto
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1996

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 800m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

Joseph is currently living in Kenya and training at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre in Ngong, after winning his trial race during the selection of athletes from the Kakuma Refugee Camp. He sees sport as a means to peace, bringing people from different places and communities together, whilst inspiring the world by showing that refugees can be champions too.
**Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: Josephina Tain Augustinho</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach: Tegla Loroupe</td>
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**BACKGROUND**

Josephine first began being active in sports by playing football, and later turned to running when she found herself winning competitions held at Kakuma. She believes that sport can promote peace and, as a refugee and citizen of the world, supports all teams. Josephine currently lives in Kenya and trains at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre in Ngong.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Kasra Mehdipournejad
Country of origin: Iran
Host country: Germany
Date of birth: 26 December 1992

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Taekwondo
Discipline: -80kg
Coach: Sven Forscher
Training location: Berlin

BACKGROUND

Kasra is a Taekwondo athlete who was forced to flee his home in Iran. He now lives in Germany, where he trains in the hopes of making it to Tokyo 2020. Not only an athlete, but a true family man, Kasra revealed that his father is his hero, and when asked what motivates him to keep training, he said it was the women in his life, replying “first, my mother. And second, my wife.” His wife is also a Taekwondo champion, having won multiple championships in Asia. He has had a string of successes in recent years, clinching gold medals at the Dutch and Belgian opens in 2018 and has won gold and silver at the Polish and Austrian opens respectively in 2019. He is currently ranked 30th in the world.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Khaoula Sellami
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: Switzerland
Date of birth: 11 Avril 1989

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Shooting
Discipline: Aire Rifle 10m
Coach: Niccolo Campriani
Training location: Lausanne

BACKGROUND

Khaloua is a Palestinian refugee who fled middle East and arrived in Switzerland in 2014. She is 31 and proud mom of a boy. While living in Lausanne, she met Niccolo Campriani, an Italian triple Olympic champion sport shooter who offered her the chance to take up his discipline, air rifle. Following a day of trials, she was offered the chance to train for the Olympics. Khaloua currently trains four days a week in Lausanne under Niccolo’s guidance and aims to reach the Olympic minimum qualification score to become a member of the team for Tokyo 2020.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

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<td>Name</td>
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**SPORTING DETAILS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discipline</td>
<td>Track – 800m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coach</td>
<td>Tegla Loroupe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training location</td>
<td>Nairobi</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**BACKGROUND**

When Lydia was only a young girl, militia men came to her village in South Sudan, forcing her to flee to Kenya with her siblings. She first arrived at the Dadaab Refugee Camp, and later moved to Kakuma, where she put down her name for trials in the camp and quickly discovered she had a talent for running. At first, Lydia was told she was too young to join the training camp, but she persisted and soon after joined the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre. Now, Lydia passionately declares that sport is her life, and aspires to follow in the footsteps of her hero, Caster Semenya, by becoming a world champion.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Masomah Ali Zada
Country of origin: Afghanistan
Host country: France
Date of birth: 11 March 1996

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Cycling
Discipline: Road
Coach: NA
Training location: Lille

BACKGROUND

Masomah is originally from Afghanistan but spent her early years in exile in Iran. Following her return to Kabul, she went to High School and University studying sport. She also worked as sport teacher while she started cycling with a group of other young women, despite disapproval from conservative parts of society. As a member of the Hazara minority, this made things even more difficult for Masomah, but her group became famous and she joined the national cycling team.

In 2016, the pressure from parts of society became too strong and her family left Afghanistan and claimed asylum in France. She is now studying civil engineering in the second year of university in Lille with her sister Zahra, while she is training hard to become a member of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team for Tokyo 2020. Arte, French TV channel, did a documentary called “Les Petites Reines de Kaboul” featuring Masomah and her fellow athletes.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS
Name: Otmane Nait Hammou
Country of origin: Morocco
Host country: Sweden
Date of birth: 1 April 1995

SPORTING DETAILS
Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 3000m Steeplechase
Coach: NA
Training location: Stockholm

BACKGROUND
Otmane is a native Berber Moroccan now living in Västervik in the south of Sweden. He had to make the difficult decision to leave his homeland and was exiled to Sweden in 2016. Beforehand, he used to be a student in French Literature during two years at the University Ibn Zohr in Agadir. He also obtained the Level 1 "U16 coach" certificate by World Athletics.

He began running in 2012 at age 17. He ran on different events such as 10’000m and 3000m, but is now putting all his effort into the 3000m steeplechase. He participated at the Cross-Country World championship in Aarhus 2019 and took part in the 3,000m steeplechase at the World Championship Athletics 2019 in Doha.

He would like to give hope to all refugees and people in hard situations. His motto: “If you believe in yourself, you can do it. Don’t give up”. 
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Paulo Amotun Lokoro
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1992

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 1500m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

Paulo took care of his family’s cattle prior to fleeing to Kenya in March 2006 in order to escape war and join his mother, who had been at the Kakuma camp since 2004. While in the Kakuma camp, Paulo went to school and participated in many sports. In 2015, the Tegla Loroupe Foundation came to Kakuma and organized athletics trials. He participated and performed well enough to join the foundation. He has been there ever since and competed in the Olympic Games Rio 2016 in the IOC Refugee Olympic Team.

After Rio, Paulo has represented refugees at a number of international events, including racing for the Athlete Refugee Team at the 5th Asian Indoor Games in 2017, the 2018 IAAF World Half Marathon Championships, the 2018 Africa Senior Athletics Championships and the 2019 UNICEF Harmony marathon in Geneva.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Popole Misenga
Country of origin: Republic Democratic of the Congo
Host country: Brazil
Date of birth: 25 February 1992

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Judo
Discipline: -90kg
Coach: Geraldo Bernades
Training location: Rio de Janeiro

BACKGROUND

Popole is originally from Bukavu, the area most affected by the DRC civil war from 1998-2003. As a professional Judoka, he represented the Democratic Republic of the Congo in international competitions. After years of difficult training conditions, he decided to seek asylum in Brazil during the World Judo Championships in Rio in 2013. He currently trains at the Instituto Reação in Rio de Janeiro. He competed in the Olympic Games Rio 2016 as a member of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Rami Anis
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: Turkey
Date of birth: 18 March 1991

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Swimming
Discipline: Butterfly 100m
Coach: Ömür Sönmez
Training location: Istanbul

BACKGROUND

Rami was an international swimmer in Syria. When the war in Syria started, Rami was 20 years old and consequently would have been eligible (and most probably called upon) to join the army. To avoid that, Rami and his family decided to join his brother in Istanbul in 2011. They decided to move to Belgium in October 2015 where they also had family members. While in Belgium, he and his family started looking for a swimming club. In February 2016, he started training at the Royal Ghent Swimming Club and was selected for the Olympic Games Rio 2016 as part of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team. Since the Olympic Games, he has now moved back to Turkey, where he continues to train. He recently got engaged.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Rose Ihisa Karlo Uwaro
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1999

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 200m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

Rose is currently living in Kenya and training at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre in Ngong. She gets up to train before school most mornings with the other athletes at the centre. She hopes to encourage other refugees through her participation in sport.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS
Name: Rose Lokonyen Nathike
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1993

SPORTING DETAILS
Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track 800m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND
Rose and her family left South Sudan because of the war and arrived at the Kakuma refugee camp in 2002. Her parents went back to South Sudan in 2008, but her siblings remained in Kakuma. During her time at school, she participated in many running competitions and in 2015 she participated in a 10 km run in Kakuma organized by the Tegla Loroupe Foundation. She has been training in the foundation ever since and was selected for the Olympic Games Rio 2016 as part of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team, for whom she was the flag bearer.

Since the Olympic Games, she represented the Athlete Refugee Team at the World Relays Championships in Yokohama, Japan, in May 2017 and has been invited to Geneva to participate at the 5th Formal Consultation on the Global Compact on Refugees.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Sanda Aldass
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: The Netherlands
Date of birth: 26 June 1990

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Judo
Discipline: -57 kg
Coach: Fadi Darwish
Training location: The Netherlands

BACKGROUND

Originally from the city of Damascus in Syria, Sanda and her family lost their home and she decided to flee alone to the Netherlands through Turkey. Her husband and son joined her later. Sanda’s two other children were born in the Netherlands. She was invited by the International Judo Federation to join their support programme for refugee athletes.

It has not always been easy for her to balance motherhood and training, but she feels happy and lucky to be able to live in a safe environment with her family and be able to train.

It has been challenging for Sanda and her family to share with her host country community “who they are and what they do”, but practicing sport and being supported in such programmes has helped in making a fresh start and re-building her self-confidence.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Simon Ayong Mauris
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1998

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 5000m
Coach: Tegla Louroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

Simon credits sports with opening new opportunities for him as well as helping him stay physically fit and strong. Despite the hardships he faced when he was forced to flee to Kenya in 2016 due to conflict in South Sudan, he is optimistic about his future and passionately encourages young refugees to train hard, so that they too can change their life through sport.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Simon Lodai Lohuju
Country of origin: South Soudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1995

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 1500m and 5000m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

Simon is currently living in Kenya and training at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre in Ngong. He trains regularly with the other athletes, often first thing in the morning, and hopes one day to represent refugees around the world.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS
Name: Tesfay Felfele
Country of origin: Eritrea
Host country: Switzerland
Date of birth: 01 December 1986

SPORTING DETAILS
Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Marathon
Coach: NA
Training location: Geneva

BACKGROUND
Born in Weki, Eritrea, Tesfay is the eldest of a family of five. Like most children, running has always been an intrinsic part of his life and he always enjoyed as a game, a joy and a true a passion. Becoming a professional athlete has always been his childhood dream, which became reality when he ran his first marathon at the age of 14 and joined the Eritrean cross-country team two years later. He competed in his first international competition at the age of 19 and was the silver medallist at the 2006 World Mountain Running Trophy event. He is now living and training in Geneva, keeping his eyes focused on qualifying for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 marathon.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Thachlowini Melake Gabriyesos
Country of origin: Eritrea
Host country: Israel
Date of birth: 00 / 00 / 1998

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Road – Marathon
Coach: GeBremskel Alemayehu
Training location: Tel Aviv

BACKGROUND

Tachlowini fled insecurity in Eritrea when he was just 12 years old with his 13-year-old friend. From there, he spent time in Ethiopia and Sudan before eventually making the treacherous journey across the Sinai to Israel. He recalls his friend teaching him a trick he learnt from his father; when they would sleep, they would take off their shoes and leave them pointing in their direction of travel so that when they awoke the next morning, they would not lose their way. Upon reaching Israel, he spent time in detention before being sent to a school in Hadera, where he met his running coach. It’s been 8 years since he last saw the family he left behind.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Ubaa Dinta Achoto
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1995

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track 800m and 1500m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

Ubaa currently lives in Kenya and trains at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre in Ngong. Having started running in 2015, he recognises that refugee athletes often struggle to find ways to compete at a world class level and thinks a refugee team is important so that others can learn from the example they set.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Ukuk Utho’o Bul
Country of origin: South Sudan
Host country: Kenya
Date of birth: 1 January 1993

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Track – 5000m
Coach: Tegla Loroupe
Training location: Nairobi

BACKGROUND

When civil war broke out in South Sudan, Ukuk fled to Kenya alone, leaving his family and siblings. Although he started out as a footballer, Ukuk was soon drawn to running, where he alone is responsible for his performance. Ukuk is determined to one day win a medal and become a world champion – not only to achieve his own vision – but to serve as a source of inspiration for others. He currently trains at the Tegla Loroupe Peace Foundation Training Centre, pushing himself every day in the hopes of reaching Tokyo 2020.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Wael Fawaz Al-Farraj
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: Jordan
Date of birth: 10 August 2002

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Taekwondo
Discipline: -58kg
Coach: Asef Sabah
Training location: Azraq

BACKGROUND

Wael is a Taekwondo athlete who fled Syria and is now living in the Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan, where he trains as part of the Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation’s (THF) Azraq Academy. He received a black belt in March 2018 at the age of 16, THF’s youngest ever black belt martial arts and is now working towards his goal of representing Refugee Athletes at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Wael Shueb
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: Germany
Date of birth: 31 October 1987

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Karate
Discipline: Kata
Coach: Mohammed Abu Wahib
Training location: Eppertshausen

BACKGROUND

Wael is from Damascus in Syria, where he used to work in a textile factory and as a karate coach. In 2015, due to religious conflicts in his city and because he would have been drafted by the army to fight, he had to flee to Europe to protect himself. He made it to Turkey on a rubber boat and then went on to Greece. Taking the Balkan road, he even rode a bike to the Serbian border through Macedonia. In the end, he made it to Germany, where he now lives and trains aiming for Tokyo 2020, where Karate will be represented at the Olympic Games for the first time.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS
Name: Wessam Salamana
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: Germany
Date of birth: 26 October 1985

SPORTING DETAILS
Sport: Boxing
Discipline: -63kg
Coach: Heiko Staak
Training location: Völklingen

BACKGROUND
Wessam lived in the countryside of Damascus with his wife and his daughter. He worked for the ministry of oil, after he studied for some time at the higher Institute of Torusimus. He had to make the difficult decision to flee his country for the safety of his family and to be able to continue his sporting career.

He now lives in Saarbrücken in Germany with his wife and two children. He represented Syria at the London 2012 Olympic Games. He is now training hard in the hope to compete in Tokyo 2020 under the Olympic Flag as a member of the Refugee Olympic Team.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

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BACKGROUND

Pur fled from Nasir, South Sudan with his relatives in order to escape the war. He arrived in Kakuma in 2005, but his parents remained in Nasir, and he never returned to South Sudan. In 2015, he heard that the Tegla Loroupe Foundation was organizing athletics trials in Kakuma. Pur took part in the trials, showed promising results and was selected to join the Foundation.

He has been training in the foundation ever since and was selected for the Olympic Games Rio 2016 as part of the IOC Refugee Olympic Team. He is now living in the USA and is a student at the Iowa Central Community College where he trains. He is also a board member of the Olympic Refugee Foundation.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: Yonas Kinde
Country of origin: Ethiopia
Host country: Luxembourg
Date of birth: 7 May 1980

SPORTING DETAILS

Sport: Athletics
Discipline: Road – Marathon
Coach: NA
Training location: Luxembourg city

BACKGROUND

Yonas has been under international protection in Luxembourg since October 2013. He has competed in many marathons and reached the qualifying standards for Rio 2016 during the Frankfurt Marathon in October 2015. He was selected to participate in the Olympic Games in Rio 2016 as part of the Refugee Olympic Team, where he competed in the Men’s marathon. He currently trains at the national school of physical education and sports in Luxembourg.
Refugee Athlete Scholarship-holder

PERSONAL DETAILS
Name: Yusra Mardini
Country of origin: Syria
Host country: Germany
Date of birth: 5 March 1998

SPORTING DETAILS
Sport: Swimming
Discipline: Butterfly 100m & Freestyle 100m
Coach: NA
Training location: Hamburg / Berlin

BACKGROUND
Prior to the war in Syria, Yusra was a competitive swimmer who represented her country in international competitions. As the war intensified, Yusra and her sister left Damascus in early August 2015 and reached Berlin in September 2015.

Since then, Yusra has been training at the club Wasserfreunde Spandau 04 e.V. which is a partner of the Elite Schools of Sport in Berlin. She was selected to compete at Rio 2016 as part of the first ever Refugee Olympic Team and she was appointed the youngest ever UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador in April 2017.