

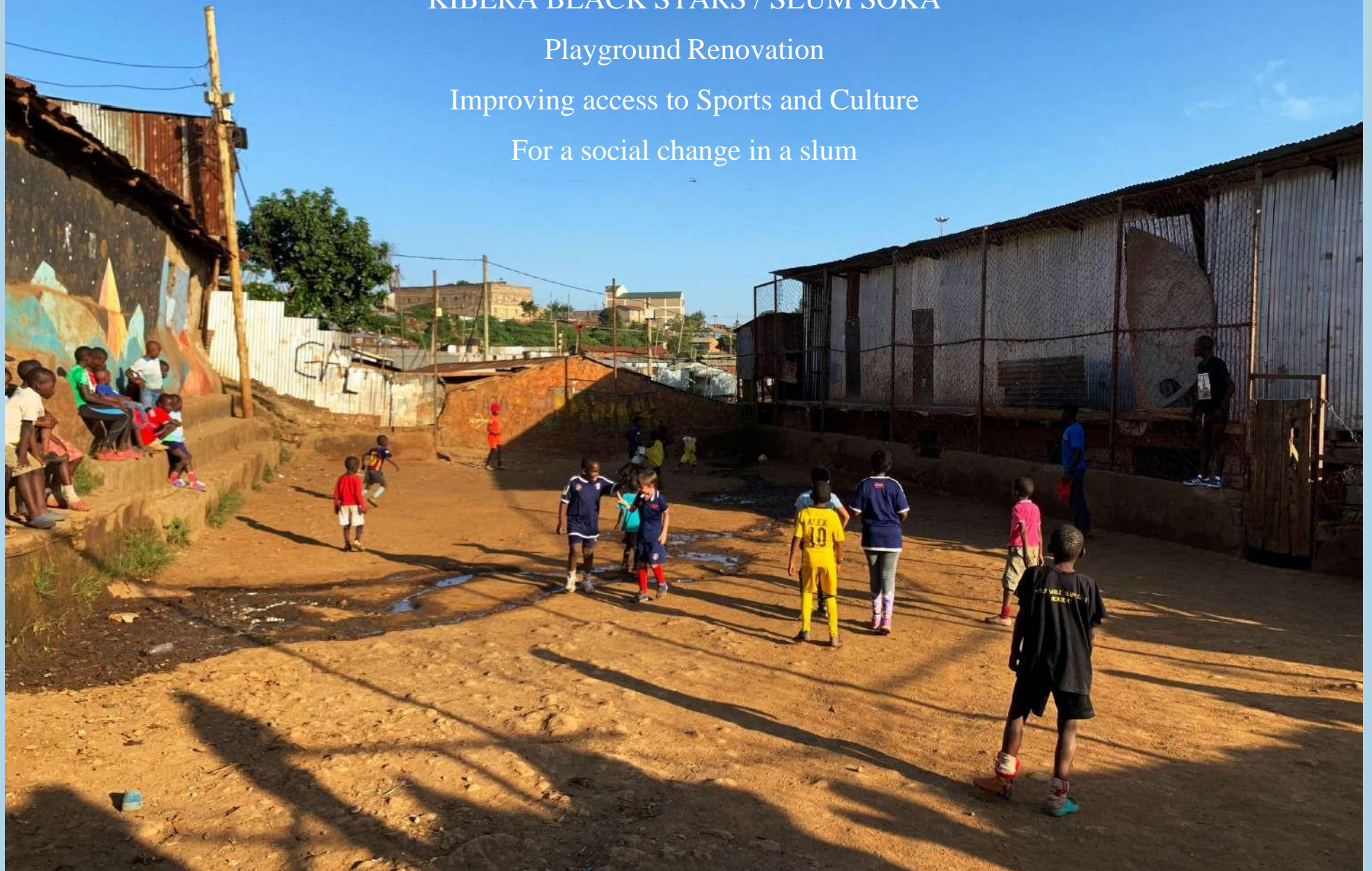
«ISAAC PITCH» PROJECT

KIBERA BLACK STARS / SLUM SOKA

Playground Renovation

Improving access to Sports and Culture

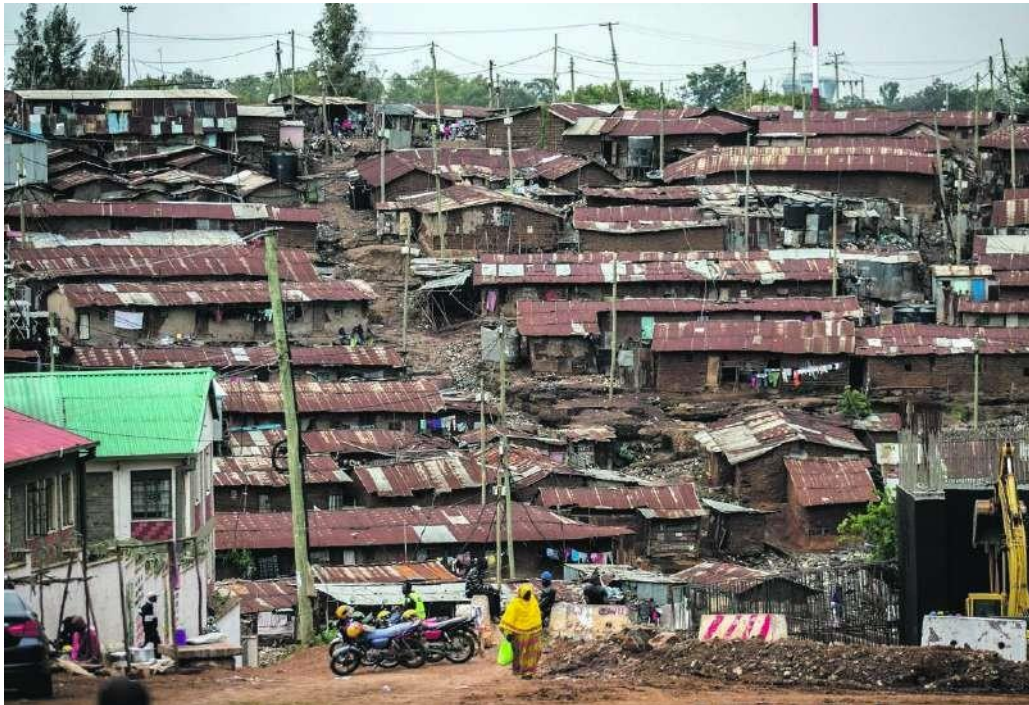
For a social change in a slum



**A small pitch in one of Africa's largest slum
Some kids, some balls and lots of ambitions...
Together, let's give a hand to those tomorrow big men!**

WHO ARE WE?

«Slum Soka» is a sport organization **in the famous slum of «Kibera»** (Nairobi, Kenya), one of the largest slums in Africa. Far from the safari postcard landscape, it is difficult to realize the living conditions within the slum if you have never seen it. The inhabitants are crammed in very insecure sheet-metal sheds. Mud and dust are everywhere. Their living environment is extremely polluted with open-air guts and garbage covering the narrow streets. Clean water and electricity access are big issues. The poor hygiene level makes diseases grow and spread quickly. Good schools are rare, career offers barely existent, playing fields are absent... In a nutshell, **this is not the best place for one to thrive.**



SLUM SOKA ASSOCIATION:

Despite this harsh environment, development initiatives are rising in Kibera to improve the people's life. The "SlumSoka" association is one of those serious and efficient projects: it tries to offer some sunlight to more than **400 youth, from 6 to 17 years old, boys and girls, using sport as a solid social integration lever.**

To get those kids out of the danger of the streets -alcohol and drugs addiction, sexual abuses, early pregnancies...- and keep them away from the bad influences they could have, the association gives them the opportunity to enjoy different sports: football, rugby, tennis, danse, gymnastic, karate...

The “SlumSoka” allows numerous kids to go on the school path again. It offers **new supplementary tools to better fight for their tomorrow’s life**. In the **new education and training centre built in 2020**, it organizes some educative, cultural and artistic activities: boarding games, homework help and extra curriculum lessons, French classes, introduction to different arts with local artists, computer courses, yoga, dance lessons every week.

There are also monthly health sensitization meetings, personal development, skills acquisition, activities around sustainable development.

The “SlumSoka” members try to follow the path that their elders, football players in **the Kibera Black Stars**, our partner team, have already taken. Kibera Black Stars has swiftly become a pride for all the slum’s community: they have never stopped from climbing the ranks. It is the only club in Kibera to have reached the League 2 (NSL) after three consecutive climbs. It’s a real achievement for this slum team that gives a strong priority to the youngsters though its tight budget income.

Thanks to their sport successes, the players are **examples to copy** for all the children of Kibera that are looking for some hope in a quite blocked skyline. Thanks also to their good results on the pitch and their rising popularity, they have so far been able to improve, little by little, their living conditions.

Children from “SlumSoka” will soon join their brothers’ team and will be, themselves, **the future shining stars of Kibera**.



**LET'S SHINE TOGETHER,
LET'S WIN TOGETHER!**

THE RENOVATION PROJECT

Isaac pitch is one of the rare playgrounds in the heart of the slum where the least meter square is quickly occupied by insalubrious accommodations. Issac pitch gathers all the youth living around, in the evening after school. Some play soccer while other play with tennis balls, throw beads challenges or simply come to meet outside and have a nice chat.

This small ground area, **former open-skin dump**, is now the land for many daily activities and represent a peace place, far from the depravity that pollutes some areas of the slum. It also allows the youngest from “SlumSoka” to firsttrain and **exercise with the ball, safely near their home**. This playground field is very practical particularly for the young girls that don’t have to cross all the slum to join other playground spaces outside Kibera. Ensuring their security is one of our priorities. It also allows some youth living with disabilities to have fun without going too far.



We started to renovate Isaac pitch in 2017, thanks to a crowdfunding, but we couldn't go further because the land was not yet ours. Then, in 2020, big floods swept away parts of the previous works.



Now, that we are officially the owner of the land, that our kids, especially our girls, wish to do sports in a safer and more decent place, that we have been strengthening our links with local associations targeting youth living with disabilities, that we have been developing more and more educational and cultural programs in Kibera, **there is a urgent need to make a proper renovation and implement various activities** on this very useful precious playground in the heart of a slum.

**PROVIDING A DECENT AND SAFE
PLAYGROUND TO 800 KIDS
ESPECIALLY GIRLS AND YOUTH
LIVING WITH DISABILITIES
IS OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY.**

A serious renovation is necessary to ensure the improvement of the using conditions. We, for example, need to:

- * Install an efficient water draining system to avoid further damages
- * Build a strong slab with shock absorbing cover to offer better playing conditions.
- * Re-enforce the pitch's limits (walls, sittings, fences and nets)
- * Install a hybrid lightening system (spotlights and solar energy) to extend the using time with more activities at night.
- * Provide various sport equipments (goals, volley-ball nets, basketball boards...) in order to make Isaac Pitch an all- purpose open space.
- * Build 2 changing rooms, equipped with toilets, showers, and water tanks.
- * Fix a small footbridge over a river and trace a proper access path that can be used by people with reduced mobility

Our main goal: Make an accessible child, girls and disability-friendly playground



LET'S MAKE SPORTS AVAILABLE FOR EVERYONE!

- * Football and rugby usual training sessions for the “Slum Soka” kids can be better organized just after school near their homes.
 - * The girls’ trainings will be much safer here, no need for them to go outside the slum. They can stay safe in the environment they all know. Specific slots for girls will be fixed in the timetable.
 - * Students from neighboring informal schools can use the playground during school time to overcome the lack of decent facilities
 - * Regular friendly tournaments could take place to improve social cohesion in the neighborhood
 - * Other sports (handball, basketball, netball, volleyball, hockey, tennis, badminton, table tennis...) will be gradually introduced.
 - * After school activities, holiday programs and specific social events will be organized with the partnered associations working with people living with disabilities. No discrimination in Slum Soka! Stronger all together!
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Beyond the sport actions, other activities - **educative, cultural and artistic**- could take place, during school time with the informal schools, during weekends and holidays. They can also be organised at night with the new light system (partially from solar energy):

- * Open-air cinema playing movies from all around the world and with a programmation less poor than what people of Kibera are used to watch on their cellphones. Preventing health spots and messages to improve awareness on different issues linked to their living habitation could be also watched.

- * Magnetic theatres and various talent shows to encourage the classes given by the volunteers (dance, yoga, acrobatics...).

- * Artistic exhibitions (paintings, photographs...) or small market-sales to offer visibility to the workpieces crafted by the people of Kibera.

- * Weekly sessions on life skills by Peer Educators and monthly stakeholders' meetings for community participation and feedback

- * Social events involving sports and culture marked as "champions days"

- * Opening the slum to others (partnership with the French School and Alliance Francaise among others) and initiating new cultural exchanges.

Last but not least, a road to **sustainable development** is heavily considered in our project. We wish to use innovative and eco-friendly materials like solar panels and give a new life to plastic bottles. We want to sensibilize our members to the plantings, the standing gardens, recycling, the garbage sorting, the cleaning of the streets and the guts...

To conclude, this pitch could become **a real place of social life**, during the day or the night, in the heart of Africa's largest slum. Our positive actions will be enlightened, far from the usual cliché of misery.

**Together, let's try to give life back to this pitch.
All those young people are fighting to make it. It is never easy
but they keep fighting. They stand and move forward.**

It's our turn to help them move quicker.

YES - TOGETHER- WE CAN !



CONTACT US:

Association Law 1901 « **A human rainbow** » (French relay address: 4 rue de Bohain 59400 Cambrai FRANCE)

Phone/ Whatsapp of Luc Lagouche, sport director and project manager: +254 705978091

info@kiberablackstars.org

Official website : www.kiberablackstars.org

   @Kiberablackstars

