

Alma de Africa: football and multiculturalism scoring against social exclusion

LOCATION: Jerez de la Frontera, Cádiz

DURATION: 1'40"

SUMMARY: Alma de Africa, a Jerez football team, is made up of 12 different nationalities. There are players from Ghana, Morocco, Mauritania, Cameroon, Nigeria.... And also five Spaniards, affectionately named 'the immigrants' by the rest of the team. Alma de Africa was created to improve the integration of foreign citizens who have a difficult history. After their first season of competition, they have launched a crowdfunding campaign. As a lack of resources is threatening the project's future.

VTR:

This is the changing room of a unique football team. So unique in fact that it's the only team in Spain, formed mostly from immigrant players. It's the Jerez club Alma de Africa.

IRENE GONZÁLEZ
Head of Alma de Africa

"The aim of the club Alma de Africa is that: their integration, looking for a solution that establishes them, helps them with what they need, and above all makes them feel at home, comfortable, and not helpless, or..."

Because here everyone has a tough back story. Dinghies, desert crossings on foot, no basic possessions... From time to time some stayed to play. Then a group of socially sensitive Jerez citizens encouraged them to create a club together. This year they competed in the lowest division in Andalusian football. Now they have been promoted to the next division.

IRENE GONZÁLEZ
Head of Alma de África

"Actually, here there are, I think, more than twelve different nationalities."

CHRISTIAN LORIS
Assistant coach

"Nigeria, Cameroon, Colombia, Spaniards, Ghana, Mauritania, Morocco."

There are even five Spaniards

IRENE GONZÁLEZ
Head of Alma de África

"Here in the team they're affectionately known as the immigrants."

Together they have built a team, a family in which Christian, treasurer and assistant coach, is the key piece. But there's a problem: there's no money.

CHRISTIAN LORIS
Assistant Coach

"The last match we didn't have enough money to pay the referee. We had three euros in the bank account."

That's why they have launched a crowdfunding campaign. They need to find the 2,300 euros they owe, money which they have occasionally invested in the players, just so they could eat.

IRENE GONZÁLEZ
Director of Alma de África

"And if we don't reach this target we'll reconsider if it's possible to keep going or not."

They are asking for help from citizens and potential sponsors. They want the Alma de Africa dream to keep on going.