



Field of dreams?

Millions of soccer fans around the globe will be settling on their sofas this month to watch the latest footballing extravaganza. But what does the World Cup mean to the people of South Africa? There are many different answers to that question, as photographers from media project *Twenty Ten* discovered.



SAMANTHA REINDERS / TWENTY TEN

The homeless man

Hanekom (left) pushes a wheelie bin containing his possessions through a patch of wasteland in the shadow of Green Point Stadium in Cape Town, which will host one of the World Cup semi-finals. He is one of a small group of homeless people who live in the shadow of the new 4.5 billion rand (\$600 million) stadium. Several times in the past few months they have been uprooted from the trees or corners they called home and moved to other areas around the stadium to make way for construction.

Although the city has offered to help relocate them, they are not willing to leave an area from which they are able to make some sort of a living – picking from suburban trash bins and guarding cars in the surrounding upmarket areas.



MAIN PHOTO: ALEXIA WEBSTER / TWENTY TEN; NIKKI RIXON / TWENTY TEN (RIGHT)

The sex worker

Natasha (above right) has been working the streets of Cape Town for four years, having had to make some hard decisions in her life – she lost her mother at a young age and never knew her father. During her career she has experienced verbal abuse and harassment from the police on many occasions. The World Cup is expected to bring increased demand for prostitution, and the tournament has figured in the ongoing debate about decriminalization of sex work. Natasha believes that decriminalization would be a good thing, helping to ensure the protection of sex workers from verbal and physical assault and allowing them access to healthcare.



SIMONE SCHOLTZ / TWENTY TEN

The star player

Clifford Ngobeni's natural talent has given him all the trappings of the bling lifestyle: a beautiful fiancée, a convertible Audi, a fancy apartment and vast wealth for a 22 year old from Soweto. Clifford (pictured centre of photo, left) was spotted by Ajax Cape Town when he was 13 and is now an established midfielder for the Premier Soccer League team. He recently received his first call-up for Bafana Bafana – the South African national team – and hopes to be picked for the World Cup squad.

Twenty Ten is a multidisciplinary media project that aims to give African journalists a voice in the global media in the build-up to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. The project is an initiative of World Press Photo, Free Voice, Africa Media Online and Iokaalmondiaal, with support from the Dutch Postcode Lottery. www.roadto2010.com

With thanks to Panos Pictures www.panos.co.uk

The refugee footballer

'They say the World Cup is for the whole of Africa but it's not true, it's just for South Africans, us refugees aren't given a chance,' says Richard Nifasha (pictured right in main photo, below, at a football practice in a community field in Cape Town).

Richard is a refugee from Burundi who, before fleeing violence in the country, played football in the Burundian national team. He went on to play professionally in Tanzania for a number of years before coming to South Africa in 2005 hoping to be discovered by a major team. He trains every day with other aspiring players, but South African laws prohibit foreign nationals from playing in local clubs unless they have work permits so Richard, with only refugee papers, has been unable to play professionally. Richard is a qualified teacher but is unemployed and spends most days cutting hair at a friend's barber shop and looking after his sons. For him, like many in South Africa, the World Cup seems to belong to another world.



DAVINA JOGI / TWENTY TEN

The construction worker

Lefa Mphosi is one of the tens of thousands of construction workers on whose shoulders the dreams of football fans rest. Lefa, who lives in a shack in Kliptown, Soweto, is a supervisor at Soccer City Stadium in Johannesburg, the showpiece venue of the World Cup. He says building the stadium is something he will never forget, and he is proud that in a way he is 'part of the Bafana Bafana team' for 2010.

