

# SOCKTOBER 2023



## WHY A SOCKBALL? FORMATION ACTIVITY

This activity is about the children engaging with their 'sockball' and gaining a broader understanding of how soccer and other sports unify people from all around the world. It builds on the Pope's call to engage with Sport at the Service of Humanity and develops an understanding of 'Haves and Have Nots' in a practical and interactive way. Use the following script to make this link clear for your students with reference to Timor-Leste.

## WELCOME TO SOCKTOBER

So many children in developing countries, like Timor-Leste, love to play the game of soccer. It brings them such joy, and like you, they have the most fun when they play with their friends. Soccer is the world's most popular sport and is played in almost every country in the world. It helps children to build a strong sense of community.

As we have seen with the FIFA World Cups (Mens and Womens), soccer has the rare power to bridge almost any divide, including gender, ability, ethnicity and religion. Soccer helps us to develop respect for other people, like our teammates and our opponents, as well as an appreciation for hard work and humility in both victory and defeat. Who here has played soccer before? What do you most enjoy about it?

Children like Jose (pictured) who live in developing countries sometimes don't have access to the kinds of soccer balls we have here in Australia. They are talented and keen soccer players, just like many of you, and have a real desire to use what they can to make their own ball. How many of you here made a 'sockball'?



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### Questions to include before the Socktober Shootout activity

- What resources did you use to make the sockball?
- How long did it take to make the ball?
- Did you find it easy or hard to make the sockball? Why?
- What do you think some of the challenges might be with using the sockball?
- Why do you think children in Timor-Leste might use a sockball?

### Questions to include after the Socktober Shootout activity

- Now that you've kicked some goals with your sockball, what have you experienced about the way children play soccer in other countries?
- How different was the sockball to a regular soccer ball?
- Did you experience any issues or problems with the sockball? How do you think the children in Timor-Leste would deal with these issues? (i.e. they may need to stop to fix the ball, they may have to be more accommodating of each other, etc.)
- How would you feel now if you travelled to another country and saw children playing with a sockball?
- How many goals did you kick? Who scored a goal with their sockball?