



FIFA statement on worker protection from COVID-19 in Qatar

Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, FIFA has been in constant communication with our key stakeholders on how to use football as a tool to help raise public awareness, as well as to manage and mitigate the impact of the virus on our sport. An important part of these efforts concerns the migrant workers in Qatar, who are in a particularly vulnerable situation.

Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC), in charge of the infrastructure delivery for the FIFA World Cup 2022, has put in place a wide range of preventative measures and contingency plans for the approximately 25'000 workers currently employed on FIFA World Cup construction sites. Amongst these measures are, for instance, the identification and isolation of workers who are at particular risk given their age or pre-existing health conditions. Furthermore, the SC, through the network of its doctors and nurses in accommodations and on construction sites, has put in place specific procedures to raise awareness amongst workers, to identify individuals showing symptoms of COVID-19, and to test workers. For a more comprehensive overview on the measures taken for workers on FIFA World Cup construction sites, we kindly refer you to communication by the SC.

FIFA is also in touch with the SC and other relevant stakeholders to assess the situation of workers in the country more widely. Based on these engagements, FIFA is confident that the Qatari authorities, in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation, are taking important measures to deal with the challenge of keeping migrant workers safe and to ensure their rights are respected under these difficult circumstances. In particular, FIFA was pleased to see the explicit commitment by the authorities to ensure cost-free treatment of any affected worker, as well as the assurance that salary payments will be guaranteed for workers in isolation, quarantine or receiving treatment. FIFA is also aware of the significant economic stimulus package proposed by the Emir of Qatar and expects that the resources made available will help ensure that companies are in a position to keep workers in employment and that workers who are currently in the country will continue to receive their salaries during these more uncertain economic times.

We remain in contact with the SC and other stakeholders and will continue to review the situation to help ensure that the most effective measures possible are taken to safeguard the well-being of migrant workers in Qatar.

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