

## Text 3. A helping hand

### Facts and figures

#### The need for aid

An estimated one billion people are living on a dollar a day worldwide. As the world's population increases and changes in the climate create water shortages, the number of people without adequate access to food and water will increase and so will the need for aid.

#### Philanthropy

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many billionaires believed in philanthropy –giving money to tackle problems such as starvation, disease, poverty, lack of education... James Smithson, George Peabody, Andrew Carnagie, John D. Rockefeller were the most famous philanthropists.

Today, with the Information Revolution, a new generation of wealthy entrepreneurs is ready to spend money to offer solutions to the world's problems. Bill Gates, the co-founder of Microsoft and richest man on earth, created the *Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation*, which focuses primarily on health issues in the developing world. Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of *Facebook* and the second youngest billionaire, made a surprise gift of \$ 100 million to fix education problems in the schools of Newark, New Jersey.

#### Humanitarian assistance

Henri Durant, a Swiss Calvinist businessman, set up the International Committee of the *Red Cross* and helped draw up the Geneva Conventions in the 1860s.

Today, there are some 6,000 recognized international NGOs, which vary considerably in size, organization and approach, but share the belief that individuals working together can do much to solve human problems through grassroots organising, the creative use of information, and sophisticated strategies. They act in the fields of international solidarity (*Oxfam International*, *CARE*, *Save the Children*), the respect of human rights (*Amnesty International*), humanitarian aid (*Doctors Without Borders*, "The French Doctors"), and the protection of the environment (*The World Wildlife Fund*, *Greenpeace*). They also bring help in emergency aid after wars, famines and natural disasters.

In Britain, Comic has organized "Red Nose Day" since 1984: a group of comedians decided to get people to sponsor others to do crazy things wearing red noses. Staff members investigate how the donations are spent and work at inventing ideas to raise money and make the public more conscious of how problems are created and can be avoided.

## Words you might need

### Difficulties : les difficultés

*a barbarian* : un barbare  
*barbarity* : la barbarie  
*barbaric* : barbare  
*malevolent* : malveillant  
*a censor* : un censeur  
*ensorship* : la censure  
*to clash* : s'affronter  
*a clash* : un affrontement  
*to cope with* : faire face à  
*a success* : une réussite  
*to fail* : échouer  
*a failure* : un échec  
*a dictator* : un dictateur  
*a dictatorship* : une dictature  
*disappointed/disillusioned* : déçu  
*to discriminate against* : discriminer  
*an enemy/a foe* : un ennemi  
*inequality* : l'inégalité  
*to hate* : haïr  
*hatred* : la haine  
*to be in dire straits* : être dans une situation désastreuse  
*a plight/a predicament* : une situation critique  
*a coup* : un coup d'État  
*sb's plight* : le malheur de quelqu'un  
*a nightmare* : un cauchemar  
*narrow-minded* : borné  
*narrow-mindedness* : l'étroitesse d'esprit  
*a prejudice* : un préjugé  
*a bias* : un préjugé  
*to be prejudiced/biased against* : avoir un préjugé contre  
*a prisoner of conscience* : un prisonnier d'opinion  
*a race riot* : une émeute raciale  
*ruthless/callous* : impitoyable  
*segregation* : la ségrégation  
*standardization* : l'uniformisation  
*starvation* : la famine

*xenophobia* : la xénophobie  
*to suffer from* : souffrir de  
*suffering* : la souffrance  
*unfair* : injuste  
*woes* : des malheurs

### Activism : le militantisme

*to act* : agir  
*action* : l'action  
*an activist* : militant  
*aid* : l'assistance  
*affirmative action* : la discrimination positive  
*lavery* : l'esclavage  
*to achieve* : réaliser  
*an achievement* : un succès  
*to boycott* : boycotter  
*a picket* : un piquet de grève  
*Human Rights* : les Droits de l'Homme  
*Civil Rights* : les droits civiques  
*to claim* : revendiquer  
*a claim* : une revendication  
*to demand* : exiger, revendiquer  
*a demand* : une exigence, une revendication  
*to meet demands* : satisfaire des revendications  
*to commit oneself* : s'engager  
*committed* : engagé  
*a commitment* : un engagement  
*to defend* : prendre la défense de  
*confident* : sûr, confiant  
*confidence* : la confiance  
*to demonstrate* : manifester  
*a demonstration* : une manifestation  
*equal rights* : des droits égaux  
*equal opportunities* : des chances égales  
*to struggle* : lutter, se débattre  
*struggle* : la lutte  
*to fight for/against* : se battre pour/contre  
*a fight* : un combat

*to go on strike* : faire la grève  
*a hunger strike* : une grève de la faim  
*to make oneself heard* : se faire entendre  
*to march/to parade* : défiler  
*to defile* : souiller  
*to promote* : promouvoir  
*to advocate* : préconiser  
*a lawyer* : un avocat

### **Volunteering : le bénévolat**

*to assess* : évaluer  
*an assessment* : une évaluation  
*to be aware* : se rendre compte  
*awareness* : la conscience  
*to become aware* : prendre conscience  
*conscience* : la conscience morale  
*benevolent* : bienveillant  
*a benefactor* : un bienfaiteur  
*to care about* : se préoccuper de  
*to care for* : avoir de l'affection pour  
*an endeavour* : une tentative  
*to endeavour (to)* : tenter (de)  
*an attempt* : une tentative, un essai  
*to attempt (to)* : tenter de, essayer de  
*to strive, strove, striven* : s'efforcer de  
*to make an effort to* : faire l'effort de  
*to hope* : espérer  
*hopeful* : plein d'espoir  
*hopefully* : comme on peut l'espérer  
*friendship* : l'amitié  
*to expect* : s'attendre à  
*expectations* : les attentes  
*fair* : juste  
*fairness* : l'équité  
*future (adj.)* : à venir  
*the future* : l'avenir  
*a goal/an aim/an objective* : un but  
*to aim at* : viser, avoir pour but de  
*to look forward to + ing* : attendre  
impatiemment

*proud* : fier  
*pride* : la fierté  
*to sympathize with* : compatir  
*to promise* : promettre  
*a promise* : une promesse  
*to wish* : souhaiter  
*a wish* : un souhait  
*to trust* : avoir confiance en  
*trust* : la confiance  
*trustworthy* : digne de confiance  
*an advance* : un progrès  
*a utopia* : une utopie  
*a utopian* : utopiste  
*to bridge the gap* : combler le fossé  
*fair trade* : le commerce équitable  
*a charity* : une organisation caritative  
*to choose, chose, chosen* : choisir  
*to comfort* : reconforter  
*comfort* : le réconfort  
*to evolve* : évoluer  
*evolution* : l'évolution  
*equality* : l'égalité  
*liberty* : la liberté  
*freedom* : la liberté de  
*free* : libre  
*to fulfil* : combler  
*fulfilment* : l'accomplissement  
*to improve* : améliorer  
*an improvement* : une amélioration  
*to make sth. come true* : réaliser  
*an organisation* : un organisme  
*an NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation)* : une ONG  
*to play a part* : jouer un rôle  
*to make progress* : faire des progrès  
*to succeed in* : réussir à  
*welfare* : le bien-être  
*wise* : sage, sensé  
*wisdom* : la sagesse  
*wisely* : sagement  
*a volunteer* : un bénévole

## Exercises

### 1. Pick out the equivalents from the text

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| a. le terrain                  | b. est à la traîne                     |
| c. le couteau sous la gorge    | d. les défis le stimulent              |
| e. un atout                    | f. un coup                             |
| g. il s'est reconverti         | h. affectueux                          |
| i. valable                     | j. sa première année                   |
| k. a déposé des projets de loi | l. celui qui tire la sonnette d'alarme |
| m. un groupe de surveillance   | n. il a fait des merveilles            |
| o. éreintant                   |  |

### 2. Exploring the text

1. Say why Romário is nicknamed "the Brazilian football legend".
2. Why does the journalist mean by "he kicked his way into the pros"?
3. What does he refer to Romário as a "pint-sized giant"?
4. Say in which fields Romário acts today.
5. What made him change paths?
6. Who or what does Romário call "a team of suits"?
7. Explain why it is important that Romário should be a leading whistle-blower on the 2014 World Cup.

### 3 Essay (200 words ± 10 %)

1. Do you agree with Romário that politics can be a way for stars to use their fame to achieve something worthwhile?
2. Do you agree with Robert Newman, a British columnist, that "philanthropy is the enemy of justice because the world's poor are not begging for charity from the rich, they're asking for justice and fairness."

#### 4. Translate the text into French

From "Born in a Rio favela..." down to "...on a team of suits?"

### A HELPING HAND

#### From football superstar to champion of Brazil's children

Romário, the Brazilian football legend, is back – but not on the pitch, where he fainted and danced, leading Brazil to the fourth of its five World Cup titles in 1994. Now he's in Brasília, the country's capital, as a junior Socialist Party representative from Rio.

The town could use a superstar. With the 2014 World Cup approaching fast, and Brazil's global cachet in play, construction on stadiums, hotels, and mass transit is badly lagging. The delays have embarrassed the country and set Brasília and FIFA, the international football authority, at dagger point, and yet Congress has still not voted on the ground rules for the planet's biggest sports event. "Brazil is not going to be ready," the pint-size giant says. "We've known the World Cup was coming for more than four years, but only now has the government woken up."

This is a new game for Romário de Souza Faria who thrives on outsize challenges. Just 1,69 meters tall, "o Baixinho" (the Little Fellow) was once Brazil's biggest asset on grass, scoring 1,002 career goals, just behind Pelé. Born in a Rio favela, he kicked his way into the pros, becoming a legend in Holland, the Spanish league's high scorer with Barcelona's 1994 "Dream Team" (scoring 30 goals), and a magician for Brazilian *Vasco da Gama* and *Flamengo*.

But his most daring move came after he hung up his boots at 42. He could have made a bundle as an agent, coach, or sports commentator. Instead, he ran for Congress. "On the field, playing ball was automatic. It came naturally," he says. "Politics is, well, different." So, why gamble glory on a team of suits?

When Ivy (pronounced EE-vie), Romário's sixth child, was born with trisomy 21, "it was a blow," he recalls. But he doubled down and became a doting dad, then a lawmaker. "Maybe this is God's way of saying: 'You're the man'". Raising Ivy drew him into a world he had never stopped to notice. "Brazil has 45 million children with special needs," he says. "Being an idol wasn't enough to help." Romário saw politics as a way to use his fame to accomplish something worthwhile. In his freshman year he drafted 48 bills and saw two signed into law: one to aid poor kids at risk in the favelas, the other for special-needs kids. He also emerged as the nation's leading whistle-blower on the World Cup, sparing neither FIFA nor his fellow politicians. The Brazilian legislative-watchdog group Congress in Focus rated him 2011's sixth most effective lawmaker out of 513.

For nearly two decades he worked wonders in one of God's most demanding rectangles. Whether he can do the same in Latin America's most grueling political arena is an open question. But no one doubts it'll be a game worth watching.

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