

Member Associations Division

CAF[®]

IMPACT

Newsletter

May 2026, Edition 2



WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER

This newsletter continues to serve as a platform to keep our 54 Member Associations and 6 Zonal Unions informed, connected, and aligned on the key initiatives and programmes led by the Member Association Division.

Through each edition, we aim to share important updates, highlight

progress across our network, and strengthen collaboration as we work together to advance football development across the continent.

We hope this edition provides valuable insights and continues to support our shared commitment to the growth of African football.

Enjoy the read!



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Unprecedented Growth: 4th CAF U15 African Schools Football Championship by the Numbers



The 4th Season of the CAF African Schools Football Championship has reached historic milestones, setting new records with 1,197,660 total players—comprising 496,400 girls and 701,260 boys.

With over 59,000 participating schools and 49 countries involved, this unprecedented turnout highlights the tournament’s massive scale and its vital role in fostering inclusive growth and unity for young athletes across Africa.

Ghana retains the girls’ title and Senegal claims the boys’ crown at the Continental final.

Ranking & Prize Money donated by the Motsepe Foundation

Positions	Prize money	Teams (boys)	Teams (girls)
First place	USD 300,000	Senegal	Ghana
Second place	USD 200,000	Uganda	Burkina Faso
Third place	USD 150,000	Benin	Zambia

CAF African Schools Football Championship Finals Zimbabwe 2026

PARTICIPATING TEAMS:

Boys: Zimbabwe (Hosts), Tanzania (Champions), Benin, Morocco, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia, DR Congo

Girls: Zimbabwe (Hosts), Ghana (Champions), Burkina Faso, Morocco, Guinea, Tanzania, Zambia, DR Congo



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CAF President Dr Motsepe and UEFA President Mr Čeferin Sign MoU for football growth Across Africa and Europe



CAF President Dr Motsepe and UEFA President Mr Čeferin Sign MoU aimed at strengthening collaboration, growth and development of football across Europe and Africa.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed in Vancouver, Canada, underlines the guiding principles shared by CAF and UEFA and will combine expertise across youth and women’s football, development programmes, coach education, refereeing, institutional exchange, education and capacity building, and governance.

CAF President Dr Patrice Motsepe welcomed the new MoU with UEFA as a key step in African football’s continued rise.

“African football has experienced significant growth over the past few years, and we continue to build towards making it among the best in the world,” he said, noting that the agreement strengthens the historic ties and friendship between Africa and Europe.

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CAF brings ‘Boots for All’ to Zimbabwe



CAF inspires Zimbabwean Children with Football Boots Donation at CAF African Schools Football Championship Grassroots Festival.

The spirit of football development was on full display at the CAF African Schools Football Championship Grassroots Festival in Zimbabwe, as CAF Legends distributed football boots to participating children in a heartwarming initiative inspired by the FIFA Boots for All campaign.

The special moment brought smiles and excitement to hundreds of young aspiring footballers boys and girls under the age of 12.

The initiative reflects the growing commitment of CAF to remove barriers to participation and ensure that every child can play the beautiful game.

Under Dr Motsepe’s vision, the CAF African Schools Football Championship has become much more than a competition—it is now a platform for education, opportunity, and social impact, helping to nurture the next generation of African talent while promoting the values of unity and hope.



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CAF Young Reporters shine in conversation with CAF President Dr Patrice Motsepe



CAF’s commitment to youth development was evident at the CAF African Schools Football Championship, where the CAF Young Reporters Programme—run in partnership with Canal+—gave aspiring journalists from Harare and nearby areas hands-on experience in a high-performance football environment.

A standout moment saw young reporters engage directly with the CAF President, Dr Patrice Motsepe on the future of African football.

As part of the partnership, the following four outstanding young reporters : **Sandra Magahanye, Sakuhuni Takudzwa, Michelle Kanguru, and Tinashe Dembaremba** have been selected to undertake an internship at Canal+ in Paris, France marking a significant milestone in their professional development.

Speaking on the importance of the initiative, CAF Member Associations Director Sarah Mukuna said:

“This partnership with Canal+ is essential in giving young people practical, real-life experience in professional environments. Opportunities like interviewing the CAF President, Dr Patrice Motsepe, create meaningful learning moments that inspire and prepare the next generation of African sports journalists.”

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Exporting Excellence: Implementing the CAF African Schools Football Model in Barbados

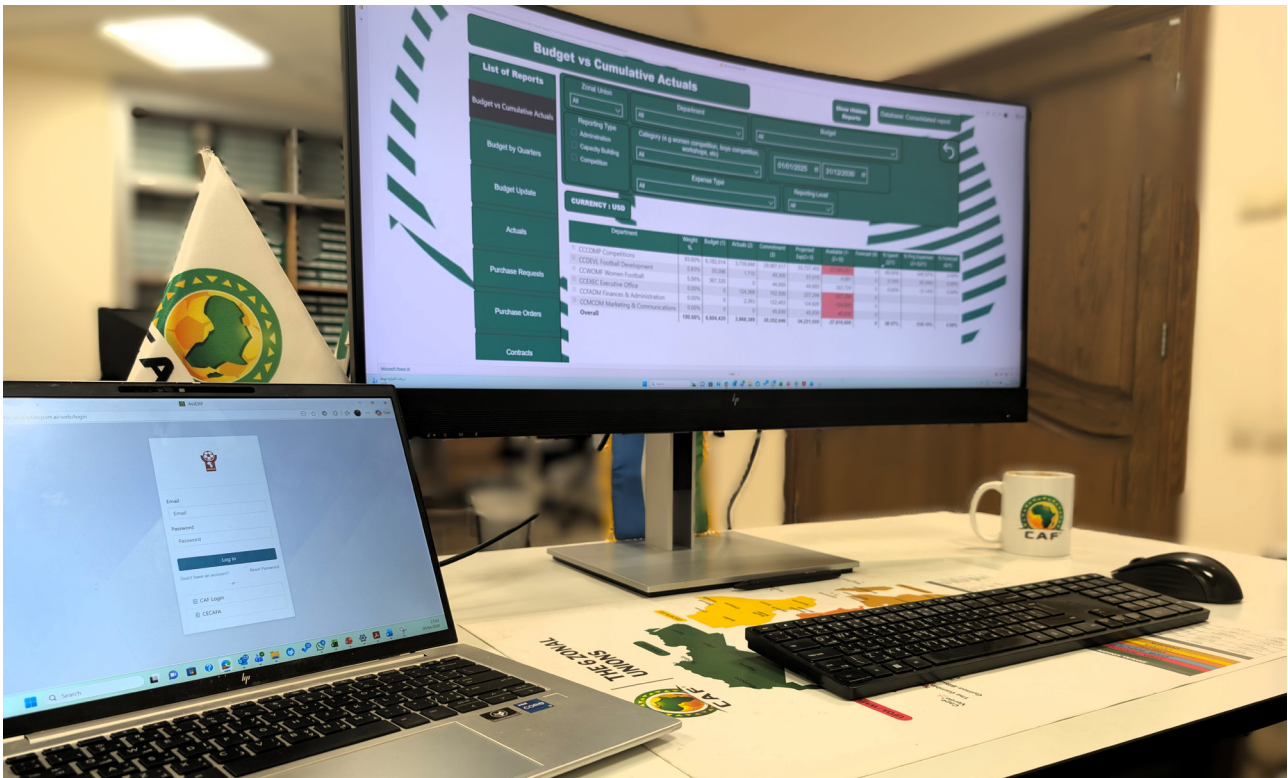


CAF President Dr Patrice Motsepe and Randy Harris, President of Barbados Football Association (“BFA”) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) that will see the CAF African Schools Football Championship model adopted and implemented in Barbados.

The MoU was signed during the Continental Finals of the CAF African Schools Football Championship in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Over 3 million boys and girls from 49 African countries have participated in the CAF U15 African Schools Football Championship since 2022.

Driving Digital Financial Transformation in Our Member Associations: The ERP Initiative

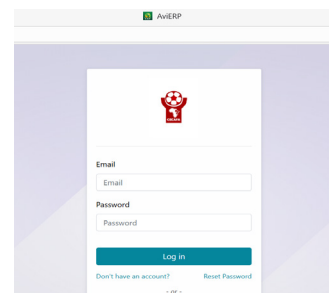


As of July 1st, 2025, all six Zonal Unions have been operating on the ERP system – Enterprise resource planning. This marks yet another important milestone in CAF’s ongoing efforts to professionalise the Zonal Unions.

The recently implemented ERP system streamlines, digitalises, and centralises our most essential processes. This transformation touches every facet of Zonal Union operations, making day-to-day management more efficient and transparent.

The ERP system now supports budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, procurement and payment approvals, HR management, contract and supplier management, asset tracking, and project management.

As part of its broader rollout, this ERP model will be shared with CAF Member Associations interested in adopting the solution.



A pilot phase with 10 selected Member Associations is currently being prepared, marking the first step toward a wider digital transformation across all 54 CAF Member Associations.

Early results already show clear improvements in financial governance, transparency, efficiency, and coordination across departments, reinforcing the value of this digital transition.

New Leadership for the Fédération Malienne de Football: President Mahazou CISSET elected



Mahazou Baba Cisset has been elected President of the Fédération Malienne de Football (FEMAFOOT) on 16 April 2026 in Bamako, ushering in a new era for football in Mali. He has been elected for a four-year term alongside his Executive Committee.

A long-standing football leader, he has played a key role at FC Mali Coura, competing in the Ligue 1 Orange Pro, and founded the football academy ABM Foot. He has also launched the Sidaty CISSE Sports Complex project to strengthen youth development infrastructure.

His 11-point manifesto focuses on modern governance, unity across stakeholders, and strengthening youth development systems, with a strong emphasis on positioning Mali as a leading training hub in West Africa through structured academies and talent pathways. Key priorities also include professional league development, women's football, refereeing standards, and enhancing the visibility of Malian football.

His election reflects a renewed commitment to structured growth and long-term success for the game in Mali.

Join us in warmly welcoming our newly elected President.



President Lamin Kaba Bajo (WAFU A), President Mahazou Cisset (Femafoot), and Executive Director Mapathe Gaye (WAFU A)

ZONAL UNION AFFAIRS

COMPETITIONS: Upcoming May & June 2026



CECAFA

- **CECAFA U17 Girls Tournament** 13-26 June 2026, Tanzania



COSAFA

- **COSAFA Cup**, 3-14 June 2026, South Africa



UNAF

- **UNAF U20 Girls Tournament**, 30 May-9 June 2026, Tunisia (TBC)



WAFU A

- **WAFU A U20 Girls Tournament**, 1-20 May 2026, Guinea Bissau

WINNERS FROM LATEST COMPETITIONS



UNAF

- CAF U17 AFCON Qualifiers (Qualified teams: Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco)

WORKSHOPS: Upcoming May & June 2026



UNIFFAC

- Academy Managers Workshop, 29 April-1 May, Brazzaville (Congo)
- Academy Managers Workshop, 4-6 May, N'Djamena (Chad)
- MA Youth League Presidents and General Secretaries Workshop, 12-14 May, Douala (Cameroon)
- VAR Course, 13-17 June, Libreville (Gabon)



WAFU A

- Women Referees Course, 27-30 April, Bissau (Guinea Bissau)
- Technical Directors Workshop, 4-5 May, Praia (Cape Verde)
- Women's Football Workshop, 6-7 May, Bissau (Guinea Bissau)
- Futsal Referees Workshop, 11-15 June, Nouakchott (Mauritania)



WAFU B

- Inauguration of WAFU B Commission, 9 May Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)

Zonal Union in the Spotlight: **WAFU B Leads First U-17 Team Manager Workshop**



Executive Director Philippe Tchere (WAFU B) and President Kossi Akpovi (FTF)

In April, WAFU B strengthened its capacity building programme by hosting its first ever workshop for U17 Team Managers in Lomé, Togo, aimed at professionalising youth team management to ensure optimal preparation for upcoming CAF competitions.

The two-day seminar bridged theory and practice, equipping managers with expertise in administrative coordination, logistics, communication, player welfare, match-day operations, competition regulations, and documentation requirements.

Participants also gained critical insights into the Laws of the Game, regulatory updates, and operational procedures, including a specific focus on the role of VAR in technical area management.

WAFU B President, Ibrahim Musa Gusau, highlighted the strategic importance of the event: *"This seminar aligns perfectly with*

our vision to build solid structures around our national teams, starting with the youth categories. By professionalizing team management, we are fostering a safer, more performance-driven environment where our talent can truly shine."



Member Association in the Spotlight: **Chadian Football Federation’s strategic commitment to Youth Development**



Following a period of governance under a Normalisation Committee from 2021 to 2025, the FTFA has entered a new and ambitious phase under the leadership of its President, Tahir Oloy Hassan, with a strong focus on youth football development.

These projects and investments in grassroots and youth football include the renovation of the Academy of the Federation, launched in April under the high patronage of the Government of Chad, as highlighted by the Minister of Youth and Sports, Nair Abakar at the groundbreaking ceremony.

The FTFA is also hosting a workshop for football academy managers in N’Djamena from 4 to 6 May, bringing together 30 managers from across Chad. This initiative directly supports the development and professionalisation of youth football nationwide.

Building on this momentum, the Federation will organize the CSR initiative **“United by Football, Committed to Water – Lake Chad Basin,”** featuring U17 boys’ and girls’

competitions among Cameroon, Chad, Libya, the Central African Republic, Niger and Nigeria, alongside targeted youth development workshops.

President Tahir Oloy Hassan noted *“We need to invest in training, which is essential, in order to allow educators, referees, players and coaches to be competitive with their peers from other countries and develop football in our country.”*



President Tahir Oloy Hassan (FTFA) and Nair Abakar (Chad Minister of Youth and Sports)