

## **The children of Puerto Asís stars of Barça Foundation and Gran Tierra Energy Festival**

- *Former FC Barcelona football player José Edmilson was the guest of honor in the festival celebrated in the El Poblado Neighborhood*

**Puerto Asís, February 29th 2020.** Over 300 boys and girls of Puerto Asís, participants of the joint program of the Barça Foundation and Gran Tierra Energy, have shared a day with the ex FC Barcelona football player and of the Brazilian national team, José Edmilson, in the end of project festival in the football field of El Poblado neighborhood.

For almost three hours the participants of the festival participated in a variety of games, through the methodology of the Barça Foundation *FutbolNet*, where the kids used all of the knowledge learned during the project.

Likewise, the footballer José Edmilson, the general director of the Barça Foundation, Maria Vallès, the environmental manager of Gran Tierra Energy, Yaneth Mantilla, were in charge of the delivery of the participation medals to the children and the diplomas to the educators that led the project activities, that were focused in the Metropolitano and El Poblado Neighborhoods.

### **Program impact in Putumayo**

The Project developed in Putumayo tries to join synergies between Gran Tierra Energy's Human Rights Strategy, the violence prevention program of the Barça Foundation and "Mambrú, this is another history" of the ARN, strategy for the defense of boys and girls rights. Furthermore, inclusivity is an important element of the project, for that reason, more than 40% of the children participating were female, indigenous communities, Afro-Colombians and children with disabilities.

### **The objectives of the joint project are:**

- Contribute to the empowerment of the boys, girls, and youth fundamental rights and values.
- Contribute to the strengthening of protective environments to mitigate risk factors that lead to child recruitment.
- Contribute to the tool learning tools for conflict resolution through sport.
- The transformation of imaginaries associated with violence.

The project began in July 2019 in the El Metropolitano and El Poblado neighborhoods. All the participants assist twice a week on two hours sessions.

**Maria Vallés, Barça Foundation General Director**

“From the Barça Foundation we are very happy with the impact that the program is having in Puerto Asís because throughout sport and development we have achieved that all these kids can have an activity in a safe place, preventing them from being recruited by armed groups or others, of being at home without doing anything.”

**José Edmilson, former FC Barcelona football player**

“I am proud to be in Putumayo to learn about this project of the Barça Foundation, Gran Tierra Energy and ARN in which almost 300 children have been able to improve their situation and have a social sports activity in a safe space. Such a program demonstrates why FC Barcelona is more than a club, as its “philosophy” says.”