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Theron helps build football fields for S. Africans

CHICAGO: Charlize Theron (*pic*) has big plans for the World Cup.

The Academy Award winner's Charlize Theron Africa Outreach Project is teaming up with LAFC Chelsea Soccer Club in Los Angeles to build community football programmes for underprivileged children in South Africa. In addition to football fields, uniforms and equipment, kids involved in the programme will receive health education and services.

The project will serve schools in South Africa's Umkhanyakude District, an area plagued by a high rate of HIV infection. She hopes to have the first fields built by the time the World Cup begins on June 11.

"The World Cup is a huge, huge thing for South Africans and for Africa. The pride Africans have of hosting this is tremendous," Theron said.

"The question is, how do we generate that into other areas and have more of an impact?"

Theron and LAFC are kicking off their collaboration with yesterday's friendly game between Chelsea and Inter Milan at the Rose Bowl. Net proceeds from the match will benefit the programme. — AP