PLAY UNIFIED : LEARN UNIFIED

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Special Olympics

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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LEADERSHIP NOTE

Special Olympics is a movement of discovery- and action. Through the global project “Play Unified : Learn Unified" developed by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and Special Olympics International, we have the opportunity to continue to discover new ways to bring the power of social inclusion to schools and communities across the world- creating systemic change that betters the lives of individuals of all abilities. Forging together an international team of individuals committed to action and positive social change (including youth leaders, teachers, community organizers and coaches), we are working together to build a more inclusive world through the expansion of Unified programming.

This project is off to a strong start with a successful conclusion to its first year. In many ways, the first year of progress has demonstrated the level of innovation, commitment, and focus that is possible when working to create a more empathetic world. From project launch to implementation and engagement at the grassroots level, month by month we were able to witness the six Special Olympics National Programs engaged, with partners at all levels, as part of a shared dedication to transform school networks by engaging 376 new Unified Schools and over 13,000 Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners.

As we move into the second year, we pause to celebrate all that was accomplished in the first year, while redoubling our efforts to continue to empower young people of all abilities around the world. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for their faith in the power of our athletes and the message they bring to the world. Together, Special Olympics International and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation are fueling real and lasting change- one school at a time.

David S. Evangelista
President and Managing Director
Special Olympics Europe Eurasia

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Seventh Annual Stavros Niarchos Foundation Conference

The Play Unified : Learn Unified project was announced at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Conference in 2018. Special Olympics Athletes and Leadership were in attendance.

Special Olympics 50th Anniversary

Representatives from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation attended events held in Chicago to kick-off the 50th Anniversary of Special Olympics.

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Special Olympics World Summer Games

In March 2019, the Special Olympics World Games were held in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The World Games convened over 7,000 Special Olympics Athletes and Unified Partners from almost 200 countries. Held alongside World Games was the Global Youth Leadership Summit, a gathering of youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities from 45+ countries . Representatives from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Panos Vazaios and George Agouridis, attended World Games, participating in the Opening Ceremony , Global Youth Leadership Summit and a Unified Sports Experience.

Play Unified : Learn Unified Site Visits

School visits coordinated by Special Olympics Hellas (left) and Special Olympics Serbia (right) were attended by representaives from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Eigth Annual Stavros Niarchos Foundation Conference

Athletes and supporters of Special Olympics Hellas joined for the evening fun run at the eighth annual Stavros Niarchos Foundation Conference in June 2019

GLOBAL IMPACT

SPREADING SOCIAL INCLUSION AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH UNIFIED SCHOOLS, UNIFIED SPORTS, AND INCLUSIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP

In 2018, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and Special Olympics International announced a landmark collaboration to support a global social inclusion movement. By forging a stronger youth network worldwide, Special Olympics and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation are working to create positive change for inclusion in sports and education. To drive local impact around the world, six national Special Olympics Programs engaged in the first year of this partnership: Special Olympics Bharat (India), Brazil, Chile, Hellas (Greece), Kenya and Serbia. Building upon the advances of the first year, the programming will expand to eight additional Special Olympics Programs: Special Olympics Mexico, Tanzania, Egypt, Morocco, Russia, Indonesia, China and Chinese Taipei (Taiwan).

Additionally, during the Special Olympics Global Youth Leadership Forum, held in Baku, Azerbaijan in September 2018 with support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and other movement partners, nearly 120 youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities from over 45 Programs received resources to lead Youth Innovation Projects in their communities. These projects will engage an additional 250 new Unified Schools and sports clubs worldwide by 2021. With the total number of schools engaged by Program partners and those engaged through youth-led Innovation Projects, the Play Unified : Learn Unified project is on track to achieve its three-year project goal of engaging 1,900 new Unified Schools.

To date, the six participating Special Olympics Programs have brought the vision of the Play Unified : Learn Unified project to life around the world through Unified Sports demonstrations and competitions, community outreach gatherings and Unified Sports trainings for teachers, coaches and other school staff. As a result, 376 new Unified Schools across six countries have been engaged, nearly 30% over the projected year 1 goal.

IMPACT BY NUMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2018 - MAY 2019

376

TOTAL # OF NEW UNIFIED SCHOOLS ENGAGED

13,413

TOTAL # OF UNIFIED SPORTS ATHLETES (WITH ID) & PARTNERS (WITHOUT ID) ENGAGED

2,068

TOTAL # OF TEACHERS & COACHES TRAINED IN UNIFIED SCHOOLS

OUTREACH

LEVERAGING THE POWER OF INCLUSIVE SPORTS AND POSITIONING INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES AS THE LEAD AGENTS OF CHANGE

In order to maximize impact for social inclusion, the Play Unified : Learn Unified project is engaging partners and platforms at the global, regional, national, and local levels. In each of the participating countries, Special Olympics has developed unique methods of outreach and stakeholder engagement tailored to local culture and circumstances. To maximize reach and impact, outreach has focused on three key areas:

- **Recruiting Schools:** To best identify and access schools, participating Special Olympics Programs used a geographic mapping based on the amount of students with ID, the number of integrated schools or special education units, on-site sports facilities, physical education teachers on staff, previous engagement with SO, and other factors. The mapping was either conducted in collaboration with local government or coordinated separately by SO Programs, working directly with State Committees and District Coordinators. Approval to directly engage with schools was obtained either during the mapping process or through separate outreach meetings with local government.

- **Developing Partnerships:** In order to drive continued and sustainable programming growth, participating SO Programs developed local partnerships with governmental entities and community organizations. The partners include sports-focused entities, educational entities and others. In order to drive continued and sustainable programming growth, participating Programs have developed local partnerships with 10 governmental entities and community organizations, including:

    - **Kenya Ministry of Education**- to advance outcomes associated with Article 1 of the sector policy for inclusive education in Kenya via Unified Schools programming; and

    - **Department of Education in Quilicura, Chile**- to implement Special Olympics Unified Sports, Young Athletes and early childhood development programming in kindergarten classes.

- **Awareness and Communications:** To amplify awareness and impact, a communications toolkit was created and deployed to build relationships with media, engage supporters, and the greater community. The project has been highlighted in local and national media including television, print, and digital outlets, all with the focus on the awareness of Special Olympics and the critical importance of social inclusion in their countries. For example, in November 2018, *Srpska Ekonomija*, a Serbian Economic Magazine, reported on the launch of the project and the intended impact this program will have on the city of Belgrade. More awareness pieces were seen throughout the six Programs - including the latest in *The Daily News* regarding thelaunch of the project in Tanzania in June 2019.

PROJECT IMPACT

MEASURING THE REACH TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION

To achieve Year 1 reach, the Play Unified : Learn Unified project has coordinated grassroots implementation in three key areas:

- **Recruiting New Unified Schools:** 376 new Unified Schools have been engaged to date, nearly 30% over the projected Year 1 goal of 290.

- **Implementing Unified Sports in Schools:** The six Special Olympics Programs have implemented Unified Sports programming across 12 sports types, including basketball, football, netball, bocce, tennis, athletics, handball, volleyball, floor hockey, badminton, table tennis, and kayaking.

- **Training Teachers and Coaches:** School staff trainings were used during the school recruitment process and to educate additional school staff after a school's participation was formalized. Trainings outlined specific supports available to schools that joined the project and provided direct instruction on implementing school-wide inclusive events, as well as Unified Sports demonstrations and competitions. To further expand the reach of the project, Special Olympics has also developed an e-Learning platform to provide Special Olympics educational online courses for teachers, coaches, volunteers, and participants.

YEAR 1 AT A GLANCE

- 29,735 YOUTH ENGAGED
- 4,324 COACHES ENGAGED
- 659 UNIFIED SPORTS COMPETITIONS HELD

Year 1 Reach	
New Unified Schools	376
Unified Sports Competitions	659
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	6,290
Unified Partners (without ID)	7,123
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	1,133
Teachers Trained	931
Unified Sports Teams	189
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	29
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	1,448
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	1,322
Youth indirectly engaged	14,236

YOUTH INNOVATION PROJECTS

REALIZING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS VISION OF AN INCLUSIVE FUTURE THROUGH YOUTH-LED INNOVATION

To empower Youth Leaders, with and without intellectual disabilities Special Olympics launched in 2018 the Special Olympics Youth Innovation Project initiative. This initiative brings financial resources and technical support to the grassroots level, empowering young people directly to engage their peers and community in creating inclusion.

Through this initiative, Special Olympics Youth Leaders with and without intellectual disabilities come together to design, plan, and implement their own visions for inclusion in their schools and communities, leveraging the tools of Special Olympics and the mentorship of adult allies. With support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and other partners, this initiative is engaging youth, new Unified Schools, and sports clubs with projects underway in countries around the world.

YOUTH INNOVATION PROJECT IMPACT

PROJECTS INITIATED IN 2018 TO CONCLUDE BY DECEMBER 2020

300+
NEW UNIFIED SCHOOLS ENGAGED

80
YOUTH PROJECTS FUNDED

3,600+
YOUTH ENGAGED

2,650
NEW YOUTH LEADERS ENGAGED

100,000
SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS FOR PROJECT ACTIVITIES

9,900
PEOPLE WITHOUT ID ENGAGED

(PROJECTS FUNDED IN CONJUCTION WITH THE 2018 SPECIAL OLYMPICS GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM)

For more information on the full scope of impact check out the:
SPECIAL OLYMPICS YOUTH INNOVATION PROJECTS 2018 GLOBAL IMPACT REPORT

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YOUTH INNOVATION PROJECTS

In the inaugural year of the Youth Innovation Project Initiative, Special Olympics identified and funded youth-led projects worldwide, as shown on the map above. These projects are engaging youth, new Unified Schools and sports clubs worldwide.

"AS YOUTH LEADERS, WE CAN PUT ASIDE DISCRIMINATION AND STIGMA"

Project Spotlight: Unified Sports Day

Anniah and Malvin, Special Olympics Youth Leaders from Zimbabwe, are building upon their communication skills in order to connect more people in their community to Unified Sports. With support of a Youth Innovation Project grant, the two hosted a Unified Sports Day where over 100 participants came out to learn more about Special Olympics and Unified Sports.

"Our project gave us a great opportunity to not only give back to our community, but also gave us the perspective to see our world in different light. We were able to understand that as Youth Leaders we can put aside discrimination and stigma. By organizing our project around a Unified Sports Day, we found it to be so heartening to see smiles on participants' faces since they really enjoyed the project." **– Anniah and Malvin**

GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

EMPOWERING YOUTH LEADERS TO DRIVE SOCIAL INCLUSION WORLDWIDE

The Play Unified : Learn Unified project is advancing social inclusion through Unified Schools and directly empowering Special Olympics Youth Leaders around the world. With support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Special Olympics hosted the 2018 Global Youth Leadership Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan, to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Special Olympics and launch the next 50 years of the global Special Olympics movement with young leaders from around the world. Held 24-27 September 2018, the Forum convened youth and adult leaders from over 45 SO Programs to develop and expand their leadership for social inclusion in their communities. Attendees, including 120 youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities, explored new strategies and actions from globally recognized experts in leadership to advance a more inclusive world using the Special Olympics platforms of Unified Sports and Unified Schools.

Photo from left: Soeren Palumbo, Vice President, Global Youth Engagement, Special Olympics International, Mohamed Mumin, Youth Leader, Susan Masila, National Director, Special Olympics Kenya, Simon Ndaiga, Youth Leader, Panos Vazaios, Program Officer, Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Brynn Bishop, Intern, Stavros Niarchos Foundation and Eva Polyzogopoulou, Co-Deputy Chief Programs Officer, Stavros Niarchos Foundation

Special Olympics Youth Leaders from India at the Forum

Legendary Brazilian footballer and Special Olympics Global Ambassador Cafu with a Special Olympics Youth Leader

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GLOBAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

EMPOWERING YOUTH LEADERS TO DRIVE SOCIAL INCLUSION

Throughout the Global Youth Leadership Forum, Special Olympics Youth Leaders received the tools, knowledge and resources to execute their vision of inclusion in their communities and to lead projects that will transform schools, communities, provinces, states, and countries into centers of inclusion. Adult leaders and mentors were trained on methods and techniques to integrate and support the impact of these young leaders. To ensure the impact of the Forum spread to communities worldwide, participants developed tangible and concrete projects for inclusion to execute upon return to their home countries.

SO Pakistan

SO Bosnia and Herzegovina

SO Mongolia

SO China

Baku Declaration

Youth representatives from all participating countries, along with other representatives and dignitaries signed the Baku Declaration—a commitment to working for an inclusive world following the Forum. The Declaration urges all governments, international development partners, civil society stakeholders and youth to support the vision of a world where all youth are included and can harness the benefits of inclusion in sport and education, thereby sharing their gifts with their communities and nations.

COMMUNITY SPORTS

DEVELOPING AND SCALING UNIFIED SPORTS PROGRAMMING TO CREATE STRONGER SOCIAL INCLUSION PRACTICES WORLDWIDE

In addition to growing the Unified Schools platform, the Play Unified : Learn Unified project is growing and enhancing Unified Sports in communities around the world. In order to provide high quality inclusive sports experiences to Special Olympics athletes around the world, Special Olympics is focused on further developing several areas, including:

- **Online Unified Sports Training**- the Special Olympics E-Learning Portal was launched in 2018 with a goal to increase opportunities to improve the overall quality of Special Olympics through easy-to-access, simple, engaging online learning opportunities in a variety of key areas including health and coach education. In the first year of the project, SNF support enabled development and distribution of Special Olympics educational online courses for coaches, volunteers, and teachers in countries around the world.
- **International Sports Partnerships**- To support the development of Unified Tennis, a partnership was formed with the International Tennis Federation that will integrate Special Olympics coaching methodology into International Tennis Federation coaching resources.

Special Olympics E-Learning Portal displaying Greek translation

- **Coaching Resources**- To improve the quality of National and local Unified Sport competitions, a Unified Sports Competition Management toolkit was created with insights from major Special Olympics competitions such as the 2019 World Games in Abu Dhabi and the Special Olympics World Tennis Invitational.

AT A GLANCE

YEAR 1 SPECIAL OLYMPICS IMPACT

- 3,189 ACTIVE USERS OF ONLINE SPORT TRAINING
- 2,886 ONLINE COURSES COMPLETED
- 184 SO PROGRAMS ENGAGED

To date, coaching courses are available in seven languages (English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Arabic, Japanese), with additional translations currently in review (Greek, Thai and Bahasa).

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EVALUATION

DRIVING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF PROGRAMMING AND MEASURING OUTCOMES OF UNIFIED SCHOOLS WORLDWIDE

With support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation as part of the Play Unified : Learn Unified project, Special Olympics has initiated over the past six months the Global Unified Schools Evaluation Project, in partnership with a team from American Institutes of Research (AIR). This evaluation project will continue throughout the three years of Play Unified : Learn Unified.

The foremost objective of this research and evaluation project is to build the tools and capacity for Special Olympics to evaluate the outcomes of our Unified Schools work across cultural contexts and school systems.

Special Olympics and AIR have now developed the first Global Unified Schools Evaluation Toolkit to empower Special Olympics Regions and National Programs to integrate evaluation into their Unified Schools programming. The toolkit also includes detailed information about different implementation and impact evaluation approaches. Finally, a full bank of quantitative and qualitative research protocols have been developed to be used in Years 2-3 of the project. This bank includes protocols to be used with students with and without ID, parents, and school administrators, with options appropriate for both integrated and segregated school systems.

These Global Unified Schools Evaluation tools will now be piloted in four Play Unified : Learn Unified countries: Greece, China, Kenya, and India. Local university partners have been secured in each of these countries to lead data collection and collaborate on the data analysis. Site visits to train the local university partners on the research protocols are taking place during June and July 2019, with the first round of data collection scheduled to begin in the fall of 2019.

Developing these evaluation tools across such a broad range of regions will be a critical step forward for the global Special Olympics movement. The capacity built through this project will allow Special Olympics to use better data to drive continuous improvement of programming and measure outcomes of Unified Schools on students, families, and entire school communities.

PLAY UNIFIED : LEARN UNIFIED UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece)
- Fujian Normal University (China)
- Kenyatta University (Kenya)
- Amity University Noida (India)

Photo: Tracy Li, Senior Manager, Organizational Development, Special Olympics East Asia; Meghan Hussey, Senior Manager, Unified Schools, Special Olympics International; and Dr. Michelle Yin, American Institutes of Research, during the Research Site Visit in China.

NATIONAL IMPACT

Alongside its global initiatives, the Play Unified : Learn Unified project is driving focused change for social inclusion at the grassroots level in six countries: India, Brazil, Chile, Greece, Kenya, and Serbia. Committed local leadership from Special Olympics Programs in each country is growing the Unified Schools platform and increasing opportunities for inclusion for Special Olympics athletes and their peers.

PERSPECTIVE FROM THE FIELD

In Kenya, the Play Unified : Learn Unified project is forging critical local partnerships to bring social inclusion to youth of all abilities through sport, leadership development, and community engagement

Creating meaningful and sustainable partnerships is key to supporting Unified Schools. Special Olympics Kenya has forged these partnerships and has worked to instill the values of inclusion throughout.

"When we spread the message of inclusion, it is not only about the schools we are working with, but its us helping other agencies, development partners, or government to look within themselves and to see how they can be champions of inclusion in their communities. It is not just about sharing our resources, but it is about us changing the way these institutions are doing business."

– Susan Masila, National Director, Special Olympics Kenya

In Chile, the Play Unified: Learn Unified project is creating sport opportunities among classmates with and without intellectual disabilities to promote social inclusion and increase physical activity

Chile has one of the highest rates of obesity in children under the age of 20 in Latin America, with 10-15% of the population considered obese. With the lack of physical education, and open space Special Olympics Chile is helping to bridge the gap for individuals with and without intellectual disabilities through Unified Sports in schools.

"Chile has one of the highest obesity rates in Latin America. If a school has a backyard or open space, you are lucky to have such a space. Through this project, we are looking to create a big cultural change to make school and sport more inclusive."

- Carolina Gonzalez, Director of Unified Schools, Special Olympics Chile

Aschner, P. (2015). Obesity in Latin America [Abstract]. Metabolic Syndrome,1-8. doi:10.1007/978-3-319-12125-3_4-1

Program Highlight: Serbia
Improving Communities Through Inclusive Sport

School-based Unified Sports held at the sports facility of a special education school in Čačak, Serbia

It won't take long for the new sports facility in Čačak to make a name for itself. Imagine: two teams from neighboring communities battling it out on the court for one of the most anticipated competitions of the year. Families anxiously waiting in the stands for a first glimpse of the players, athletes circled in a huddle minutes before going on the court and finally the winners parading through hugs and high-fives from all that attended. This is a small piece of the vision that initiated the building of the first sports facility at a Special Education School in Serbia. In a country with a strong sporting history, sport plays an important social role in Serbia. Therefore, the importance of having sporting infrastructure that promotes high-caliber experiences and enhances the quality of sport for local youth with and without intellectual disability is a win for students, teachers, coaches, families, and the community.

The sports facility was created as part of the framework for a local school for children with disabilities and an institution for the daily stay of children, youth and adults with disabilities. It measures 1,240 square meters with room for 300 spectators. The funding for this facility was provided by the city of Čačak and the Ministry of Economy in Serbia and the value of investment is about 81 million dinars. The new facility is a dedicated space for individuals with intellectual disabilities to conduct physical education classes, hold training sessions, and prepare for competitions.

The realization of a modern sports facility such as this is a piece of the vision for the Play Unified : Learn Unified project. The opening of the sports facility in Čačak demonstrates the systems-wide change and shared community investment that is possible when promoting social inclusion and providing individuals of all abilities the opportunity to compete. Looking ahead, the sports facility will be open year-round and welcome thousands of individuals to experience the power of sports.

"BUILDING A MODERN HALL ALLOWS THE STUDENTS OF THE SCHOOL AND USERS OF THE INSTITUTION COMPLETELY DIFFERENT AND BETTER CONDITIONS TO HAVE SPORTS AND TEACH ACTIVISM, BUT ALSO TO ENGAGE IN WIDER SOCIAL COMMUNITIES." -DRAGAN STEVANOVIC, STATE SECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY IN SERBIA

Program Highlight: Brazil
Communities Overcoming Zika

Support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation is enabling growth of Unified Schools in Brazil through Play Unified : Learn Unified (Jogue Junto : Aprenda Junto in Portuguese)

In 2015, a little-known virus spread by mosquitoes shook much of North and South America but had the largest impact on Brazil. The Zika virus caused one of the most alarming health crises to hit Brazil in decades. Today, babies that survived a Zika-affected pregnancy often have microcephaly and face impaired intellectual development. Through everything the Zika virus brought, local parents, teachers, and coaches have stayed determined to provide the best opportunities for their children. As the children affected by Zika virus grow older – many of them reaching early school age this year – their needs have changed.

Special Olympics Brazil is working to answer these needs. With support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Play Unified : Learn Unified project is empowering Special Olympics Brazil to address the impact of Zika through development of the Unified Schools platform across two states: Pernambuco and Rio de Janeiro.

To meet this need, Special Olympics Brazil is engaging as many local community partners as possible, working to formalize partnerships with Prefectures and Ministries of Education in a number of municipalities across Brazil. Through these partnerships, Special Olympics has gained access to a much wider network of schools and students. By educating local teachers, coaches and other school staff on the power of inclusive sports programming and providing project-related resources, Special Olympics Brazil is offering children and youth with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and talents, as well as the opportunity for full inclusion and dignity in their communities.

"TODAY, CHILDREN WITH MICROCEPHALY ARE NOT IN SCHOOLS. THEY DON'T ACCEPT THEM AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEM. IT IS VERY WORRISOME. DESPITE THE OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT CHILDREN WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, THEY DON'T. THESE CHILDREN ARE AT HOME, OR I DON'T KNOW WHERE. SO WE (SPECIAL OLYMPICS BRAZIL) HAVE TO PREPARE THE SCHOOLS AND THE TEACHERS WITH THE PROPER RESOURCES AND BENEFITS TO BECOME UNIFIED SCHOOLS. THIS CAN IN TURN CHANGE MINDSETS TO HELP BOTH THE SCHOOLS AND THE CHILDREN." – ANA PAULA SOARES, NATIONAL DIRECTOR, SPECIAL OLYMPICS BRAZIL

PROGRAM REPORT: BHARAT

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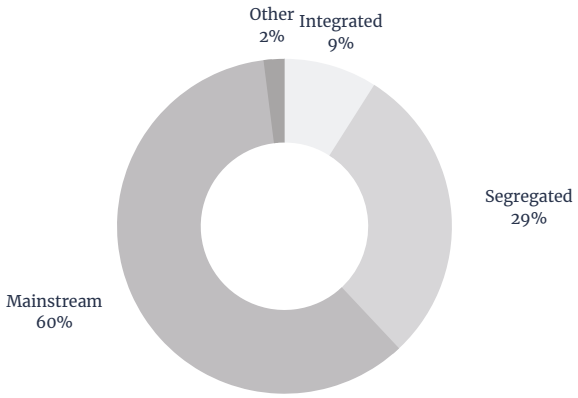
Project Plan: Special Olympics Bharat is developing the Unified Champion Schools program with a focus on engaging youth leaders with and without ID and training teachers and coaches across four states throughout India (Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, and West Bengal).

NEW UNIFIED SCHOOLS CREATED (TYPE)



HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the first year of programming, Special Olympics Bharat developed the groundwork to drive impact in areas such as outreach and partnership development. By developing an impactful partnership with Samagra Shiksha Mission (SSM), SO Bharat has been able to identify schools in need of Unified programming in Kolkata. With this partnership, SO Bharat has been able to be of immense support to SSM's goals of creating equal opportunities for schooling and learning.

PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

SO Bharat launched the project by working directly with State Committees and District Coordinators to identify and recruit new Unified Schools. A series of meetings was then held with the State Committees of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Haryana, as well as a total of six Unified Sports trainings at the state and district levels. Between January and May, SO Bharat held trainings, most at the District level (including seven Athlete leadership, two Youth Leadership, four Inclusive Youth Leadership, one Teachers Training, and one Recreational Unified Sports Training). Additionally, the Program coordinated youth activation and leadership trainings in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to address increased youth interest in the project. Unified Sports competitions were held in badminton, football and handball across four schools in Uttarakhand, while conducting recurring Unified Sports activities in all project districts across three states (Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Haryana).

Year 1 Reach	
Unified Sports Teams	47
Unified Partners (without ID)	1,043
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	872
Unified Sports Competitions	17
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	137
Unified Schools	172
Teachers Trained	306
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	11
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	428
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	309
Youth indirectly engaged	3,111

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YEAR 1 REACH

172
Unified Schools Engaged

1,915
Unified Partners (without ID) and Unified Sports Athletes (with ID) engaged

443
Coaches & Teachers Trained in Unified Schools

PROGRAM OUTREACH: SO BHARAT

Unified Programming held in Harayana

District level training for teachers, coaches, and volunteers held in the Faridabad District of Haryana

Teacher Training in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly District

Unified Sports in Uttarakhand's Nainital District

Unified Sports held in Uttarakhand

Unified Basketball match held in Uttar Pradesh

PROGRAM REPORT: BRAZIL

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Project Plan: Special Olympics Brazil aims to promote inclusion by fostering an environment of acceptance in schools across two States (Pernambuco and Rio De Janeiro) through the Unified Schools platform. These geographic locations were specifically identified for this project due to the populations of children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities, for many a result of the Microcephaly epidemic caused by Zika virus.

NEW UNIFIED SCHOOLS CREATED (LOCATION)

HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In Year 1 of programming, Special Olympics (SO) Brazil has created partnerships with local school administrations leading to a direct increase in people with and without intellectual disabilities engaged in Unified Schools. Partnerships with Força Máxima, a local private school network and the prefectures of Duque de Caxias, Itaguaí and Rio de Janeiro, as well as with the state of Rio de Janeiro has increased the awareness of Special Olympics and the importance of inclusion in sports,and education.

PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

To initiate outreach, SO Brazil engaged with local governments to create a recruitment strategy that would help to engage over 500 students with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) over the course of the first year. This strategy used local government engagement as a way to communicate with physical education teachers across three states: Rio de Janiero, Recife and Queimados. As a result, twenty informational Unified Schools presentations took place across five local municipalities, increasing awareness of inclusive educational systems and sports across the country.

Year 1 Impact	
Unified Partners (without ID)	378
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	130
Unified Sports Competitions	2
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	84
New Unified Schools	26
Teachers Trained	109
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	2
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	10
Youth indirectly engaged	1,680

To build on this foundation, SO Brazil continued to engage school administration and staff members through Unified Sports trainings and workshops, leading to two youth seminars in schools and 26 schools participating as Unified Schools.

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YEAR 1 REACH

26
New Unified Schools Engaged

508
Unified Partners (without ID) and Unified Sports Athletes (with ID) engaged

193
Coaches & Teachers Trained in Unified Schools

PROGRAM OUTREACH: SO BRAZIL

Training held for teachers and staff from Joaquim Ferreira School in Queimados

Unified Sports programming participants

Sábado, 18 de maio de 2019 • O GLOBO • EXTRA BAIXADA

QUEIMADOS

Inclusão social em instituições de ensino faz cidade ter certificação inédita no Brasil

Diego Amorim
diego.amorim@infoglobo.com.br

▸ Quatro escolas municipais de Queimados receberam uma certificação pioneira no Brasil na última terça-feira. A partir de uma iniciativa do projeto "Escolas unificadas", os colégios foram reconhecidos como instituições de ensino que unem educação e esporte a favor da construção de um ambiente inclusivo entre os jovens com e sem deficiência. A certificação foi concedida para as escolas Joaquim de Freitas, Nelson Carneiro, Ubirajara Ferreira e Carlos Pereira Neto.

— Pelo fato de Queimados já estar com o projeto mais avançado, com capacitação para professores e cuidadores, a organização da entidade entendeu que era importante certificar as escolas que possuem este diferencial tão importante para uma sociedade mais igualitária — afirma Rafael Fiuza, de 35 anos, coordenador do projeto no Brasil.

É a primeira vez que uma escola fora dos Estados Unidos recebeu a certificação. Idealizada em 2009 pela fundação Olimpíadas Espe-

Elas dão aula de cidadania

CERTIFICAÇÃO
Acima, alunos posam com o professor; abaixo, comitiva que visitou as escolas

Local media coverage of Unified Sports event

Unified Sports Festival held at Lubienska Centro Educacional in Recife

Training held for teachers and staff from Senador Nelson Carneiro Municipal School in Queimados

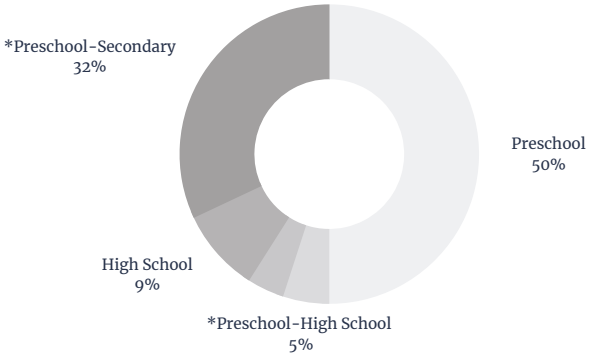
Unified Champion Schools Recognition event in Rio de Janeiro

PROGRAM REPORT: CHILE

PLAY UNIFIED : LEARN UNIFIED

Project Plan: To promote social inclusion of people with ID by implementing Unified programming through an integrated school model by developing sport opportunities among classmates with and without intellectual disabilities across 3 Regions in Chile: Metropolitana (Santiago city), Valparaíso, and Bío-Bío (Concepcion city).

NEW UNIFIED SCHOOLS CREATED (TYPE)



*schools encompassing of multiple grade levels

HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In its first year, Special Olympics Chile exceeded its goals for Unified Partners and Special Olympics athletes engaged, coaches trained, and new Unified Schools engaged. Through partnerships with the Department of Education in Quilicura (Santiago), Special Olympics Chile lalso implemented programming in 11 kindergarten classes using Young Athletes (Special Olympics' early childhood development sport programming) and trained school staff to lead Unified Sports activities in schools.

PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

Special Olympics Chile launched the project by implementing a recruitment strategy working with local Departments of Education, particularly units that focus on inclusion as part of their education strategy. In identifying schools across Santiago, Special Olympics Chile targeted those that demonstrated efforts to integrate students with intellectual disabilities, institutional values of sports and inclusion, and schools with populations of more than 10 students with ID, engaging over 1,200 SO athletes and Unified partners to date.

Year 1 Impact	
Unified Sports Teams	32
Unified Partners (without ID)	820
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	465
Unified Sports Competitions	8
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	71
New Unified Schools	23
Teachers Trained	52
Youth indirectly engaged	60

Special Olympics Chile hosted Unified Sports demonstrations within the Municipality of San Bernardo, forming two agreements with local schools. Between January and May, outreach and recruitment meetings continued with the municipalities of Quilicura and Buin and the Departments of Education in Quilicura, Buin, Melipilla, Conchalí, Huechuraba and Recoleta (Santiago). Additionally, Special Olympics Chile also held its first general Unified Football Induction in Viña del Mar (Valparaíso) and Unified Schools Workshop (Quilicura).

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YEAR 1 REACH

23
New Unified Schools Created

1,285
Unified Partners (without ID) and Unified Sports Athletes (with ID) engaged

273
Coaches & Teachers Trained in Unified Schools

PROGRAM OUTREACH: SO CHILE

Universidad del Desarrollo Youth Leadership Project

Carolina Picasso, President, Special Olympics Chile and Sandra Rosas, National Secretary of Disability

Unified Sports Demonstration

Unified Sports in Pucara School

Unified Sports Demonstration

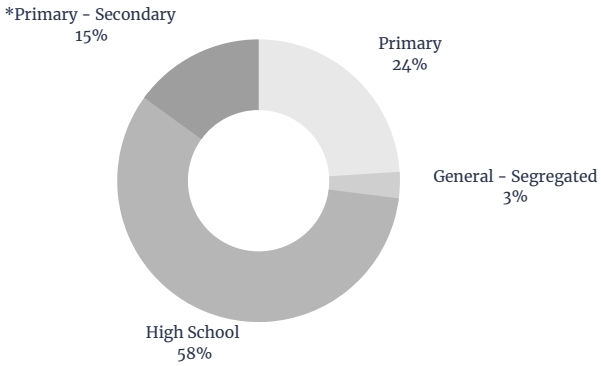
Training Special Olympics Youth Leaders in Chile

PROGRAM REPORT: HELLAS

PLAY UNIFIED : LEARN UNIFIED

Project Plan: With the goal of breaking down stereotypes and spreading the word of inclusion, SO Hellas in cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research, and Religious Affairs will engage 100 elementary and high schools throughout Greece through the Unified Schools platform.

NEW UNIFIED SCHOOLS CREATED (TYPE)



(*schools encompassing of multiple grade levels)

PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

Special Olympics Hellas launched the project after evaluation and approved by the Ministry of Education. This approval allowed local SO Hellas coordinators more opportunities to enter Greece's educational institutions and proceed with establishing Unified Schools programming. Special Olympics Hellas identified 30 schools across Greece that qualified to be part of the project in Year 1.

During European Basketball Week 2018, SO Hellas hosted a Unified basketball event at the Hellenic American Educational Foundation (HAEF). At this high-profile event, SO athletes and Unified Partners connected on a deeper level and shared great moments together. The event included Unified basketball matches with 3x3 and 5x5 teams.

HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In its first year of Play Unified : Learn Unified, SO Hellas has had significant success in targeted outreach, exemplified by its participation in the Panhellenic Meeting of Scouts, where 800 children from schools across Greece between ages 11-14 met in Elefsina, a municipality in West Attica. This is an opportunity to promote and grow the Unified Sports and Unified Schools programs throughout Greece. Special Olympics Hellas also organized a workshop for families to learn about Special Olympics, which 30 family members attended, and its first-ever Youth Summit, led by 20 students with and without intellectual disabilities.

Year 1 Impact	
Unified Sports Teams	86
Unified Partners (without ID)	752
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	443
Unified Sports Competitions	19
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	20
New Unified Schools	33
Teachers Trained	54
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	1
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	10
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	10
Youth indirectly engaged	3,318

Over 100 athletes aged 14 – 16 competed, with more than 600 supporters in the stands cheering them on. Between January and May, outreach and programming increased throughout Greece with a series of Unified Sports activities and presentations, including Unified bocce presentations and Motor Activities Training Program (MATP) events in collaboration with local schools, associations and community organizations.

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Special Olympics

YEAR 1 REACH

33
New Unified Schools Engaged

1,195
Unified Partners (without ID) and Unified Sports Athletes (with ID) engaged

78
Coaches & Teachers Trained in Unified Schools

PROGRAM OUTREACH: SO HELLAS

Unified Bocce competition flyer

Unified Basketball in Vrilissia

Unified Judo in Vrilissia

Unified MATP event at Doukas School with staff from Special Olympics and Stavros Niarchos Foundation

Unified Basketball Event during European Basketball Week in Athens

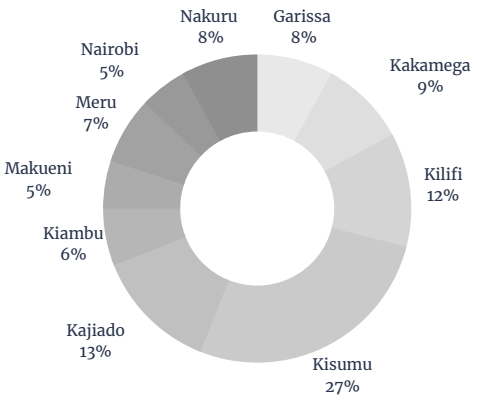
Unified School Event in Athens

PROGRAM REPORT: KENYA

PLAY UNIFIED : LEARN UNIFIED

Project Plan: Special Olympics Kenya will expand its Unified Sports programming to 100 new schools in 15 counties over 3 years of the Play Unified : Learn Unified project. In this expansion, the Program aims to recruit and retain participants with and without intellectual disabilities by training coaches in Unified Sports, expanding the number of Unified Sports offered and increasing the number of Unified Schools.

STUDENTS ENGAGED (BY COUNTY)



HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the first year of programming, Special Olympics Kenya has developed critical partnerships and is driving progress towards goals of inclusion in Kenya's Education Sector policy. In Article 1 of this policy, Kenya seeks to create an equitable, inclusive quality education system for all. Through an increase in Unified Sports activities, Special Olympics Kenya has teamed up together with the Ministry of Education to create inclusive communities all over the country.

Year 1 Impact	
Unified Partners (without ID)	4,027
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	4,250
Unified Sports Competitions	613
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	801
New Unified Schools	47
Teachers Trained	390
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	15
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	1,000
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	1,003
Youth indirectly engaged	6,017

PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

In collaboration with the Kenya Ministry of Education, Special Olympics Kenya identified 40 schools across 10 counties in the country who committed to providing inclusive environments. In addition to their outreach efforts to new areas of the country, Special Olympics Kenya conducted a series of Unified Sports Competitions and Inter-school Youth Leadership Summits for 10 schools across two counties. With a steady increase in coordinated sports trainings and competitions, SO Kenya has been able to engage over 8,000 Special Olympics athletes and Unified Partners to date.

Additionally, SO Kenya engaged each of the 47 participating schools for the project in all three components of the Unified Champion Schools model (Inclusive Youth Leadership, Whole School Engagement, and Unified Sports).

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YEAR 1 REACH

47
New Unified Schools Engaged

8,250
Unified Partners (without ID) and Unified Sports Athletes (with ID) engaged

1,191
Coaches & Teachers Trained in Unified Schools

PROGRAM OUTREACH: SO KENYA

Unified football (boys) experience at St. Michaels primary school in Nairobi

Unified football match in Nairobi

Unified Sports training for teachers from counties across Kenya

Unified Sports training for teachers from counties across Kenya

Unified football (girls) match in Kilifi

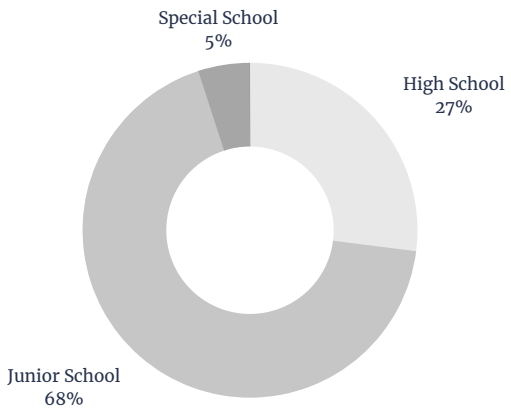
Unified football match in Nairobi

PROGRAM REPORT: SERBIA

PLAY UNIFIED : LEARN UNIFIED

Project Plan: Special Olympics Serbia will increase the number of schools and teachers engaged with Special Olympics through the development of new Unified Sports such as bocce and table tennis in schools across 12 Serbian communities (Belgrade, Pancevo, Kragujevac, Čačak, Krusevac, Niš, Pirot, Vranje, Leskovac, Jabuka, Zrenjanin, Novi Sad).

New Unified Schools Created (Type)



HIGHLIGHTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the first year of programming, Special Olympics Serbia has created a foundation of outreach, collaboration, and local partnership. For example, through partnerships with the Mayors of Pirot and Čačak, members of the Belgrade City Council, and the Regional President of Schools in Southern Serbia, Special Olympics Serbia has been featured in local television, print, and digital outlets. With this partnership network, Special Olympics Serbia is increasing awareness of inclusive educational systems and sports throughout the country.

PROGRAMMING OVERVIEW

Special Olympics Serbia implemented the concept of mentorship to create a recruitment strategy that would help to engage over 100 teachers, coaches, and school staff over the course of the first year. This recruitment strategy engaged already established Unified Schools in Serbia as advisors to newly engaged Unified Schools, assisting with the logistics of an initial start-up and Unified Sports programming. This has recruited of new schools and better retention of existing Unified Schools.

Year 1 Impact	
Unified Sports Teams	24
Unified Partners (without ID)	130
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	130
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	20
New Unified Schools	75
Teachers Trained	20
Youth indirectly engaged	50

With the support of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the mentor schools, Special Olympics Serbia was able to target schools across the country, resulting in over 70 new Unified Schools across six communities (Pancevo, Kragujevac, Belgrade, Novi Sad, Zrejanin and Vranje).

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YEAR 1 REACH

75
New Unified Schools Engaged

260
Unified Partners (without ID) and Unified Sports Athletes (with ID) engaged

40
Coaches & Teachers Trained in Unified Schools

PROGRAM OUTREACH: SO SERBIA

School Visit to Bunanj Special School in Niš

Unified Volleyball training at a special school in Belgrade

Play Unified : Learn Unified project workshop held in Čačak

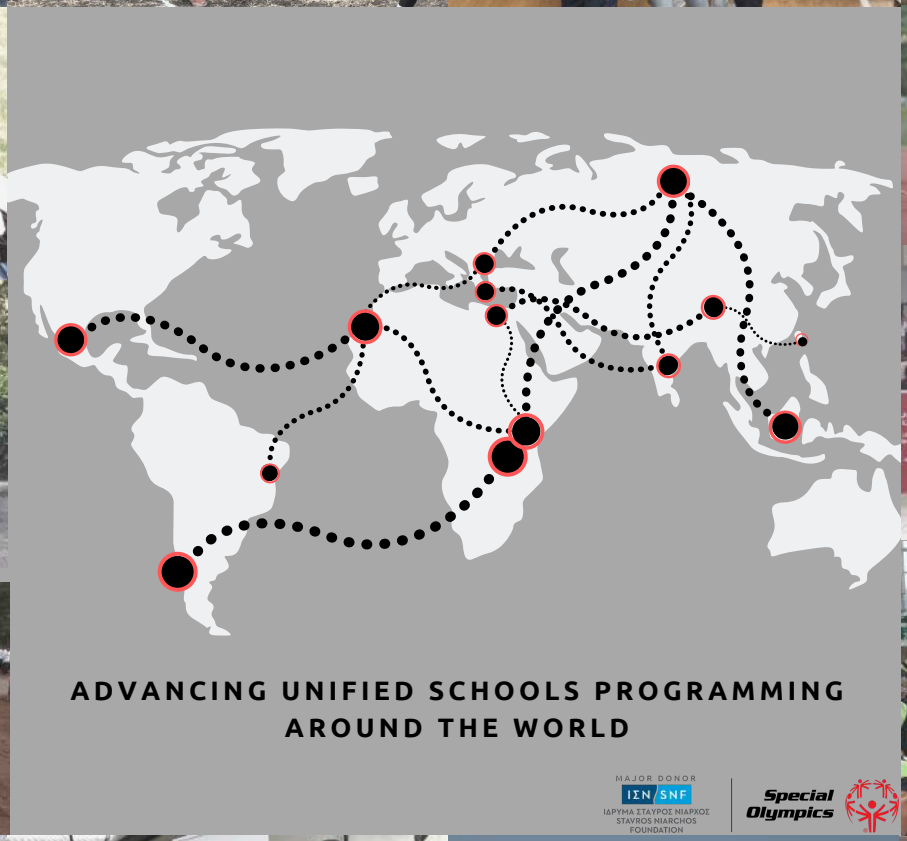
Unified Table Tennis training in Čačak

Press Conference at Pirot City Hall with Mayor Vladan Vasic and staff from Special Olympics and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation

Project workshop led by Aleksandar Stanojevic, National Director, Special Olympics Serbia

LOOKING FORWARD

AMPLIFYING THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROGRAMMATIC WORK IN UNIFIED SPORTS, YOUTH AND SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT IN YEAR 2 OF PLAY UNIFIED : LEARN UNIFIED



SOCIAL INCLUSION WORLDWIDE

Six National SO Program partners were engaged in the first year of the project, with eight additional Programs joining the second year (Special Olympics Mexico, Tanzania, Egypt, Morocco, Russia, Indonesia, China and Chinese Taipei). At the end of Year 2 of the Play Unified : Learn Unified project, more than 1,100 new Unified Schools will be engaged.