

# Special Olympics Africa Regional Youth Leadership Summit REPORT



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
LEAD TO INCLUDE**

**2019**



**LANE GLOBAL YOUTH  
LEADERSHIP**

**KANTAR**

 **Microsoft**



**Lions Clubs International  
FOUNDATION**



# A MESSAGE FROM NYASHA DERERA

Sargent Shriver Global Messenger, Special Olympics Zimbabwe

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It was an honor and a privilege for me to have participated in the 2019 Regional Youth Leadership Summit. Indeed, the inaugural Youth Summit was well thought out and represented a significant step in disseminating the **#InclusionRevolution** to all corners of the globe. No country or society should be left out of this Inclusion Revolution!

I really appreciate the efforts and contributions of the organizing team, as well as of the Special Olympics staff in availing this platform. I look forward to seeing this platform activated at Regional and Program levels to ensure that everyone and anyone interested may offer insight toward attaining 100% inclusion in all our communities.

I am glad that Youth Summit participants represented varying backgrounds, and that this diversity enabled us to avoid 'one size fits all' approaches. I, hereby, advocate for increased stakeholder engagement. I am convinced that by working with government, civil society, educational institutions as well as parents and families of athletes, the success of inclusive programs will continue to grow.

I would like to express my gratitude to Regional Youth Leadership Summit sponsors and partners for making this Youth Summit a reality in the Africa Region, and for making sure that no one is left behind in this Inclusion Revolution. Over the next 50 years, may we continue the legacy of our founder and liberator, Eunice Kennedy Shriver!

*Nyasha Derera*

**Nyasha Derera**

Sargent Shriver Global Messenger

Chair of the Global Athlete Congress

Member of the Board of Directors of SO Zimbabwe

# A MESSAGE FROM CHARLES NYAMBE

President & Managing Director, Special Olympics Africa

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As you are aware, Inclusion Revolution is the core of Special Olympics strategy: A Unified world in which persons with or without intellectual disabilities are respected, included and welcomed. In this regard, the Regional Youth Leadership Summit specifically engaged and empowered Youth to ensure active Youth Engagement as well as the sustainability of inclusive communities globally. The Summit gave particular attention to the Special Olympics 2016-2020 Global Youth Plan, which included a strong emphasis on Unified Schools. Participants were provided with tools, knowledge and resources to execute the Global Youth Plan and Unified Schools within their respective countries.

Since the Special Olympics inaugural event on July 20 1968, and following many years of advocacy and action for social change, the organization has grown to include more than 5 million Special Olympics athletes across 172 countries, with 80 percent participating outside the United States. Despite the success and joy of Special Olympics sports, people with intellectual disabilities still face gross neglect, stigma, and marginalization.

The Youth are the critical mass and the lifeline of our movement! During the three-day Youth Summit, Youth Leaders collectively brainstormed, shared and planned on amplifying Youth Engagement in our Movement and building strategies to enhance the Unified Schools outreach. We recognize the invaluable imprints their respective engagements have made globally within this movement!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Nyambe'.

**Charles Nyambe**  
President & Managing Director  
Special Olympics Africa Region

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LANE GLOBAL YOUTH  
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# REGIONAL OUTCOMES





# OVERVIEW



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS**  
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## Regional Youth Leadership Summit

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The **2019 Special Olympics Africa Regional Youth Leadership Summit** brought together youth with and without intellectual disabilities from 12 Special Olympics Programs across the Region to launch the next 50 years of the Special Olympics movement and drive initiatives for respect and inclusion in their home countries. Accompanying the youth were 12 Special Olympics National Directors and 12 adult mentors. The 12 Programs in attendance included: Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

During the three-day Summit, Youth were equipped with the skills needed to return to their Programs and create inclusive communities through the power of youth engagement. Participants were offered a platform for brainstorming, sharing and planning youth involvement in Special Olympics. The Youth Summit also addressed critical issues such as building strategies for enhancing Unified Schools outreach and impact, project management and partnerships, and keeping the vision of inclusion alive. While in Nairobi, Youth Leaders met with their National Director and adult mentor to work on a project plan that they would implement into their school/community upon return from the Youth Summits. Representatives of business, government, service organizations, civic society and international development also played important roles at the Summit.

Special Olympics and **Lane Global Youth Leadership** teamed up for a groundbreaking collaboration to empower Youth Leaders with and without intellectual disabilities through the Lead to Include Project, with added support by **Kantar**, **Microsoft**, and **Lions Club International Foundation**. This project is bringing forth a new opportunity for Youth Leaders to develop plans to implement an inclusive vision of Special Olympics in their home communities. The Special Olympics Africa Regional Youth Leadership Summit and Lead to Include Project would not have been possible without our partners.







# OVERVIEW

## Regional Youth Leadership Summit

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### BY THE NUMBERS



**28** Youth Leaders  
with and without  
ID trained



**12** countries  
represented

### YOUTH SUMMIT STATISTICS

**92%**

of youth participants feel they are **better equipped** to lead with an inclusive group of peers

**91%**

of youth participants feel they learned skills they will use in **other areas of their life**

**92%**

of participants feel **very confident** in their ability to lead a project in their community to promote inclusion

**OVERALL**

**95%**

of participants were **very satisfied** with their Youth Leadership Summit experience

# DAY 1 OVERVIEW

2 October 2019



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The Special Olympics Africa Regional Youth Leadership Summit started with an Opening Ceremony welcoming the Youth Summit participants, Leos of Kenya, representatives of Kantar, and honored guests. Some of the honored guests who attended include:

- Japson Gitonga
  - Commissioner of Sports, Kenya
- Dr. Manoj Shah
  - Managing Director, Kingsway Group of Companies
- Siddharth Chatterjee
  - UN Resident Coordinator, Kenya
- Dr. Manilal Dodhia
  - Vice Chairman, M.P Shah Hospital
- Thuo Cege
  - Board Chair, Special Olympics Kenya

During his keynote, Siddharth Chatterjee touched on the importance of young people as the "future of tomorrow," which set the tone for Youth Leaders and their engagement in the Youth Summit. Following the welcome, UNICEF led a panel discussion, **Children and Young People: Inclusion for All**. The focus of the discussion was building strategies for ensuring inclusive mindsets and ignited thoughtful discussion among all participants.

Special Olympics International staff provided an overview of Special Olympics Unified Schools and Youth Leadership at work globally and in the Africa Region. This enabled participants to gain a better understanding of their work and its impact globally and locally.

A panel discussion in the afternoon, **Creating Inclusive Communities: Athlete and Youth Leader Perspectives**, offered participants insight on the power of youth leadership can challenge the status quo and bring about positive social change.

At the end of the first day of the, participants at the Youth Summit celebrated what they learned at a traditional African themed dinner and bonded over the common theme of inclusion.





# DAY 2 OVERVIEW

3 October 2019



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After a day of learning and sharing, the second day of the Special Olympics Africa Youth Summit opened with an energizing reflection that focused on the content presented in sessions and activities from the day before. The activity ignited discussion between Youth Leaders, adult mentors, and National Directors and kicked-off a day of collaboration.

After the morning reflection, National Directors moved into a separate session, where they focused on youth fundraising strategies, Regional best practices, and the importance of branding and marketing youth-work at the Program-level.

The plenary session, **Activism: Sports as a Catalyst for Positive Social Transformation**, provided an understanding of how athletics can be used to lead the future of inclusion. Unified pairs were given the opportunity to share how sports impacted their lives, which led to an overflowing amount of thoughtful stories and experiences from each Program.

The **Project Management and Presentation** session enabled participants to develop the requisite skills for maximizing project plans. At this session, Youth Leaders learned they would receive \$1,000 - \$2,000 USD to lead a project that promotes inclusion in their school or community.

The afternoon comprised of a **Unified Sports Experience at Oshwal Academy**. This activity provided participants with an understanding of Unified Schools outreach in Kenya, and an opportunity to see what type of event Youth Leaders could lead in their school or community. Participants engaged in a Unified Floorball exhibition with the Oshwal Academy Unified Floorball team. Other activities at the event included a Zumba session and a Spread the Word: Inclusion pledge station.

To keep the spirit of friendly competition alive, participants joined teams for a Unified Bowling event and learned more about others within their Region.





# DAY 3 OVERVIEW

4 October 2019



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As the Youth Summit came to a close, participants had time before the final sessions to think and reflect on what they learned throughout the first two days of the event. As a delegation, each member discussed what they hoped to implement in their Program upon return from Kenya.

The morning reflection was followed by a panel discussion, **Accessing Grants - A Partner's Perspective**, where partner organizations shared information about grant management and best practices for Youth Leaders and their adult mentors. This session provided information about the expectations of partners, as well as resources for Youth Leaders when working on their Youth Innovation Project.

After learning about the importance of partnerships to leverage the impact of a Youth Innovation Project, Youth Leaders led conversations within their delegation about their project plan and prepared a two-minute "project pitch" to share with other participants. As Programs shared their plans, Special Olympics International staff members and Nyasha Derera, Sargent Shriver Global Messenger and member of the Special Olympics Zimbabwe Board of Directors, served as an advisory panel and provided feedback to Programs as they finalized their action plans.

At the conclusion of the Special Olympics Africa Regional Youth Leadership Summit, all participants were invited to the stage to receive a certificate in celebration of the knowledge and skills they gained throughout the three-day experience. As participants left the Youth Summit, contact information between Programs was shared, pictures of new friends were taken, and conversations about the future of the #UnifiedGeneration echoed throughout Nairobi.





# OUTCOMES



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS**  
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## Special Olympics Africa Youth Leadership Summit

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The **2019 Special Olympics Africa Regional Youth Leadership Summit** offered the 12 attending Programs a platform for sharing best practices, addressing critical issues and creating strategies for enhancing Regional youth engagement. Throughout the course of the three-day summit, Youth Leaders developed and expanded their understanding of how to drive social inclusion in their respective countries, cities, schools, and communities. Participants learned about new strategies and methods to help bring to life their vision of a more inclusive world using the Special Olympics Unified Sports model and the Special Olympics Unified Schools model. Each delegation received a Youth Innovation Grant ranging from \$1,000 - \$2,000 USD to implement a project in their school or community based on the information they learned at the Youth Summit. These projects will be implemented in 12 countries around Africa, and will further promote inclusion in schools and communities.



## MOVING FORWARD

Special Olympics Africa Regional Staff will oversee the planning and implementation of upcoming national and local-level Youth Summits across the Africa Region. Participants of the Regional Youth Leadership Summit will help to support the national and local-level Youth Summits and educate other Youth Leaders about the power of the **#UnifiedGeneration**.



# LEGACY OF THE YOUTH SUMMIT





# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## Special Olympics Cote d'Ivoire



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**Jessica** and **Marie** are Special Olympics Youth Leaders from Cote d'Ivoire who will lead a Youth Innovation Project aimed at researching the causes of absenteeism among Youth with intellectual disabilities. Based on their findings, Jessica and Marie will develop strategies for inclusion in their schools and communities and encourage Youth Leaders to take action in support of Unified Schools. In doing so, Jessica and Marie hope to create a community in which those with and without intellectual disabilities respect and appreciate one another, growing the Unified Generation.

Over the course of their project, Jessica and Marie will work to research the causes of Youth with intellectual disabilities not attending school. Jessica and Marie will present their findings to leaders of education in Cote d'Ivoire and execute the "Include Me as I Am" campaign in order to bring awareness and create change in their community. Through their efforts, Jessica and Marie plan to create 12 new Unified Sports Clubs, 10 new Unified Champion Schools, and gain over one thousand social media impressions. Jessica and Marie will harnessing the power of their social campaign to create tangible change so that those with intellectual disabilities in their community can attend school and be accepted as they are.

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## Special Olympics Burkina Faso



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS**  
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**Gislain** and **Kouka** are Special Olympics Youth Leaders from Burkina Faso who participated in the 2018 Global Youth Leadership Forum in Azerbaijan. Gislain and Kouka were excited to continue learning about Youth Leadership at the Special Olympics Africa Youth Summit and ways they could lead a project to promote inclusion in their community. Their Youth Innovation Project is to organize a Unified Sports competition with different schools in their area. Through their project, Gislain and Kouka hope to give all youth with and without intellectual disabilities the opportunity to play together and to develop new Unified teams in each school.

Over the course of their three-month project, Gislain and Kouka will engage more than 100 youth with and without intellectual disabilities, create four new Unified Schools, and two new Unified Champion Schools. Gislain and Kouka see Unified Sports and Unified Schools as a way to fight discrimination against individuals with intellectual disabilities and make local schools a welcoming and support environment for everyone. By getting more Youth involved with Unified Sports and Unified Schools, Gislain and Kouka are growing the Unified Generation and spreading inclusion through their community and beyond.



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## Special Olympics Senegal



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**Soda** and **Aminata** are Special Olympics Youth Leaders from Senegal who will lead a Youth Innovation Project to spread inclusion in their community by created Unified Schools at four local schools in their community. Soda and Aminata will help each school organize Unified Sports, Young Athletes programs, and artistic activities. Through their project, Soda and Aminata will educate school directors, teachers, and students about inclusion and awareness of those with intellectual disabilities.

In addition to establishing four new Unified Schools, Soda and Aminata will engage over 100 youth with and without intellectual disabilities throughout their six-month project. At the conclusion of the project, Soda and Aminata will hold a closing ceremony to celebrate each of the schools and their new Special Olympics Unified Schools program. Soda and Aminata are members of the Unified Generation because they want to change the way individuals with intellectual disabilities are treated in their community. Their project will inspire others to join the Unified Generation, fight discrimination, and spread inclusion.



# SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT





# SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS**  
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## Special Olympics Africa Youth Leadership Summit

### INSTAGRAM



28 likes

specialolympicsgambia Team Gambia at the SO Africa Youth Summit  
#choosetoinclude #unifiedgeneration



Liked by kaitlynhamrick and 23 others

specialolympicscotedivoire 3rd and last day of the Special Olympics Regional Youth Leadership Summit 2019 ! After preparing and presenting their action plan, our participants received certificates for their active participation to the summit. They are now ready to implement everything they learned during those 3 days. #leadtoinclude #leadtoincludeafrica #specialolympicsafrica #choosetoinclude #unifiedgeneration



56 likes

crystalstetty I pledge to Include  
#leadtoinclude  
#unifiedgeneration... more



29 likes

mohamed.m.mumin Kenya is playing host to the inaugural Regional Youth Leadership Summit for the Special Olympics that has brought together delegates. The athletes were trained on how to compete together regardless of their intellectual capabilities.  
#leadtoinclude #specialolympics #specialolympics50 #youthleaderske #specialolympicsafrica #specialolympics #sokenya #inclusion #choosetoinclude

# SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS**  
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## Special Olympics Africa Youth Leadership Summit

### TWITTER



Vicky Aridi  
@AridiVicky

Honoured to have been a panelist alongside representatives from [@UNICEFKenya](#) today at the 2019 Africa Region Youth Leadership Summit. The theme of the event was youth at the forefront of the inclusive movement. Be an advocate of [#Inclusionforall](#) [@LisaKurbiel](#) [@UNICEFKenya](#)



Manoj Shah  
@MShah222

A pleasure to meet with the South African Delegates at the Ongoing Special Olympics Africa Youth Forum in Kenya.



Siddharth Chatterjee  
@sidchat1

Honored to join the 2019 Africa Youth Leadership Summit [@SpecialOlympics](#) whose theme is about youth being at the forefront of an inclusive movement. Kudos [@TimShriver](#) on how far the [#SpecialOlympics](#) has become. A reflection of your tenacity, commitment & perseverance. [@USAmbKenya](#)



NTV Kenya  
@ntvkenya

Kenya hosts the inaugural Regional Youth Leadership Summit for the Special Olympics that has brought together delegates from 12 African countries.

[#NTVatOne](#) [@warothe](#)





# SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

## Special Olympics Africa Youth Leadership Summit



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS**  
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### FACEBOOK



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS BURKINA**

October 4 at 2:27 PM · 🌐

Le Burkina Faso s'implique davantage pour l'inclusion

Special Olympics Burkina participe à la première rencontre régionale de l'Afrique des jeunes sur le leadership à Nairobi au Kenya du 2 au 4 octobre 2019.

"En route pour l'inclusion" est le sujet de cette conférence des jeunes leaders de l'Afrique.

Cette conférence donnera beaucoup d'opportunités à nos athlètes d'améliorer leur connaissances concernant l'inclusion et d'avoir un impact positif sur leur communauté.

La directrice nationale Mme Annick Pikbougoum Zingué, deux jeunes leaders Kouka Gildas Rouamba et Franck Ghislain Kafando et leur mentor Abraham Zoma représentent le Burkina à cette conférence !

Burkina Faso is more involved in inclusion

Special Olympics Burkina takes part in the first regional meeting of youth Africa on leadership in Nairobi, Kenya from 2 TO 4 October 2019.

"on the way to inclusion" is the topic of this conference of young leaders of Africa.

This conference will give a lot of opportunities for our athletes to improve their knowledge about inclusion and have a positive impact on their community.

National Director Mrs. Annick Pikbougoum Galvanized, two young leaders kouka gildas rouamba and franck ghislain kafando and their mentor Abraham zoma represent burkina at this conference!

🔧 · Rate this translation



👍❤️ Ngawa Agnes Mumba and 53 others

14 Comments 6 Shares



**Special Olympics Senegal** is 🌟 feeling hopeful at Trademark Hotel.

October 3 at 9:54 AM · Nairobi, Kenya · 🌐

Sommet de la Jeunesse de **Special Olympics Africa**-Jour 2:

Ce Jeudi 03 Octobre, les paires unifiées accompagnées de leur mentor ont échangé sur leurs expériences respectives relatives à la création de communautés inclusives.

Elles ont également réfléchi aux voies et moyens d'engager de nouveaux jeunes leaders....

Des discussions riches en émotion et en idées neuves.

Ces jeunes sont exceptionnels!!!!... [See More](#)

**Special OLYMPICS AFRICA YOUTH SUMMIT - DAY 2:**

This Thursday, October 03, the united pairs accompanied by their mentor exchange on their respective experiences regarding the creation of inclusive communities.

They have also thought about ways and ways to engage new young leaders....

Discussions rich in emotion and new ideas.

These young people are exceptional!!!!

[#LeadToInclude](#) [#ChooseToInclude](#)

🔧 · Rate this translation



👍❤️ 42

1 Comment 4 Shares



**Special Olympics Mauritius** is 🌟 feeling determined with Carmen Nuenchert.

October 2 at 3:30 AM · 🌐

Regional Youth Leadership Summit

2-4 October 2019

Nairobi, Kenya

SO Mauritius team is proud to be part of the Regional Youth Leadership Summit which is being held in Kenya. The team comprises Ms C. Nunchert, athlete with Intellectual Disabilities, Ms N. Sakir, Youth Leader and Mrs P. Bottine, mentor. They are accompanied by the National Director.

[#ChooseToInclude](#) [#InclusionRevolution](#) [#BeUnified](#) [#SpecialOlympicsAfrica](#)



# TESTIMONIALS



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS**  
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## Special Olympics Africa Youth Leadership Summit



*"We are really grateful for the opportunity to have attended the SOA Regional Youth Leadership Summit in Nairobi, Kenya. It was a life changing experience and the knowledge and content we were exposed to further equipped us with the necessary tools for us to advance inclusive programs in our different communities."*

Ayisha Chintokoma and Makaita Ngwenya  
Special Olympics Zimbabwe Youth Leaders



*"Interacting with Program leaders and Youth Leaders who share the vision of Special Olympics is always a great opportunity to learn and engage. I enjoyed the discussion pannels where the athletes and Youth Leaders took the lead in sharing their own experience. I enjoyed how my Unified pair carried themselves at the workshop and how they engaged with others and created friendships."*

Wanga Manyala  
Special Olympics South Africa Adult Mentor



*"The Youth Leadership Summit was a great opportunity to share best practices on how our Youth Leaders can be at the heart of advocacy efforts and leverage Special Olympics and the goal of creating a more inclusive world. I realized throughout the Youth Summit that youth are the most valuable resources for social transformation; and this is particularly true for our movement."*

Urbain Amani  
Special Olympics Côte d'Ivoire National Director



# MEDIA LINKS



**SPECIAL OLYMPICS**  
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## Special Olympics Africa Youth Leadership Summit

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Click on each of the red boxes to view external media news stories and articles.



**NTV News Kenya**



**Standard Digital**



**The Star**

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SPECIAL OLYMPICS GLOBAL YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PARTNERS



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Office of Special Education Programs  
U.S. Department of Education



Samuel Family  
Foundation



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