

# FINAL REPORT

YEAR TWO

**PLAY UNIFIED : LEARN UNIFIED**

*(June 2019 -May 2020)*

MAJOR DONOR



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ  
STAVROS NIARCHOS  
FOUNDATION

**Special  
Olympics**





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## Leadership Note

From its founding in 1968, the mission of Special Olympics has been to use the transformative power of sport to forge greater social inclusion for people of all abilities. 52 years later, this mission remains central to building a globally connected and inclusive community. The “Play Unified : Learn Unified” project was born of a shared commitment of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and Special Olympics to fulfill this mission by catalyzing positive social change by bringing Unified Sports® and more to schools throughout the world. Our goal is to effect systemic change for inclusion, improving the lives of those with intellectual disabilities, their peers, and entire school communities.

This second year of Play Unified : Learn Unified met unforeseen circumstances in the onset of COVID-19 and worldwide isolation orders. But Special Olympics and its mission of inclusion is a vision of bravery in the face of adversity; overcoming isolation to reach social

overcoming isolation to reach social connection is at the core of the Special Olympics movement. Its urgency can be felt now more than ever. We are grateful that the Play Unified : Learn Unified platform has empowered Special Olympics to bring this social connection to **over 1,300** new Unified Schools and **over 39,000** Special Olympics athletes and Unified partners in 14 Special Olympics Programs.

As this second year closes, we reflect on the great work accomplished by those dedicated to the advancement of community-level Unified programming including our athletes, Youth Leaders, teachers, coaches, families, volunteers, and more. This work is made possible by the generous support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and its belief in inclusion and the strong role that sports plays in effecting this global change. Special Olympics remains fully committed to meeting the world’s urgent need for connection and inclusion with the power of Play Unified : Learn Unified.




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

# Global Impact

**In 2018, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and Special Olympics International announced a landmark collaboration to support a social inclusion movement. Creating positive change for inclusion in sports and education around the world, the global impact of Play Unified : Learn Unified includes:**

Fourteen Special Olympics Programs implementing Unified Schools programming to promote social inclusion and social-emotional learning through inclusive sport and more in schools;

Hundreds of youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities bringing to life their unique visions for inclusive communities through Special Olympics Youth Innovation Grant funding;

Thousands of Unified Sports Coaches newly trained in methods to ensure that Special Olympics athletes receive positive, high-quality sports experiences; and

Several researchers and university partners working to empower Special Olympics Programs to include meaningful evaluation and continuous improvement within Unified Schools programming.

This report provides updates on the progress achieved this project year (June 2019-May 2020) and highlights from key performance indicators accomplished to date in Play Unified: Learn Unified.

## Creating positive change for inclusion in sports and education around the world



## Media Outreach and Engagement

### Increasing awareness of Unified Schools programming

To create a global, Unified Generation of youth who Play Unified and Learn Unified, Special Olympics is committed to amplifying the impact of inclusive programming through media outreach. In the second year of Play Unified : Learn Unified, Special Olympics Programs across several countries launched Unified Schools programming and successfully engaged media outlets to share the story.



Throughout the year, Play Unified : Learn Unified has engaged individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) and their peers, communities, and the media. In the Asia Pacific region, Special Olympics Bharat (India) told the story of Play Unified : Learn Unified through a local school in Bengal and engaged one of the country's largest publications, The IndiaTimes. With an estimated readership of **over 15.1 million** readers, IndiaTimes covered the story of Ritam, a student with ID; the Noble Mission School; and the transformative impact of playing sports together.

Special Olympics Bharat is just one of fourteen Special Olympics Programs who are helping to amplify the inclusion of people with ID through media engagement. By engaging local and national media, Play Unified : Learn Unified has reached **over 20.25 million** people around the world. Stories in top publications like IndiaTimes, The Daily

News (Tanzania), and Zougla (Greece) have positioned the project in front of **19.81 million** people. In addition to these top publications, **more than 437,000** people were able to hear personal perspectives of the project through online blog platforms.

Moving into year three of Play Unified : Learn Unified, continued emphasis will be placed on key market news outlets in the countries to not only help establish awareness and lead to new partnerships, but to shape the attitudes that will allow individuals with ID to be seen by their peers, their communities, and the media.

#### ADDITIONAL YEAR 2 STORIES

Special Olympics: Unified Sports Vital to Tanzanians  
(Special Olympics Tanzania)



Municipal holds 1st Sports Festival of Unified Schools  
(Special Olympics Brazil)

Special Olympics educational program at the 17th Primary School of Agrinio  
(Special Olympics Hellas)

Special Olympics provides disabled students in Padang sports and leadership  
(Special Olympics Indonesia)



Through Play Unified : Learn Unified,  
Special Olympics Tanzania is engaging  
Special Olympics Unified Sports  
Athletes (with ID) and Partners  
(without ID) in football and volleyball.

The Play Unified: Learn Unified platform is increasing opportunities for inclusive sport, enhancing student engagement, and increasing educator capacity in over a dozen nations.

Unified.  
Unified.

***Special  
Olympics***



# Increasing Opportunities for Inclusive Sport

Special Olympics Unified Schools programming provides opportunities to develop empathy, grit, teamwork, and other social-emotional skills. This project year, hundreds of positive, high-quality sports experiences and inclusive opportunities for youth with and without intellectual disabilities were held.

Special Olympics Hellas conducted Unified Sports® events in football, judo, cycling, bocce, kayaking, and swimming, as well as Unified Physical Education classes to create inclusive opportunities during the school day.

Special Olympics Egypt facilitated a variety of Unified Sports® (basketball, table tennis, swimming, and football) with schools, including a Unified Sports Day at the Porto Nile Sporting Club (in the Manial region of Cairo).

Special Olympics Kenya hosted a Unified Football tournament in Kakuma Refugee

Camp Kalobeyei settlement. The tournament engaged nearly 200 youth with and without intellectual disabilities.

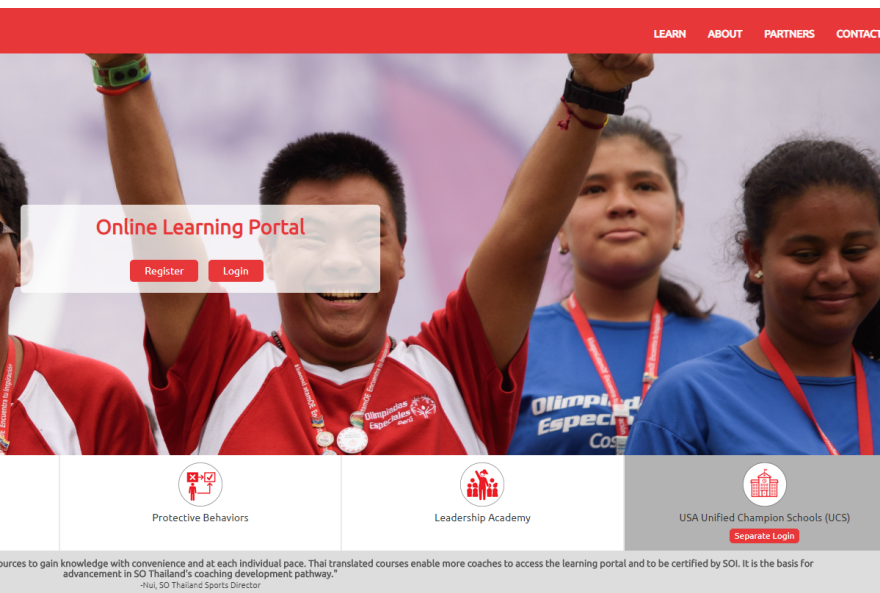
Special Olympics Morocco implemented programming such as a Unified Football event at Groupe Scolaire La Nouvelle Generation School in Salé (engaging 170 students and teachers and 62 Unified Sports Athletes and Partners).

Additionally, Special Olympics Tanzania signed a memorandum of understanding with the Tanzania Football Federation to support stronger inclusion practices in football by allowing Unified Sports teams developed through new Unified Schools to be engage within the Federation. Special Olympics Serbia also finalized a memorandum of cooperation with the Table Tennis Federation of Serbia to support the expansion of Unified Schools throughout Serbia.



Project Reach	Yr. 1 (Total)	Yr. 2 (Total)	To Date (Total)
Unified Sports Teams	189	1,155	1,344
Unified Sports Competitions	659	448	1,107
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	6,290	11,995	18,285
Unified Partners (without ID)	7,123	14,391	21,514

**Training together and playing together: a quick path to friendship and understanding.**



Despite the challenges faced by the global Special Olympics community due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the temporary suspension of all in-person activities, there has nonetheless been significant progress made towards our coach development goals through the continued rollout of Special Olympics Global Coach Education online courses. With just under 3,000 new users on the Special Olympics online learning platform ([learn.specialolympics.org](https://learn.specialolympics.org)) during Year 2 of the project and a similar number of course completions, Special Olympics coaches are embracing digital learning to enhance their skills and stay connected during this crisis.

### Online Unified Coaches Courses/ Guides

With the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Special Olympics online learning portal continues to expand. Three of the core coach education courses have been updated to enhance the learning experience of coaches, based on user feedback. In addition, the online learning portal has been into Brazilian Portuguese and Hindi, servicing two of the

## SPORT AND COACHING

Developing and scaling Unified Sports programming to create stronger inclusion practices worldwide

largest Programs supported by SNF. The translation of 4 key Coach Education courses into Brazilian Portuguese is also underway and will be available for learners in Q3 of 2020.

### FIBA International Basketball Foundation Partnership

Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 has delayed the collaboration between FIBA, IBF, and Special Olympics at the 2020 IBF Open. This joint initiative will extend the benefits of basketball to a larger group of players through 3x3 basketball and mini basketball. While the original plan was disrupted by COVID-19, the adapted goal will be to target SO Programs that would have attended the IBF Open to develop 3x3 basketball events in their own communities when they re-open to public activities.

### Special Olympics Great Britain & Finland Coach Trainings postponed

Similar to Coach Education Workshops previously held by SO Hellas and SO Germany, which allowed coaches from six European countries to continue building skills in coaching and social inclusion, plans were in place to host the second European trainings in Great Britain and Finland in spring 2020. Because of COVID-19, these trainings are postponed to Q4 of 2020, when Special Olympics Programs aim to resume their Coach Development trainings.



# Enhancing Student Engagement

## via youth leadership opportunities

Around the world, Play Unified : Learn Unified creates opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills to create inclusion in schools and communities. This project year provided a number of highlights from this engagement.

Special Olympics Indonesia established its first Youth Club Chapters in Jakarta, Banjarmasin, Jambi, and Bogor. Special Olympics Youth Leaders from each Chapter conduct Unified Schools activities locally.

Special Olympics Mexico created a network of trained Youth Leaders to train a wider group of students, teachers, and coaches to conduct Unified Sports events within private schools (primary and universities), and other multi-care centers across several states in Mexico.

Special Olympics Bharat (India) formed District Youth Councils (DYC) across Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh and coordinated several inclusive carnivals and festivals to celebrate Dushehra and Diwali. Each event was an opportunity to identify and recruit potential Unified Sports Athletes (with ID) and Partners (without ID).

Special Olympics Chinese Taipei collaborated with current Unified Schools such as Chung Shan Industrial & Commercial School to implement youth leadership development programs alongside Special Olympics Unified Sports to become Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools.



Project Reach	Yr. 1 (Total)	Yr. 2 (Total)	To Date (Total)
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	29	132	161
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	1,448	1,974	3,422
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	1,322	1,460	2,782
Youth indirectly engaged	14,236	25,758	39,994
Youth Engaged (via 14 SO Programs and Youth Innovation Grants)	30,419	87,797	118,216

**Increasing youth voice,  
youth involvement,  
youth participation, and  
youth in governance**



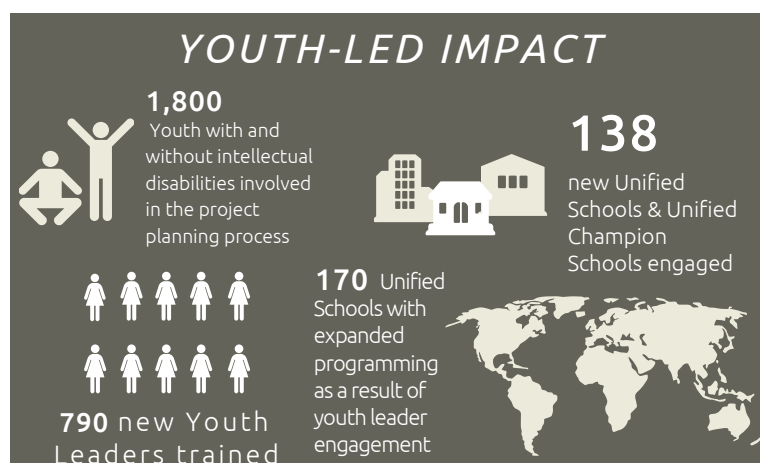
## INCLUSIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Empowering Youth Leaders to Drive Social Inclusion Worldwide

The Special Olympics Youth Innovation Project initiative has empowered Youth Leaders with and without ID to create social inclusion locally through projects developed to meet the specific needs and opportunities presented by their schools and communities. Through funding support from SNF as part of Play Unified : Learn Unified, **over 70** Special Olympics Youth Leaders have led local projects for inclusion in their **35 countries**, including **42 projects** arising from the 2018 Special Olympics Global Youth Leadership Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan. To date, **these 42 projects have engaged 138 new Unified Schools**, with more to come from projects that are underway.

To maximize and sustain impact, Youth Leaders receive critical training in inclusive leadership skills and project management alongside a small project grant. These trainings are available online and accessible to youth around the world.

After completing a project, Youth Leaders remain engaged through digital platforms, including Microsoft Teams and Facebook, as part of a growing global 'alumni' community. Special Olympics Youth Innovation Project Grants are available for application semi-annually.





Attendees from a Unified Schools event held in Bucharest, Romania.

# INNOVATION PROJECTS



## Feature: Siblings Promoting Inclusion in Bucharest

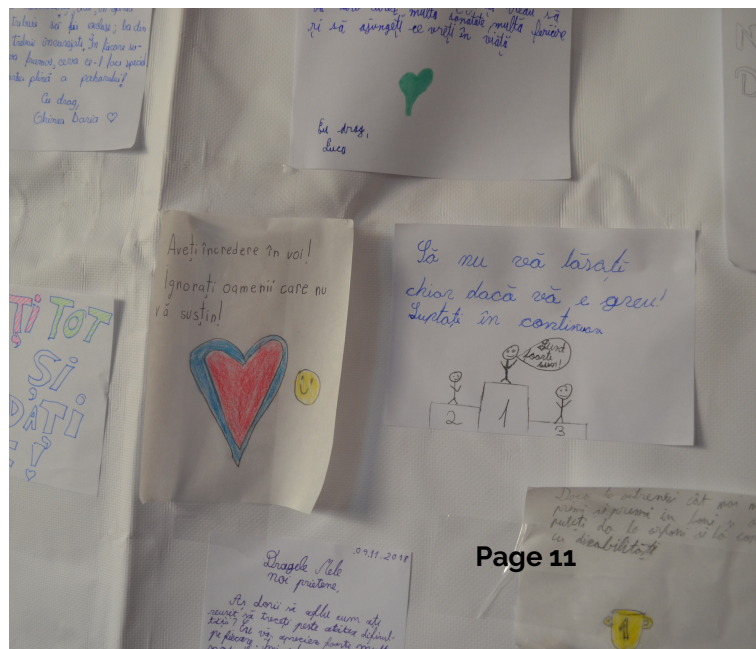
Ana and her sister Elena from Bucharest, Romania began their experience as Special Olympics Youth Leaders when they participated in the Special Olympics Global Youth Leadership Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan. There they learned the scope of the global Unified Generation, the power of Unified Sports, and how to be a leader for inclusion.

Taking what they learned from the Forum, Ana and Elena partnered to implement a project in their community. Together, they organized inclusive activities in two schools in Bucharest. Both schools participated in five lessons that aimed to change attitudes and create an inclusive environment.

As a result of this project, Ana and Elena were able to teach **93 students without disabilities** how to have an accepting attitude towards individuals with intellectual disabilities. They were also able to empower **23 youth with intellectual disabilities** to be role models and agents of change for their peers. Additionally, they offered training for 28 teachers, school speech therapists, and school counselors to learn more about Special Olympics and inclusion in education.

To celebrate the end of their project, Ana and Elena gathered more than 100 participants with and without intellectual disabilities to celebrate an Inclusion Week.

Inspired by their impact on their community, Ana and Elena are already working on their next project as they continue to lead the Unified Generation in Romania!



# Increasing Educator Capacity

## via trainings & tailored workshops

Play Unified : Learn Unified has grown Unified Schools impact by training educators around the world. Whether providing first-time trainings for teachers on adaptive learning approaches or facilitating conversations on techniques to create inclusive school climates through Unified Schools programming, Play Unified : Learn Unified is empowering educators to create inclusive environments for students.

In 2015, the Brazil Ministry of Education passed the Law of Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, declaring that all children should have equal access to equal education, regardless of their ability. However, the written policy does not include government action to support this law (such as special education trainings or other dedicated school resources). To meet this need, Special

Olympics Brazil is providing programming and resources aimed at creating social inclusion in these newly integrated schools through targeted teacher and school staff trainings as part of Play Unified : Learn Unified.

Trainings for school staff on implementing Unified Sports in schools are also underway, such as one at the Moscow State University of Psychology and Education led by Special Olympics Russia and several hosted by Special Olympics China. Additionally, Special Olympics Chile signed an agreement with the IACC Professional Institute and Ministry of Education of Chile to provide a free online Unified Schools course for teachers. Around the world, Play Unified : Learn Unified is empowering teachers to create inclusion through Unified Schools.



Project Reach	Yr. 1 (Total)	Yr. 2 (Total)	To Date (Total)
New Unified Schools ( <i>SO Programs</i> )	376	971	1,347
New Unified Schools ( <i>Innovation Grants</i> )	138	-	138
Teachers Trained	931	2,996	3,927
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	1,133	2,412	3,545

School staff play a pivotal role in promoting inclusion and through Play Unified : Learn Unified they are receiving needed support toward that effort.



## Special Olympics Global Unified Schools Evaluation Guide

A Resource for International Programs



**Translations of the  
Special Olympics  
Global Unified  
Schools Evaluation  
Guide available in  
Arabic, English,  
and Spanish.**

## EVALUATION

### Driving continuous improvement of programming and measuring outcomes of Unified Schools worldwide

In Year 2, Special Olympics continued to advance towards meaningful evaluation of the implementation and impact of Unified Schools with global evaluation partner American Institutes for Research (AIR).

Local university partners in China, Greece, and India successfully completed a first round of data collection to assess Unified Schools in those countries. These partners then worked with AIR and Special Olympics to build a database and begin data analysis. However, the first round of data collection in Kenya was disrupted by COVID-19. The pandemic has also disrupted plans for all countries to collect a second round of data. However, the university partners are developing alternatives to collect data from school administrators virtually, through means such as online surveys or interviews by telephone.

In March, Special Olympics and AIR convened a virtual Community of Practice meeting with university partners and Special Olympics staff from China, Greece, India, and Kenya. In this convening, each partner presented their progress in adapting global evaluation tools to their local context and their successes and challenges to date. All participants value this growing network of researchers evaluating Unified Schools and the connections to share best practices and provide mutual support.

This is a critical step forward for Special Olympics to ensure data-driven continuous improvement of Unified Schools informed by rigorous evaluation. To drive sustained impact, Special Olympics staff around the world have been trained using the Global Unified Schools Evaluation Guide developed in Year 1 and now translated into Spanish and Arabic.

SNF  
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Special  
Olympics



Special Olympics China and  
Special Olympics East Asia are  
working across three provinces  
in Central and Western China  
to recruit schools to  
participate as Unified Schools.

普特融合 共享快乐

特殊奥林匹克

2019



# National Impact

PLAY UNIFIED : LEARN UNIFIED IS DRIVING  
TARGETED, GRASSROOTS CHANGE FOR SOCIAL  
INCLUSION IN 14 SPECIAL OLYMPICS PROGRAMS:  
SPECIAL OLYMPICS BHARAT (INDIA), BRAZIL,  
CHILE, CHINA, CHINESE TAIPEI, EGYPT, HELLAS  
(GREECE), INDONESIA, KENYA, MEXICO,  
MOROCCO, RUSSIA, SERBIA, AND TANZANIA.

克融合学校

主办方：国际特殊奥林匹克东亚区

承办单位：特殊教育学校

朝阳区大石小学

朝阳区莲花初中



Through partnerships and collaborations, these  
Special Olympics Programs are working to ensure  
that youth with and without intellectual disabilities  
have opportunities for inclusion in their schools.  
The next sections provide details in these areas.

# PROGRAM REPORT: TANZANIA

To drive impact through enhanced Unified Sports resources and leadership in 25 new Unified Schools across five cities country-wide (Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Mwanza, Mtwara, and Tanga), Special Olympics Tanzania confirmed two key partnerships as part of Play Unified : Learn Unified. Through the Tanzania Football Federation and Tanzania Volleyball Association, Special Olympics Tanzania is strengthening sport capacity in schools and local communities by developing new sports in schools, providing technical support to teachers and coaches, creating awareness at local sports clubs, and mobilizing youth participants to become leaders toward inclusion.

This project year, Special Olympics Tanzania engaged **over 7,500 youth with and without intellectual disabilities** through local school coordination and other Unified Sports activities. Additionally, leadership from several new Unified Schools have shared that a number of students that previously dropped out of school are now being reengaged.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 2 (Total)
New Unified Schools	25
Unified Sports Competitions	76
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	1,720
Unified Partners (without ID)	1,450
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	50
Teachers Trained	100
Unified Sports Teams	25
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	1
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	55
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	35
Youth indirectly engaged	4,250



Ajirani, a student at  
Kikundi Primary School in  
Morogoro, Tanzania



As part of the Play Unified: Learn Unified initiative, over 7,000 youth have been engaged in Unified Schools programming in five cities across Tanzania.

# Increasing Inclusive Youth Engagement

WITHIN FIVE  
COMMUNITIES  
ACROSS TANZANIA

PLAY UNIFIED : LEARN UNIFIED

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According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), there are currently 1.8 billion people between the ages of 10 and 24 in the world—the largest generation of youth in history. **By 2030, the number of Tanzanians between ages 14 and 25 is expected to rise to 15 million.** In light of this reality, positive youth development opportunities and approaches that emphasize building on youths' strengths are needed now more than ever in Tanzania.

Special Olympics offers school-based inclusive sport and leadership development programming designed to create the connections and opportunities needed for youth with and without intellectual disability (ID) to feel accepted, develop important social emotional skills, and exhibit their strengths. With generous support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, **over 7,000 youth have been engaged in Special Olympics Unified Schools programming in five cities** (Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Morogoro, Mwanza,

and Mtwara) across Tanzania as part of the global Play Unified: Learn Unified initiative. These 7,000 youth are actively participating in Special Olympics Unified Sports, which bring participants with and without ID together on the same team. To catalyze this project through the country's most popular sport, Special Olympics Tanzania developed a memorandum of understanding with the Tanzania Football Federation to recruit 250 new coaches and engage 2,000 new Special Olympics Unified Sports Athletes (with ID) and Partners (without ID) within 2020 in programming that fosters acceptance.

*"I am enjoying the Unified Sports program at my school. It has helped me to become more physically fit through the sports trainings and competitions. In school, we play sports together as friends now, something that was rare before. Since joining the Unified Sports program, I feel more accepted and confident speaking in front of other students despite my disability. This helped me to become a class monitor, football team captain, and a member of the student council." Ajirani, a student and Special Olympics Athlete in Morogoro, Tanzania*

# PROGRAM REPORT: KENYA

In Year 2, Special Olympics Kenya succeeded in recruiting **4,944 participants** with and without intellectual disabilities through continued work with the Ministry of the Education in Kenya, to expand Unified Schools programming across 15 counties. With a focus on recruiting and retaining youth participants and coaches, Special Olympics Kenya worked with the Ministry of Sports, Culture, and Heritage in Kenya and the Kenya Scouts Association, the largest youth movement locally, with over 1,000,000 Scouts and a support team of over 40,000 Scout Leaders in Kenya.

Additionally, Special Olympics Kenya is working with the ACAKORO Football Academy in Nairobi, operated jointly by the Austrian “Relief Society ACAKORO” and the Kenyan Association “ACAKORO Community-Based Organization” to provide socially-disadvantaged children with both academic and sports training. In this expansion of Unified Schools programming, Special Olympics Kenya trained over 350 **Unified Sports Coaches** within this project year.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 1 (Total)	Yr. 2 (Total)	To Date (Total)
New Unified Schools	47	94	141
Unified Sports Competitions	-	16	16
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	4,250	2,472	6,722
Unified Partners (without ID)	3,251	2,472	6,722
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	801	361	1,162
Teachers Trained	390	361	751
Unified Sports Teams	80	188	268
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	10	28	38
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	203	472	675
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	203	472	675
Youth indirectly engaged	6,017	740	6,757



# PROGRAM REPORT: BHARAT

Building upon existing outreach, Special Olympics Bharat is developing Unified Champion Schools, which enhances school-based Unified Sports with inclusive youth leadership and whole school engagement to create inclusive school climates. To accomplish this, Special Olympics Bharat continued work with Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, a state government -operated education program developed to open new schools and strengthen school infrastructure. Special Olympics Bharat also formed District Youth Councils (across Uttarakhand & Uttar Pradesh) to coordinate inclusive events and identify Unified Sports players.

This outreach supporting programming that **engaged over 400 youth leaders** with and without intellectual disabilities and trained **over 300 teachers and coaches** across four states in India (Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, and West Bengal) this project year. In response to school closures caused by COVID-19, Special Olympics Bharat also worked with the Jeevandhara Rehabilitation Research Institute (Bareilly), Shriram Millennium Schools (Uttar Pradesh & Haryana), and Study Hall Educational Foundation (Lucknow) to organize virtual Unified Sports events, including a Unified Skipping (jump rope) competition.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 1 (Total)	Yr. 2 (Total)	To Date (Total)
New Unified Schools	172	174	346
Unified Sports Competitions	17	12	29
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	872	1,471	2,343
Unified Partners (without ID)	1,043	1,389	2,432
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	137	121	258
Teachers Trained	306	234	540
Unified Sports Teams	47	45	92
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	11	2	13
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	428	251	679
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	309	161	470
Youth indirectly engaged	3,111	1,738	4,849



# PROGRAM REPORT: INDONESIA

To expand Unified Schools programming across seven regions (East and West Jakarta (Jakarta Province), Bogor (West Java Province), Banjarmasin (South Borneo Province), Jambi, Makassar (South Sulawesi Province), and Padang (West Sumatra Province), Special Olympics Indonesia focuses on developing local awareness and engaging youth leaders. Through targeted outreach such as regional youth clubs, trainings to prepare youth to conduct Unified Schools activities, and Unified Sports competitions, Special Olympics Indonesia empowers emerging youth leaders throughout the country. Since joining Play Unified : Learn Unified in June 2019, **nearly 800 youth** with and without intellectual disabilities have been engaged.

Additionally, Special Olympics Indonesia worked with several local media outlets, including DAAI TV to conduct a series of event features. To highlight events held in South Borneo and Banjarmasin, Special Olympics Indonesia joined a live talk show held by *Persada Radio*, an Indonesian radio station. This helped to support increased awareness through direct media engagement (print, digital and social media, and discussion forums) across Jakarta and nearby areas.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 2 (Total)
New Unified Schools	83
Unified Sports Competitions	2
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	356
Unified Partners (without ID)	443
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	166
Teachers Trained	166
Unified Sports Teams	192
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	7
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	443
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	356
Youth indirectly engaged	-



## PROGRAM REPORT: CHINA

With the primary focus on activating youth in Unified Schools and local communities through Unified Sports and youth-led advocacy in central and western provinces, school recruitment targets for this project year were exceeded in China. To date, **52 new Unified Schools** have been engaged as part of Play Unified : Learn Unified. Recruitment of new Unified Schools across Shaanxi Province, Sichuan Province, and Chongqing Municipality has been supported by Special collaboration with the China Administration of Sports for Persons with Disabilities (CASPD) and China Disabled Persons Federation (CDPF). Partnerships with Shanghai Sport University (Shanghai) and Fujian Normal University (Fuzhou) were also developed to guide and assist schools in organizing their first Unified Sports activities.

The expansion of Unified Schools in the central and western regions of China was driven further through collaboration with Baoji Special Education School and Wanzhou Special Education Center to co-host Unified Schools trainings this project year.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 2 (Total)
New Unified Schools	52
Unified Sports Competitions	8
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	368
Unified Partners (without ID)	402
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	65
Teachers Trained	105
Unified Sports Teams	10
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	-
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	7
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	-
Youth indirectly engaged	1,066



# PROGRAM REPORT: CHINESE TAIPEI

This project year, Special Olympics Chinese Taipei engaged local government partners and conducted a series of youth leadership trainings to introduce Unified Physical Education (PE) courses in schools throughout Southern and Eastern Taiwan. Special Olympics Chinese Taipei worked with several local entities, such as the Special Education Center of National Taiwan Normal University, Department of Education in Chiayi City, Taiwanese Ministry of Education's Sports Administration, and the Ministry of Education's K-12 Education Administration. This outreach helped to recruit schools and provided support in facilitating Unified Sports activities (e.g., facilities, equipment, and event logistics).

Utilizing a Train-the-Trainer model to enable scaled growth, Special Olympics Chinese Taipei engaged **25 new Unified Schools** and held regular Unified PE courses in 18 of those schools. Special Olympics Chinese Taipei also worked with Unified Schools such as Chung Shan Industrial & Commercial School to implement the three-component Unified Champion School model of school engagement (adding Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole School Engagement programming to Unified Sports) to create deeper impact.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 2 (Total)
New Unified Schools	25
Unified Sports Competitions	46
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	368
Unified Partners (without ID)	1,266
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	-
Teachers Trained	115
Unified Sports Teams	25
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	2
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	65
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	65
Youth indirectly engaged	4,307



## PROGRAM REPORT: SERBIA

To expand Unified Schools programming across 12 Serbian communities (Belgrade, Pancevo, Kragujevac, Čačak, Krusevac, Niš, Pirot, Vranje, Leskovac, Jabuka, Zrenjanin, and Novi Sad), Special Olympics Serbia identified key partnerships to increase the number of schools and youth engaged. Building upon existing school outreach efforts, Special Olympics Serbia engaged **more than 100 Unified Schools** (25 existing, 77 new). Through these efforts, 36 Unified Sports competitions were held, 12 sports clubs were provided with necessary equipment, and **over 160 Special Olympics Youth Leaders** (with and without ID) were also trained this project year.

With a focus on developing table tennis as a new Unified Sport in Serbia, Special Olympics Serbia collaborated with the Table Tennis Federation of Serbia to finalize a memorandum of cooperation to support the expansion of Unified Schools. Additionally, Special Olympics Serbia increased awareness of Play Unified : Learn Unified by launching a campaign during COVID-19 to engage **over 55 youth with and without intellectual disabilities** to stay safe and fit while remaining at home.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 1 (Total)	Yr. 2 (Total)	To Date (Total)
New Unified Schools	*75	2	77
Unified Sports Competitions	36	36	72
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	*130	130	260
Unified Partners (without ID)	*130	130	260
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	*20	56	76
Teachers Trained	*20	56	76
Unified Sports Teams	*24	24	48
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	-	8	8
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	-	80	80
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	-	80	80
Youth indirectly engaged	50	100	150

(\*new Unified Schools engaged in Year 1 and sustained in Year 2 through continued programming)



# PROGRAM REPORT: HELLAS

Building upon existing school outreach, Special Olympics Hellas developed local partnerships and facilitated targeted efforts to grow opportunities for inclusion in schools and sports clubs across Greece. Through a series of workshops for teachers, youth, and coaches from public and private schools, as well as Unified Sports competitions, Special Olympics Hellas engaged **over 5,300 youth** with and without intellectual disabilities and **over 260 school and sports staff** this project year. This outreach was supported by partnerships developed with local government entities, school networks, and other volunteer organizations.

In cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research, and Religious Affairs and local schools, Special Olympics Hellas signed a memorandum of understanding with each newly engaged Unified School. In addition to holding two Unified Sports activities, each school will conduct other inclusive programming such as Unified Sports demonstrations, youth leadership trainings, and whole school engagement activities each year. Special Olympics Hellas is promoting Play Unified : Learn Unified through several youth volunteer organizations, such as the National Scouting Association of Greece, Red Cross, and Lykeio Ellinidon Greek Lyceum Foundation.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 1 (Total)	Yr. 2 (Total)	To Date (Total)
New Unified Schools	33	58	91
Unified Sports Competitions	19	46	65
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	443	867	1,310
Unified Partners (without ID)	752	1,374	2,126
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	20	108	128
Teachers Trained	54	154	208
Unified Sports Teams	86	160	246
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	1	3	4
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	10	78	88
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	10	60	70
Youth indirectly engaged	3,318	3,000	6,318



Students from a Unified PE class in Koropi, a town in East Attica, Greece.



Unified Physical Education (PE) classes foster social inclusion by bringing together students of all abilities to participate in developmentally appropriate activities during the school day. Students work together to increase competence and confidence in a variety of physical activities.

## DIMITRIS & PANAGIOTIS

### Unified Physical Education in Greece

*"I have really enjoyed making friends through Unified PE activities. A special thanks to the Special Olympics Hellas coaches who came to our school, introduced us to Unified Bocce, and talked to us about all the rules. I hope that we will continue having more opportunities to come together with other students for sports and even subjects like mechanical engineering, which is my specialty at school."*

**- Panagiotis Andreou, Senior, Special Vocational High School in Koropi, Greece**

*"I hadn't heard of Special Olympics until this year. I took part in Unified PE classes with the students from a nearby school. Together we played Unified Football, Basketball, and Bocce. I loved visiting different schools, meeting new people and playing sports with other students, as well as Special Olympics Athletes. I would really love to be a Special Olympics Athlete in football or basketball. When I finish school, I would like to become a car mechanic but also continue training and competing."* **-Dimitris Saloufas, Senior, Special Vocational High School in Koropi, Greece**

As part of a three-year initiative supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Play Unified : Learn Unified project will engage 1,900 new Unified Schools (schools offering programming like Unified Physical Education, that brings together youth with and without intellectual disabilities) in over a dozen countries, including Greece. To date, Special Olympics Hellas has engaged 91 new Unified Schools in cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Education, Research, and Religious Affairs.

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**Panagiotis**, a student at a Unified School in Greece.



**Dimitris**, a student at a Unified School in Greece.

## PROGRAM REPORT: RUSSIA

To increase local capacity and ensure high-quality Unified Schools programming, Special Olympics Russia created regional agreements with the Russian Ministry of Sport and Ministry of Education. This provided project support (e.g. facilities, equipment, and event logistics) toward Unified Sports activities within special education and mainstream education schools across five regions of Russia (Chelyabinsk, Irkutsk, Khabarovsk territory, Novosibirsk, Vladimir/Ivanovo, and Yakutsk). Special Olympics Russia also held two regional Unified Schools seminars in Khabarovsk territory and Chelyabinsk.

Additionally, Special Olympics Russia hosted signature Unified Sports events, such as the All-Russian Youth Football and Unified Football Tournament with more than 100 participants representing six regions of the Russian Federation. Since June 2019, **over 1,800 Unified Sports participants** have been engaged in inclusive sports programming. During this project year, Special Olympics Russia brought Unified Schools programming to 76 schools, over 70% of its full-project goal of engaging 100 new Unified Schools.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 2 (Total)
New Unified Schools	76
Unified Sports Competitions	41
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	1,001
Unified Partners (without ID)	874
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	356
Teachers Trained	435
Unified Sports Teams	94
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	14
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	54
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	54
Youth indirectly engaged	2,130





*"All children and youth, regardless of their development, have a need to communicate with their peers, and inclusive sports helps them to get to know each other and develop lasting friendships, which is extremely gratifying to us as educators. After all, the road ahead for these students is not the easiest and many may never have the opportunity to leave this community. So imagine the celebration when Special Olympics Russia comes to them." Irina Olesova, School Principal from the Ust-Aldan district in Russia*

# Unified Schools in Siberia

REACHING THE  
FURTHEST CORNERS  
OF THE GLOBE

PLAY UNIFIED : LEARN UNIFIED

With generous support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, the Play Unified: Learn Unified project will bring Special Olympics Unified Schools programming to **1,900 schools across more than a dozen countries and 74 local communities** over 3 years. In order to create lasting attitudinal change, this landmark collaboration aims to take the Special Olympics Unified Schools and Unified Champion Schools **engagement models to scale in communities across the world**, including the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), Russia. Although comparable in size to India, the Republic of Sakha is the most sparsely populated region in Russia, with less than one million people living in this region.

In order to **prevent social isolation for students with intellectual disabilities living in an already geographically isolated community**, Special Olympics Russia began targeted outreach to special education and mainstream

schools in Siberia. This year, Special Olympics Russia conducted a Unified Schools workshop for **principals and teachers in Yakutsk, the capital and largest city in the Republic of Sakha**. The workshop provided focused conversation on the development of inclusive sports for school-aged children and youth and timely approaches to recruiting and retaining youth with and without intellectual disabilities in far northeastern Russia. The support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation is empowering Special Olympics Russia to train teachers and other school staff on how to incorporate Unified Sports within an educational setting.

To date, Special Olympics Russia has engaged **76 new Unified Schools across five regions (Chelyabinsk, Irkutsk, Khabarovsk territory, Novosibirsk, Vladimir/Ivanovo, and Yakutsk) and trained 791 teachers and coaches.**

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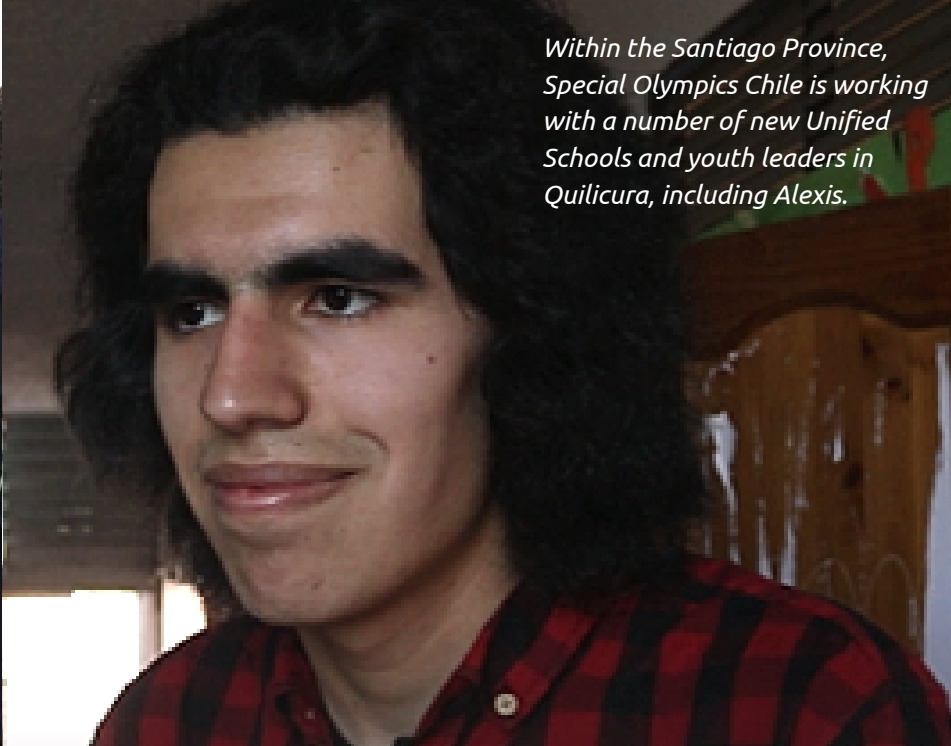
## PROGRAM REPORT: CHILE

Special Olympics Chile has focused its efforts in Play Unified : Learn Unified on developing inclusive sport and leadership opportunities among classmates with and without intellectual disabilities across three regions in Chile: Metropolitana (Santiago city), Valparaíso, and Bío-Bío (Concepción city). Special Olympics Chile engaged **over 700 youth and recruited 82 new Unified Schools** this project year in these regions. Engagement included inclusive youth leadership opportunities for students with and with ID by creating school-based leadership groups across Quilicura. These groups were focused on increasing inclusion across their school community and building an environment of acceptance. Special Olympics Chile combines the power of Unified Sports, Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole School Engagement to develop Unified Champion Schools.

Special Olympics Chile is also working with the Department of Education of the Municipality of La Florida to implement Special Olympics Young Athletes programming in schools and the IACC Professional Institute and Ministry of Education of Chile to develop and distribute a free online Unified Schools course for teachers and other school staff.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 1 (Total)	Yr. 2 (Total)	To Date (Total)
New Unified Schools	23	82	105
Unified Sports Competitions	8	14	22
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	465	648	1,113
Unified Partners (without ID)	820	995	1,815
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	71	155	226
Teachers Trained	202	320	522
Unified Sports Teams	32	48	80
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	78	12	90
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	53	72	125
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	25	26	51
Youth indirectly engaged	2,216	2,376	4,592





Within the Santiago Province, Special Olympics Chile is working with a number of new Unified Schools and youth leaders in Quilicura, including Alexis.

## SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE YOUTH LEADERS & TEACHERS IN CHILE

From Belgrade to Nairobi and from Shanghai to Rio de Janeiro, nearly 75,000 youth leaders participate in Special Olympics Unified Schools across the world. Special Olympics Youth Leaders include individuals ages 8-25, with and without intellectual disabilities (ID) working to increase access to school-based inclusive sports and other leadership development opportunities. Thanks to generous support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, via **Play Unified : Learn Unified**, emerging youth leaders in 14 countries and jurisdictions are receiving support toward this effort. One of these emerging youth is Alexis from Quilicura, Chile.



*"Having Asperger's Syndrome is not a limitation. Instead, the barriers have been around me. **There are many schools and teachers who are not prepared to receive students with intellectual disabilities.** For this reason, it is important to promote inclusion, not only in municipal schools like mine, but also in private schools. Inclusion is a task for the whole society and should be taught in as many schools as possible." -Alexis, Inclusive Youth Leader & President of the José Miguel Carrera School Student Center, in Quilicura, Chile*



Olimpiadas Especiales  
**Escuelas Unificadas**  
Juega Unificado  
Aprende Unificado

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As part of Play Unified : Learn Unified, Special Olympics Chile is training local teachers and students to conduct inclusive sports across three Regions in Chile —Valparaíso, Bío-Bío, and the Santiago Metropolitan area. The teacher trainings provide information on the varying types of ID, adapted communication and learning approaches, current legislation impacting students with ID locally, and how these topics intersect with Special Olympics Unified Sports. To date, Special Olympics Chile has trained 522 teachers and facilitated 84 Inclusive Youth Leadership trainings country-wide.

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## PROGRAM REPORT: BRAZIL

In Year 2, Special Olympics Brazil expanded Unified Schools programming across the states of Pernambuco and Rio de Janeiro through continued work with the municipal governments of Itaguaí and Arcoverde, engaging **over 3,300 Special Olympics Unified Sports Athletes (with ID) and Partners (without ID)**. These locations were identified for Play Unified : Learn Unified due to the populations of children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities, including those resulting from microcephaly caused by the Zika virus.

Special Olympics Brazil has provided support programming and resources to create social inclusion in schools that have newly integrated students with ID. For example, the first Unified Schools Festival was held in Rio de Janeiro in coordination with the Board of Centro Esportivo Miécimo da Silva and the Rio de Janeiro Department of Sport and Leisure. The event **offered 11 Unified Sports activities and engaged nearly 2,000 attendees from 50 schools**. Special Olympics Brazil is also collaborating with local school networks like Colégio da Sagrada Família (in Recife) and Colégio Força Máxima (in Rio de Janeiro) to implement Unified Schools programming.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 1 (Total)	Yr. 2 (Total)	To Date (Total)
New Unified Schools	26	116	142
Unified Sports Competitions	2	124	126
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	130	1,159	1,289
Unified Partners (without ID)	378	2,240	2,618
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	84	197	281
Teachers Trained	109	330	439
Unified Sports Teams	-	218	218
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	2	13	15
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	10	71	81
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	-	49	49
Youth indirectly engaged	1,680	4,070	5,750



# PROGRAM REPORT: MEXICO

In this project year, Special Olympics Mexico engaged **over 2,500 youth** with and without intellectual disabilities by activating students, teachers, and coaches within universities and smaller private schools across several states in Mexico (Baja California, Guanajuato, Puebla, San Luis Potosí, and Yucatán). This outreach was supported by partnerships developed with the Secretary of Special Education of the Government of Mexico City, Professional Institute of Therapies and Humanities (IPETH), Yucatán Sports Institute, the Secretary of Education of the Government of the State of San Luis Potosí, and Iberdrola. These partnerships provided support by facilitating access to multi-care centers, helping to coordinate Unified Sports events at local university campuses, and providing access to schools across San Luis Potosí and the State of Yucatán.

Special Olympics Mexico is also working to increase the number of new Unified Schools engaged through the development of Inclusive Youth Committees, school-based, youth-led organizing groups. In Mexico, these Inclusive Youth Committees organize inclusive events, coordinate off-campus activities, and train others on Unified Schools.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 2 (Total)
New Unified Schools	83
Unified Sports Competitions	21
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	784
Unified Partners (without ID)	546
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	538
Teachers Trained	379
Unified Sports Teams	31
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	28
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	221
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	71
Youth indirectly engaged	1,031



## PROGRAM REPORT: EGYPT

To expand Unified Schools programming, Special Olympics Egypt conducted a series of Unified Sports competitions (basketball, table tennis, swimming, and football) and outreach events. In coordination with the Arab Academy for Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport (Alexandria Governorate), Special Olympics Egypt held the first Unified Championship event engaging local international universities, institutes, and schools, with Unified Swimming competitions. Special Olympics athletes and students from 17 local schools.

Special Olympics Egypt also developed partnerships with the Directorates of Education in the governorates of Cairo and Giza, the Physical Education faculty at Alexandria University in Cairo, and the Port Said International School. These partnerships have supported Play Unified : Learn Unified by allowing the use of sport and meeting facilities, coordinating Unified Sports events, identifying youth volunteers for events and facilitating access to schools throughout six cities (Alexandria, Cairo, Giza, Tanta, Luxor, and Aswan). With this support, Special Olympics Egypt engaged **over 1,000 Unified Sports Athletes (with ID) and Partners (without ID)** and trained **over 350 teachers and coaches** this project year.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 2 (Total)
New Unified Schools	71
Unified Sports Competitions	3
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	550
Unified Partners (without ID)	560
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	195
Teachers Trained	166
Unified Sports Teams	35
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	12
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	25
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	11
Youth indirectly engaged	150



In order to create lasting attitudinal change across the world, Special Olympics utilizes two scalable school engagement models to reach today's youth —Unified Schools and Unified Champion Schools. In addition to bringing together youth, these models provide **targeted opportunities for teachers, coaches, and families** to learn, collaborate, and change perceptions of individuals of all abilities. Through the Special Olympics Play Unified : Learn Unified initiative, supported by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, nearly 2,000 schools across more than a dozen countries by May 2021, including Egypt. **For schools engaged in this project, this means opportunities for increased educator capacity, enhanced student engagement, and inclusive sport offerings.**

With that in mind, Special Olympics Egypt is expanding its work by facilitating trainings for school staff and coordinating Special Olympics Unified Sports competitions in six cities (Alexandria, Cairo, Aswan, Tanta, Luxor, and Giza). To increase awareness of these opportunities, Special Olympics Egypt is organizing Unified Sports Days or interactive events that provide opportunities such as sport competitions, health screenings, and other educational workshops for students, educators, and the greater community. Inspired by inclusive programming, American University in Cairo (a multi-campus private university that enrolls 6,000 students per year) joined in on the day by recruiting students from its 65 student-led groups and 19 athletics programs to partner with Special Olympics Athletes in sports activities. As a result of engaging with a variety of community members and media, Special Olympics Egypt is bringing awareness to the importance of sustaining inclusion efforts beyond this three-year initiative.

*"I am overwhelmed and fascinated with what I saw during the Unified Sports Day held at my school. Although I've been a teacher for eight years, this was my first time interacting with students with intellectual disabilities. All through the awareness session, I felt shivers from the pride and confidence that echoed in the Athletes' voices. It made me realize how much I have missed in my life by being unaware of people with intellectual disabilities and the joy they bring to any place they join. I left work that day, feeling grateful that a great value had been added to my teaching experience. Now, I can say as a teacher that I am promoting inclusion and more effectively supporting students, with all of their different capabilities, strengths and challenges."* **-Reham Abdel-Rahim Mohamed, Teacher, Wiseness Language Mainstream School in Giza, Egypt**

# UNIFIED SPORTS DAYS IN EGYPT

## BUILDING AWARENESS AND CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

*As part of Play Unified : Learn Unified, Special Olympics Egypt has trained nearly 400 teachers and coaches to conduct inclusive programming and engaged over 1,200 youth with and without intellectual disabilities across Egypt.*

## PROGRAM REPORT: MOROCCO

To create high-quality Unified Schools programming in universities within the cities of Kenitra, Marrakech, Casablanca, and Rabat, Special Olympics Morocco utilized a train-the-trainer model in working with local schools during this project year. To recruit new Unified Schools, Special Olympics Morocco has collaborated with the Morocco Ministry of Health, American University in Rabat, and the International University of Rabat. These collaborations have supported Special Olympics Morocco to recruit **30 new Unified Schools**.

Special Olympics Morocco has worked with these newly recruited Unified Schools to develop their first opportunities for inclusive sport, such as a Unified Football event held at Groupe Scolaire La Nouvelle Generation school in Salé and a Unified Handball competition at Paul Cezanne French Primary School in Rabat. This school-based inclusive programming has engaged **over 1,200 youth with and without intellectual disabilities** and many more families and other community members thus far through Play Unified : Learn Unified in Morocco.

Year 2 Reach	Yr. 2 (Total)
New Unified Schools	30
Unified Sports Competitions	3
Unified Sports Athletes (with ID)	101
Unified Partners (without ID)	250
Unified Sports Coaches Trained	44
Teachers Trained	75
Unified Sports Teams	60
Inclusive Youth Leadership Trainings	2
Youth Leaders Trained (without ID)	80
Youth Leaders Trained (with ID)	20
Youth indirectly engaged	800



## FACING COVID-19: PIVOTING FROM IN-PERSON TO DIGITAL

The COVID-19 pandemic caused school closures around the world, leaving over 1.2 billion children and youth out of school globally, as well as a global suspension of in-person Special Olympics programming. However, Play Unified : Learn Unified engagement continued with the use of online tools and digital platforms, while adhering to stay-at-home orders and guidance from health authorities. Special Olympics Programs were able to find innovative ways to continue to promote inclusion across their countries and jurisdictions.

### Unified Schools & Unified Sports

**Trainings-***SO Russia* held two regional online Unified Schools meetings for local university teachers, coaches from local sports schools and parents of youth with

intellectual disabilities in the Vladimir and Ivanovo regions; and *SO Bharat* held a Spread the Word Inclusion webinar for 142 participants across Uttar Pradesh via Google Play.

### School Recruitment & Engagement-

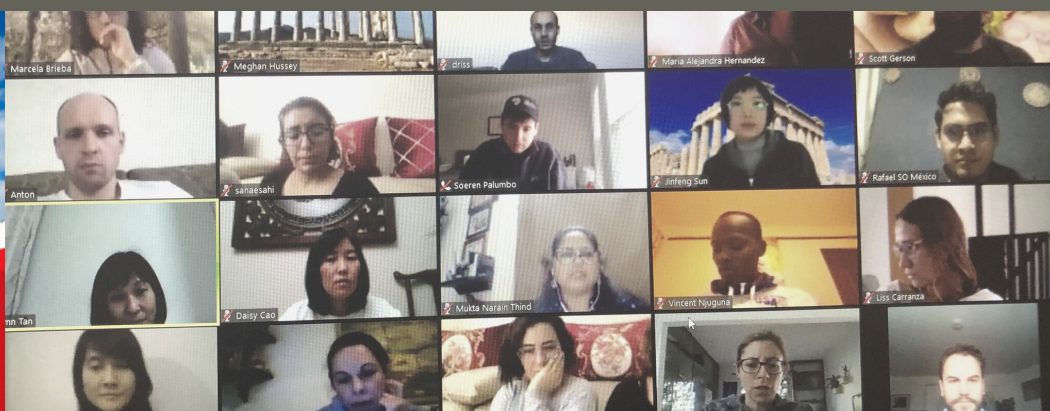
*SO Hellas* sent letters to new Unified Schools to invite them to join weekly webinars scheduled through mid-June 2020; *SO Brazil* conducted an online Unified Schools training for new and prospective schools; *SO Mexico* conducted planning toward two youth leadership webinars for new Unified Schools across Mexico City and the State of Puebla along with a Special Olympics Young Athletes webinar for parents, families, and teachers, expected to engage over 250 attendees via Zoom and Facebook Live.

## 2020 Play Unified : Learn Unified Global Meeting



### SNF Project 2020 Global Meeting

Athens, Greece: March-April 2020



Due to COVID-19, the Play Unified : Learn Unified global meeting scheduled to be held in Athens, Greece, took place via a virtual format instead. The four-day meeting included 23 online sessions that engaged over 60 participants (Special Olympics Headquarters, Regional, and Program-level project staff) via Zoom.

The meeting agenda included discussion of global best practices shared across Special Olympics Programs and Regions, and a

review of Year 3 Project Plans for the 14 Special Olympics Programs across 6 Regions. In discussing plans for Year 3 of Play Unified : Learn Unified, Special Olympics Programs also outlined varying approaches to project opportunities and challenges.

Overall, the meeting served as an opportunity to create global alignment in anticipation of Year 3 of Play Unified : Learn Unified.

# Looking Ahead

YEAR THREE (JUNE 2020 - MAY 2021)

The global impact of Play Unified : Learn Unified in sport, education, and youth development continues to grow, having now reached 1,485 new Unified Schools. As the project advances into Year 3, the 14 Special Olympics Programs are working to reach the overall goal of engaging 1,900 new Unified Schools by:

- Increasing digital engagement and outreach to train youth, teachers, and coaches in Unified Schools methods;
- Identifying alternative engagement methods to reach schools and students in areas with limited internet access;
- Working to enhance programmatic quality by supporting select Unified Schools to become Unified Champion Schools by adding inclusive youth leadership and whole school engagement programming; and
- Continuing new school engagement, with a goal of recruiting about 400 new Unified Schools this project year.

Around the world, Special Olympics Programs are working closely with schools and communities to manage the effects of COVID-19. While the pandemic has created challenges, Special Olympics Programs have seized the opportunity to make creative adaptations that ensure the impact of Play Unified : Learn Unified continues to grow. Outreach to schools and other stakeholders has continued remotely and inclusive virtual events have emerged when in-person gathering was not possible.

The pandemic has shown not only the importance of creativity and resilience, but also the dire need for inclusive programming. In many parts of the world, youth with and without intellectual disabilities are facing unprecedented isolation and disconnection. But with the support of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Play Unified : Learn Unified will continue to create opportunities for connection and inclusion through Unified Sports and Unified Schools when it is needed most.





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