**TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING ON RECENT INITIATIVES ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE**

***Special Olympics - Sport for Development***

*Special Olympics mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities (ID), giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. Through the power of sports, people with intellectual disabilities, discover new strengths and abilities, skills and success. Our athletes find joy, confidence and fulfillment—on the playing field and in life. They also inspire people in their communities and elsewhere to open their hearts to a wider world of human talents and potential. Serving more than 3.9 million athletes (individuals with ID) & Unified partners (individuals without ID), 1 million coaches and volunteers; our programming is offered in 177 countries and jurisdictions across the world.*

*Special Olympics Initiatives are broad in the impact that Sport offers across our 7 regions including activations that involve major partnerships and have profound global development impact across the movement from regional impact such as Special Olympics’ World Games Berlin 2023, including the first Global Leadership Coalition for Inclusion, Special Olympics USA Games, SO North America’s ESPN supported Community Impact grants, Scotiabank Unified Regional Football Cup, Latin America Sports Webinar Cycle, UNICEF : Unified Sports with Refugees, Research of female (with ID) participation in physical activity across Asia Pacific, to Special Olympcis Program impacts such as SO Spain’s Jornadas Inclusivas, Afghan Refugee project, CFG Guangzhou Training & Competition, Special Olympics Kenya Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Education, Kenya Unified Champion Schools- Policy Engagement and Research. The information below is a sampling of the impact Special Olympics has accomplished in the Sport for Development space.*

*Additionally, Special Olympics is currently enlisting national governments to provide funding for inclusive education programming (UCS). Our recommendation is at least 3% of their education budget should be spent for inclusive education.  We have 15 nations onboard as of February 2024, with discussions in place with more nations.*

***Timeframe:*** *January 2022 – February 2024*

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| **Please provide more details on each initiative including items below:** |
| **Objective(s):** | *Please indicate which, if any, of the following fall among the main objectives of the initiative:* |
| * ***Ensuring no one is left behind (advancing empowerment, inclusiveness and equality through sport)***
 | * Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity
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| * ***Leveraging sports events to promote action to combat climate change, advance peace and/or sustainable development***
 | * ***Conflict prevention/peace building***
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| * ***Research development, data collection and/or data dissemination***
 | * ***Safely harnessing sport for sustainable development, peace and wellbeing in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, including through the use of technology***
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| * Reinforce the 2030 Agenda and eradicate poverty in times of multiple crises, leading to the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions
 | * Safeguarding sport from corruption and crime
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| * ***Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace***
 | * Other (please specify)
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| **Situation** | *What is the challenge or problem that the initiative aims to address?** *Fostering Inclusion for individuals with ID through Competitions*
* *Developing confidence and life skills through sport*
* *Exclusion of refugees with and without intellectual disability*
* *Inclusion of individuals with and without ID through sports*
* *Inclusive Sports.*
* *Inclusion of athlete with severe or profound intellectual disability*
* *Limited access to physical, social & emotional well-being of sport training and competition*
* *Stereotyping*
* *Lack of public awareness*
* *Gender disparities through sports*
* *Address stigma and discrimination*
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| *Implementation mechanisms:* | *What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?** *Engaging with relevant stakeholders*
* *Government agencies, non-profit organizations, sports federations, and local communities to ensure a coordinated approach*
* *Private sector organization*
* *Community Programs*
* *Advance sexual and reproductive health education and LifeSkills to young people with intellectual disabilities*

*What are the main deliverables/activities involved?** *Raising awareness about the importance of inclusion, refugee rights, SDGs, and gender equality through campaigns, workshops, and community outreach efforts*
* *Building partnerships with local organizations, schools, businesses, and government agencies to leverage resources, expertise, and networks for greater impact*
* *Unified Female and Male competitions in various countries*
* *Regular sport specific webinars*
* *Refugees, with and without ID*
* *Competition and Training opportunities*
* *Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) curriculum to be ID friendly*

*What is the time frame of implementation?** *Varies based on specific project, but generally 9-12 months as minimum, with a dynamic implementation process tailored to meet the involving need of our Programs in Special Olympics*
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| **Target Audience(s):** | *Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?** *Athletes with and without intellectual disabilities*
* *Male and Female Coaches*
* *Volunteer*
* *Family members/Care takers*
* *Volunteers*
* *Community*
* *Stakeholders/Chief Constituents*
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| **Partners/Funding:** | *Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles?** *Country governments in different regions – Inclusion Awareness*
* *State, Municipality and Local Governments*
* *Special Olympics Corporate Partners – leading role volunteer, funding opportunities, activation*
* *International/Regional/National Sports Federations such as UEFA, UNFPA, FIBA, UNFBA, UNDP – Sports Activation*
* *Non-Government organization such as UNESCO, UNICEF, BID – Inclusion Awareness*
* *Civic organizations such as Lions Clubs International Foundation including – activation of Leos (Youth Leaders) in inclusive sport*
* *Special Olympics National Programs develop and execute training and competition.*
* *Individual Donors and Foundations*

*What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?** *Special Olympics Corporate Partners*
* *Governments in different regions and areas such Education, Department of Defense, Sports, health.*
* *Non-Governmental Organization in different regions*
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| **SDG Alignment:** | *To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?** *SDG 3: Good Health and Well being*
* *SDG 4: Quality Education*
* *SDG 5: Gender Equality*
* *SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities*
* *SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals*

*Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.** *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*
* *National Sports Policies*
* *Refugee Compact*
* *International Olympic Committee (IOC) Agenda 2020+5*
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| **Alignment with global frameworks:** | *How does this initiative align with/contribute to the objectives of the* [*Kazan Action Plan*](https://en.unesco.org/mineps6/kazan-action-plan)*,* [*WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity*](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272722/9789241514187-eng.pdf) *or other related internationally agreed frameworks on sport and/or physical activity?** *Kazan Action Plan - By promoting the role of sport in achieving sustainable development and social cohesion.*
* *WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity - By increasing physical activity levels and improving health. And supporting the mission that State “To ensure that all people have access to safe and enabling environments and to diverse opportunities to be physically active in their daily lives, as a means of improving individual and community health and contributing to the social, cultural and economic development of all nations”. This is done by creating more active systems and societies through Unified Football*
* *United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by advocating for equal opportunities and inclusion in sports.*
* *Olympic Agenda 2020 by promoting sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation within the sports community.*
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| **Alignment with United Nations Action Plan on SDP:** | *Which of the four thematic areas of the* [*UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace*](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/06/14.pdf) *is this initiative designed to align?** *Social Inclusion and Gender Equality*
* *Youth Empowerment*
* *Peace-building and Conflict Prevention*
* *Policy Development*

*To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?** *Access to Sports*
* *Quality competition opportunities*
* *Capacity Building*
* *Advocacy and Awareness*
* *Global framework for sport for development and peace*
* *Policy development*
* *Evidence of Impact & Follow up*
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| **Outcomes:** | *What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative?** *Empowerment through sports*
* *Understanding barriers for female with IDs in physical activity*
* *Physical and Mental Health*
* *Skills Development*
* *Advocacy for inclusion*
* *Activation of Volunteers*
* *Increase of Athletes and Unified Partners*
* *Vulnerable and refugees had opportunity to socialize*
* *People with ID experience sports, socialization in community settings; creates awareness about the role a popular team sport like football can play in fostering acceptance and inclusion in schools and the community.*
* *Inclusion and acceptance.*
* *Physical and mental Health*
* *Social Connection*
* *Community Engagement.*
* *Inspiration and Legacy*
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| **Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:** | *What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?** *Social Network Analysis*
* *Performance Metrics*
* *Observational Studies*
* *Economic Analysis*
* *Impact Studies*
* *Participant Feedback*
* *Policy Engagement*
* *Grant Reporting with with qualitative & quantitative metrics*

*What specific monitoring and evaluation tools are involved?** *Dashboards where number of athletes, coaches and activities are listed*
* *Recurring calls/meetings with national coordinators to evaluate impact*
* *Satisfaction Surveys at different levels*
* *Attendance Lists*
* *Reecordings*
* *Satisfaction Surveys*
* *Photos*
* *Action Plans*
* *Final, progress and financial reports*
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| **Challenges/Lessons learned** | *What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?** *Political instabilities*
* *Financial resources*
* *Retention of athletes, partners and coaches*
* *Expansion at a Regional Level*
* *Funding*
* *Sustainability*
* *Reluctance of some population to participate*
* *Human and Financial Resources*
* *Access to facilities*
* *Health and Safety concerns*
* *Engagement at a national, regional, and local organization*

*What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?** *Importance of community engagement*
* *Partnership Development*
* *Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation*
* *Cultural sensitives*
* *Flexibility and Adaptability*
* *Collaboration between different organization*
* *Securing partnerships with local organizations and universities to increase the number of athletes with profound disabilities and coaches is a best practice*
* *Adapting resources, guides, materials at a local context could help grow sustainability with this project*
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