



***Special
Olympics***



Definition of intellectual disability:

Intellectual disabilities can be defined as significant limitations in cognitive functioning and adaptive behavior with onset by 18 years of age. Intellectual disabilities can be either genetic or acquired (e.g., Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, autism, traumatic brain injury).

Epidemiological studies report a significant correlation between poverty and the prevalence of intellectual disabilities (*Emerson, 2007*). The United Nations Development Program estimates that 80% of all people with disabilities reside in low-income countries (*Groce, 2011*). While people with disabilities represent one in ten people worldwide, they are one in every five of the world's poorest people (*Groce, 2011*).

At present, more than 70% of Special Olympics athletes (more than 2.8 million people) live in developing countries. Poverty and disability are mutually reinforcing, and disability can be understood as both a cause and a consequence of poverty (*World Report on Disability, 2011*).

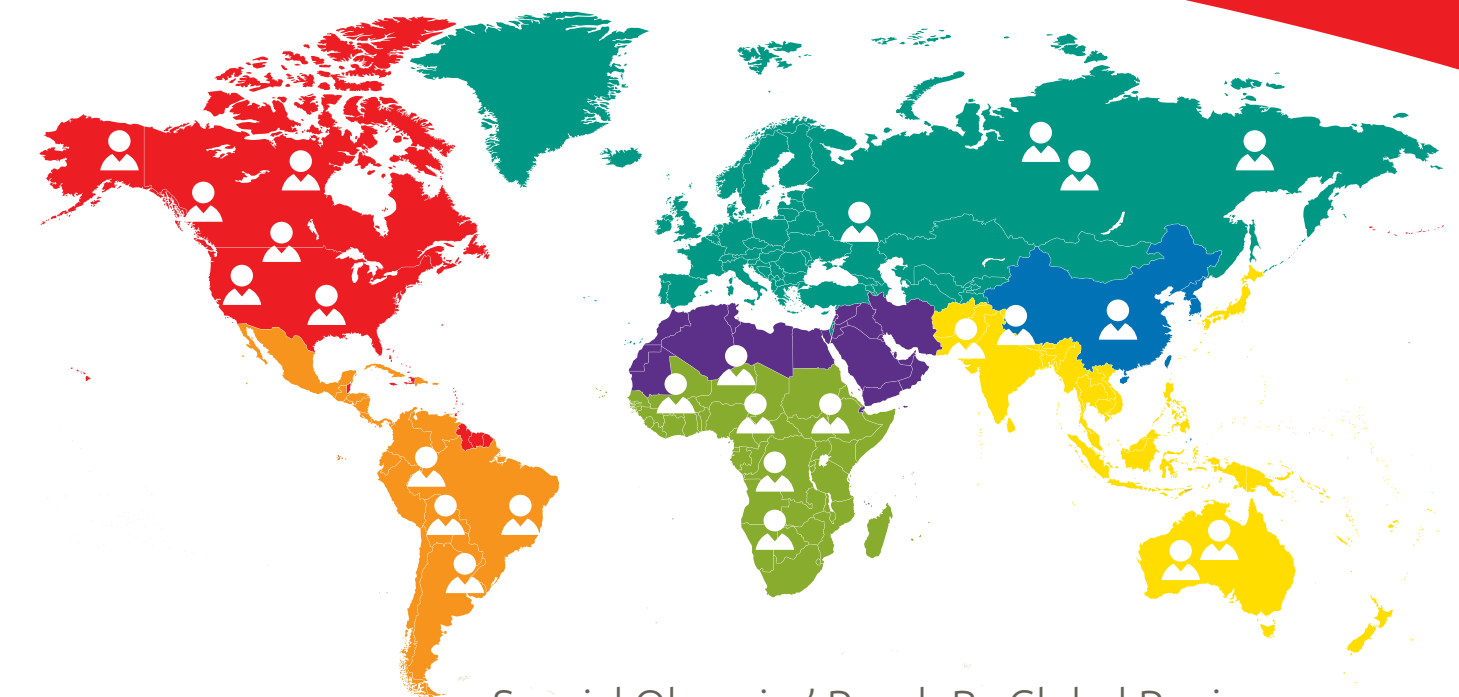
“People with intellectual disabilities remain the most marginalized and discriminated-against population in the world. This transcends national, cultural and socio-economic boundaries.”

Timothy P. Shriver
Chairman, Special Olympics

SCOPE OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

More than **200 Million People** in the world have intellectual disabilities, making it the largest disability group worldwide.

1-3% of the world's population has an intellectual disability affecting all countries, societies and communities worldwide.
(World Health Organization)



Special Olympics' Reach By Global Region

North America	Europe-Eurasia	Africa	East-Asia
Latin America	Middle East North Africa	Asia-Pacific	



About Special Olympics

Special Olympics is a global organization that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sport every day around the world. Through programming in sports, health, education and community building, Special Olympics changes the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and raises awareness about their talents and abilities - as well as the injustice, isolation, intolerance and inactivity they face.

Special Olympics' mission currently reaches more than 4.2 million athletes with intellectual disabilities, 1.3 million coaches and volunteers and millions more families, young people, supporters and fans through 220 Accredited Special Olympics Programs in 170 countries.

4.4 Million
ATHLETES SERVED



- 32 Olympic-type sports
- Programs in 170 countries
- Dynamic partnerships at all geographic levels in sports, health and education.

1.3 Million
COACHES & VOLUNTEERS



More than 81,000
COMMUNITY-BASED COMPETITIONS
every year around the world



SPECIAL OLYMPICS IMPACT

REAL SPORTS

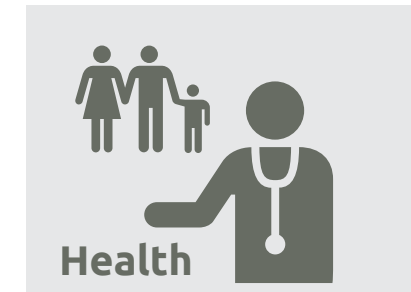
Special Olympics provides high quality training and competition in an inclusive culture that encourages athletic excellence, rewards determination, emphasizes health and celebrates personal achievements.



Sports

SUSTAINING ATHLETE HEALTH

Special Olympics is committed to ensuring ongoing access to quality, community-based healthcare that promotes the overall well-being of people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics is the largest public health platform for people with intellectual disabilities in the world, partnering with healthcare practitioners globally to offer free screenings at competitions, games and other venues.



Health

TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

In order to promote acceptance, friendships, positive attitudes and behavioral changes, Special Olympics equips young people and adult influencers with effective tools and training to foster inclusive action and attitudes within their schools, social networks and communities.



Education

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Special Olympics mobilizes resources, implements diverse programming and brings diverse stakeholders together to drive positive attitudinal change toward people with intellectual disabilities – creating more inclusive, accepting and cohesive communities worldwide.



Community

THE CRISIS FACING PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES

Societal & Environmental Challenges

- People with intellectual disabilities and their families typically fall at the bottom of the economic spectrum in communities and across countries. *(Emerson, E, Disability Rights International Country Reports, 2007)*
- Families of children with intellectual disabilities face extra burdens and stress.
- People with intellectual disabilities have lower levels and rates of employment and/or less meaningful employment than the general population or other disability groups.
- Much of the public across all societies holds attitudes about people with intellectual disabilities that reflect low expectations of competence and high expectations of problems.
- In many cultures, inaccurate understandings about intellectual disabilities, irrational cultural beliefs and just plain fear cause people to actively discriminate against people with intellectual disabilities and their families, producing stigma, isolation (including forced detention), taunting, neglect, physical abuse, and, sometimes death, including infanticide.

Educational Neglect

- Globally, most children with intellectual disabilities do not attend school at all.
- At least 90% of children with disabilities in the developing world are denied the right to education.
- As a result of lack of schooling, health education delivered to students in schools never reaches children with intellectual disabilities.
- Where children with intellectual disabilities attend school, it is usually in a segregated facility or classroom with grossly substandard resources.
- Even where there is physical inclusion in schools of people with intellectual disabilities, there is too often social exclusion or even taunting or bullying.
- Teachers generally feel unprepared to teach children with intellectual disabilities and lack the support needed from schools to be effective.
- Children with intellectual disabilities receive fewer educational opportunities than any other group. Often parents cannot work, especially in developing countries, because they are caring for their child in the absence of schooling or other programs.

Abuse

- Among adults who have developmental and intellectual disabilities, as many as 83% of females and 32% of males are victims of sexual assault. *(Johnson, I., Sigler R. 2000. Journal of Interpersonal Violence)*
- As many as 68% of female adolescents with intellectual disabilities have been abused before the age of 18. *(Frohman, 2002 in UNICEF, 2012 Towards an AIDS Free Generation, Promoting Community Based Strategies for and with children and adolescents with disabilities)*
- Reports about the mistreatment of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, including physical and sexual abuse, consistently demonstrate levels of negligent and often abusive treatment higher than in the population without intellectual disabilities, especially in institutions. *(Disability Rights International Country reports, Jones L et al, 2012, World Report on Disability, 2011)*
- When it comes to HIV programs, children, adolescents and young people with developmental and intellectual impairments must be taken into account not only because they lack equal opportunities to learn and be informed but also because of their heightened vulnerability to sexual abuse. *(UNICEF, 2012)*



There is a significant correlation between poverty and the prevalence of intellectual disabilities.

An estimated **80% of all people with disabilities reside in low-income countries.**

(Emerson, E., Disability Rights International Country Report, 2007; Groce, 2011)

People with intellectual disabilities and their families typically fall at the **bottom of the economic spectrum** in communities and across countries.



“ Unless disabled people are brought into the development mainstream, it will be impossible to cut poverty in half by 2015 or to give every girl and boy the chance to achieve a primary education by the same date-goals agreed to by more than 180 world leaders at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000. ”

James Wolfensohn
Former President, World Bank



Access to Healthcare

- 200,000,000 people with intellectual disabilities are denied access to quality health services.
- Despite the severe need and higher health risk, people with intellectual disabilities are denied health services, community interventions, and there is a lack of targeted interventions and programs for this population. *(WHO, 2011, SOI 2001)*
- The public believes that people with intellectual disabilities have better health care than the rest of the population, yet people with disabilities experience poorer health than the general population and have unequal access to health care services *(WHO 2011, SOI 2001)*
- Levels of disease, condition and access to care for the population with intellectual disabilities are significantly poorer than for the general population.
- Due to isolation, neglect and forced detention, people with intellectual disabilities often do not receive community health interventions.



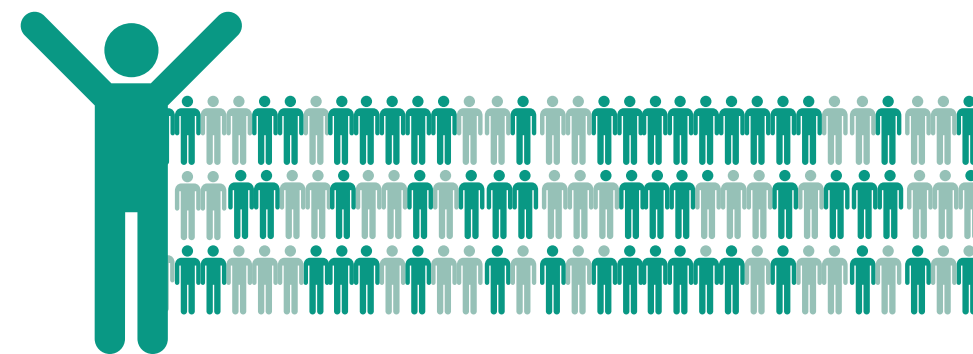
Access to Sports

- People with intellectual disabilities experience chronic health problems due to insufficient care, poor nutrition and sedentary lifestyles. This is exacerbated by lack of accessible ongoing sports/recreation programs that stress fitness, skill development and quality coaching and competition.
- Only 2% of people with intellectual disabilities participate in Special Olympics.
- In virtually all countries in which Special Olympics operates, it started because there were either no or limited options for people with intellectual disabilities to be physically active.
- Despite the social, financial or other demographic barriers, every individual deserves and needs the chance to be physically active.

The leadership and support of governments, organizations, corporations and individuals of the global community can change the face and destiny of this population which has been neglected, denied and oppressed for too long.

Children and adults living with intellectual disabilities around the world face discrimination, isolation, misunderstanding and poverty. There is an urgent need for enhanced collaboration among stakeholders to ensure inclusive development strategies and respect for the basic human rights of all people. In order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), move communities and countries out of poverty and create a better future for all, diverse stakeholders across society must come together and unlock this potential.

Join Special Olympics in the fight for equality and dignity for all.



“ Throughout the ages, the treatment of people with disabilities has brought out some of the worst aspects of human nature. Societies have often gone out of their way to ensure that persons with disabilities are neither seen nor heard. ”

Kofi Annan
Former U.N. Secretary General



THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS MOVEMENT

The late Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded Special Olympics in 1968 with the goal of using the common vehicle of sport to demonstrate the abilities and humanity of those with intellectual disabilities thereby reducing the intolerance, isolation and discrimination they face and increasing their ability to participate fully in the communities in which they live.

Nearly 50 years later, the global Special Olympics Movement continues to be fueled by millions of people – families, coaches, volunteers, students, supporters and fans – all committed to achieving equality for people with intellectual disabilities. But despite significant progress, too many barriers still stand. Every day, in communities around the world, people with intellectual disabilities face stigma and stereotype in all aspects of their lives – in recreation, education, health, employment, housing, and more – that isolates them and limits their opportunities to lead full, healthy, productive lives. In response, through its global grassroots network and the catalytic power of sport, Special Olympics convenes diverse stakeholders in communities around the world – from across government, business and civil society – to elevate awareness of the talents, as well as the needs, of people with intellectual disabilities. The goal is to advance global cooperation around their rights and to ensure that neither they nor their families are excluded from the communities in which they live.

Let me win.
But if I cannot win,
let me be brave
in the attempt.

Special Olympics Athlete Oath



“ Special Olympics athletes are an inspiration for all of us. Every day they have to fight to overcome not only their disability, but also the discrimination they face. In this they are not just athletes, but real heroes to be celebrated and supported.

The needs of the intellectually disabled remain achingly unaddressed in the developing world. Though they face uncommon challenges, the intellectually disabled don't demand uncommon treatment.

Instead, like people everywhere, they seek only to be treated equally and fairly, and to be provided the same opportunities as anyone else. ”

Ban Ki-Moon
United Nations Secretary General

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