

Special Olympics and the UN SDGs

An overview of how Special Olympics' work is driving long-term outcomes that help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Special Olympics



Executive Summary: Supporting the UN SDGs



GOAL 17: Collaboration and **partnerships** around the SDGs

GOAL 16: Social **justice** for people with disabilities, leveraging major invents to foster goodwill

GOAL 11: Strengthened **communities** through local programming

GOAL 10: Promotion of **inclusion** of people with Intellectual Disabilities



GOAL 3: Improvement of physical and mental **health** via Health programming

GOAL 4: Advocacy and **education** through Unified Schools

GOAL 5: Empowerment of **women** through sport, health, youth and leadership programs

GOAL 8: Increased social and leadership skills that support **careers**



Goal 3: Health and Wellbeing



Linkage to the Goal

Improvement of the physical and mental health of people with ID is at the core of our work. With continuous sports, fitness, health education and physician training, we support athletes and families from early childhood development to adult life.



Contribution to SDG Targets

- ✓ 3.4: reduce mortality rates from non-communicable disease
- ✓ 3.7: ensure access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, information and education
- ✓ 3.8: ensure access to essential healthcare services
- ✓ 3c: substantially increase training of the health workforce

Relevant Special Olympics Programming:

- Sports Training and Competitions
- Fitness Programs
- Healthy Nutrition
- Healthy Athletes (Screenings)

Special Olympics Outcomes:

- Athletes improve physical well-being
- Participants improve social & emotional well-being
- People without disabilities behave more inclusively
- Organizations become more inclusive



Goal 4: Quality Education



Linkage to the Goal

We enhance knowledge and skills through education, and leadership development of our athletes, families, teammates, students, teachers, health workers and volunteers to foster inclusive behaviors, greater empathy and understanding. To amplify the impact of this work, we focus on changing school environments to be more inclusive.

Relevant Special Olympics Programming:

- Unified Champion Schools (Special Olympics integrated into schools)
- Global Youth Leadership Summits
- Unified Leadership approach (educating leaders without disabilities to be inclusive)



Contribution to SDG Targets

- ✓ 4.2: ensure access to quality early childhood development
- ✓ 4.4: increase vocational skills of youth and adults
- ✓ 4.5: eliminate education disparities among vulnerable groups
- ✓ 4.A: upgrade or create accessible education facilities

Special Olympics Outcomes:

- Athletes improve physical well-being
- Participants improve social & emotional well-being
- People without disabilities behave more inclusively
- Organizations become more inclusive



Goal 5: Gender Equality



Linkage to the Goal

Sport and inclusion empower women and girls with intellectual disability with skills and tools to resist discrimination. We help them acquire health information, strength and skills, social networks and leadership experiences, while reducing their risk to physical and sexual violence. We also offer support and assistance to mothers of children with ID.

Relevant Special Olympics Programming:

- All Special Olympics programs and activities
- Unified Leadership approach



Contribution to SDG Targets

- ✓ 5.1: end discrimination against women and girls
- ✓ 5.6: ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

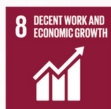
Special Olympics Outcomes:

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Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Linkage to the Goal

We increase athletes' self-esteem and self-reliance and teach them leadership and work readiness skills such as project management, communication, adaptability and patience. We help partner companies to build more inclusive cultures so that they provide more and better career opportunities to people with ID.

Relevant Special Olympics Programming:

- Athlete Leadership
- Unified Leadership approach
- Youth and Athlete Innovation Projects
- Unified Champion Schools



Contribution to SDG Targets

- ✓ 8.5: achieve productive employment and decent work for people with disabilities

Special Olympics Outcomes:

- Athletes improve physical well-being
- Participants improve social & emotional well-being
- People without disabilities behave more inclusively
- Organizations become more inclusive



Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities



Linkage to the Goal

The core objective of Special Olympics is inclusion and the breaking down of barriers for people with ID in society. We do so through local implementation of inclusive sports, health, leadership, early childhood development and education programming. This promotes inclusive practices, equal access and equity for one of the world's most marginalized populations.

Relevant Special Olympics Programming:

- All Special Olympics programs and activities
- Unified Leadership approach



Contribution to SDG Targets

- ✓ 10.2: empower and promote social and economic inclusion
- ✓ 10.3: ensure equal opportunity and end discrimination
- ✓ 10.4: achieve greater equality through improved social and fiscal policies

Special Olympics Outcomes:

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Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities



Linkage to the Goal

Through continued collaboration with partners, supporters and volunteers, Special Olympics promotes full social inclusion as a core element to the sustainability of cities and entire communities - offering quality services to citizens of all abilities. We utilize and harness existing physical, technological and human infrastructure to ensure a sustainable and effective use of community resources.

Relevant Special Olympics Programming:

- Local, regional and global sport events
- Athlete Leadership
- Unified Leadership approach
- Public awareness outreach and campaigns



Contribution to SDG Targets

- ✓ 11.7: ensure universal access to safe (free of harassment), inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces

Special Olympics Outcomes:

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Goal 16: Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions



Linkage to the Goal

Special Olympics celebrates difference and supports global solidarity and social justice, for example through work that promotes adult/child protection and inclusive decision-making.

We leverage sport for development and peace, and use our platform of unity to inspire investment in individuals with ID as part of a shared commitment to social inclusion globally.

Relevant Special Olympics Programming:

- All Special Olympics programs and activities
- Unified Leadership approach



Contribution to SDG Targets

- ✓ 16.2: end violence against and aggression towards children
- ✓ 16.6: develop effective, accountable and transparent public institutions
- ✓ 16.7: ensure inclusive and responsive decision-making
- ✓ 16.B: promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies

Special Olympics Outcomes:

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Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals



Linkage to the Goal

Special Olympics empowers partners, governments and communities to ensure equitable access to sports and leisure, health care, education, social services and dignified community living. As a global movement, we contribute financial and technical assistance and foster mutually beneficial connections between developing and developed countries.

Relevant Special Olympics Programming:

- All Special Olympics programs and activities
- Unified Leadership approach



Contribution to SDG Targets

- ✓ 17.9: enhance financial and technical support to developing countries
- ✓ 17.15: extend the use of country-owned policy tools and frameworks for sustainable development
- ✓ 17.17: encourage effective public-private and other partnerships
- ✓ 17.18: support countries to produce good data for sustainable development

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