

SPECIAL OLYMPICS ASIA PACIFIC

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



ASIA
PACIFIC



You are the stars and the world is watching you. By your presence you send a message to every village, every city, every nation. A message of hope. A message of victory:

The right to play on any playing field?

You have earned it.

The right to study in any school?

You have earned it.

The right to hold a job?

You have earned it?

The right to be anyone's neighbor?

You have earned it.

The days of segregation and separation are over! You Special Olympians have thrilled us on the playing fields of the world. You have taught us that what matters is not power or politics, weapons or wealth. What truly counts is the courageous spirit, the generous heart.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver, Special Olympics World Games, 1987



DEAR FRIENDS,

If I had to find a word to encapsulate what this year meant for us a movement, Determined would be most fitting. For the 1,117 athletes and their partners, who took part in the World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi, their determination to persevere towards their goal saw the region bring home almost 800 medals despite the odds they faced.

For our programs, who worked tirelessly to reach out to the many isolated and excluded people with intellectual disabilities, helped us grow the movement to 2,122,516 athletes, a significant growth of almost 9%. We also saw the delivery of 39,493 competitions and hit a high of 5,970 unified competitions, this means organising events by inviting more people to play alongside our athletes. It is only through these opportunities that the world at large gets to realise the sheer tenacity and the spirit of perseverance that we see in them every day.

For us in the regional office, it meant making decisions firmly and unwaveringly towards our goal of creating opportunities for capability and capacity building with the many training workshops we held. It also meant reaching out and gathering academics to launch our first ever regional research hub when there was none in our region. We also embraced technology and launched a fitness app Sprout alongside Microsoft. Needless to say, all these are able to materialize only because of the fervent support of the wider community, our 162,277 volunteers and 180,910 coaches, the many corporate partners with their passion, generosity and their trust in our mission to create an inclusive world for all.

As we grow as a movement, it is also important that we assess how far we have come. Diversity and Inclusion are huge buzzwords these days. From advertising, product design,



films, and even in leadership. We are heartened that people are more aware than ever compared to say ten or even five years ago on what it means to be socially responsible, and why it is necessary to advance and support inclusion.

But for many, the reasons for doing so may be borne out of the fear of being called out for what's wrong – **and not about doing what is right**. Inclusion should not be an option for doing what is socially correct. It is a change in the way we view, think, behave and to bring everyone to the same playing field. And my friends, we are far from that world. We can only achieve this when we rise as a region, as a part of a larger global movement to open the hearts and minds towards people with intellectual disabilities.

With this, I thank you for your determination and effort both in and out of the sporting arena, it is only with your persistence that we are closer to making this vision, a reality.

Yours Sincerely,

Dipak Natali
Regional President & Managing Director
Special Olympics Asia Pacific

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY: INVISIBLE AND ISOLATED

There are up to 200 million^ people in the world with ID, and they are one of the world's most socially isolated and underserved populations. The stigma of having ID affects not just the individual, but also their immediate family.

^ Source: World Health Organisation



WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL?

Special Olympics and Paralympic are two separate non-profit organizations recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).



WHO WE SERVE (ELIGIBILITY)

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Special Olympics welcomes all people with intellectual disabilities (ages 2 and older) of all ability levels.

SPORTING PHILOSOPHY

Equal ability groupings are the foundation for Special Olympics sports, allowing athletes to compete within their own ability levels. Excellence is personal achievement, a reflection of reaching one's maximum potential.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

Special Olympics is a community-based grassroots **movement for people with intellectual disabilities, combining Sports, Healthcare & Community Inclusion.**

PARALYMPICS

Paralympics welcomes athletes mainly with physical disabilities who have to **qualify according to sport-specific performance standards.**

Athletes go through a **stringent qualification process** that meets certain sports specific performance standards.

Paralympics is run by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), mainly for athletes with a physical disability.

JOIN US

Be certified as a person with ID by a medical professional or institution to be part of Special Olympics

1
Minimum age 2,
with no maximum
age limit

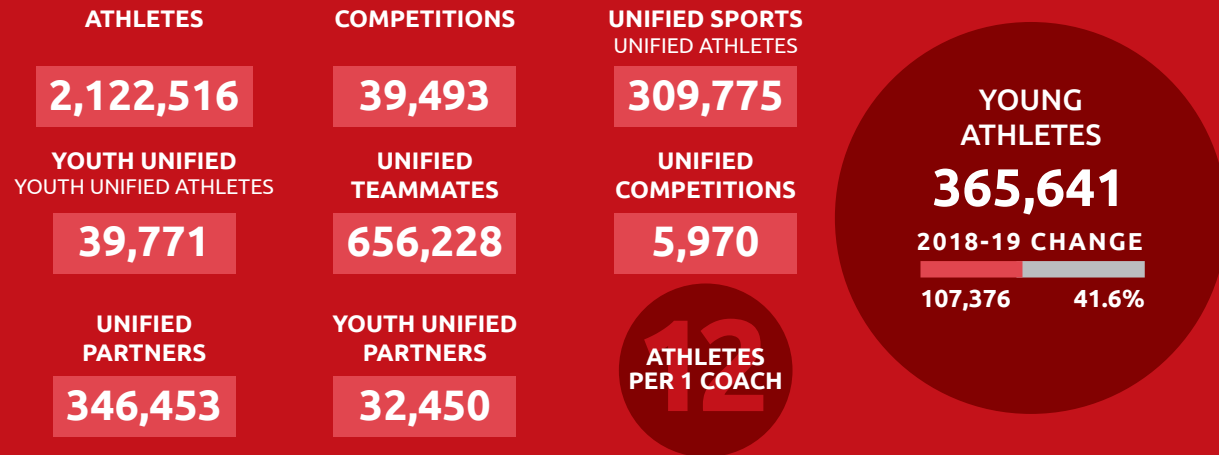
2
Young Athletes™
for Children with ID,
age 2 to 7, for
cognitive and
physical growth

3
Activities & Services
are provided free
of charge for
eligible individuals

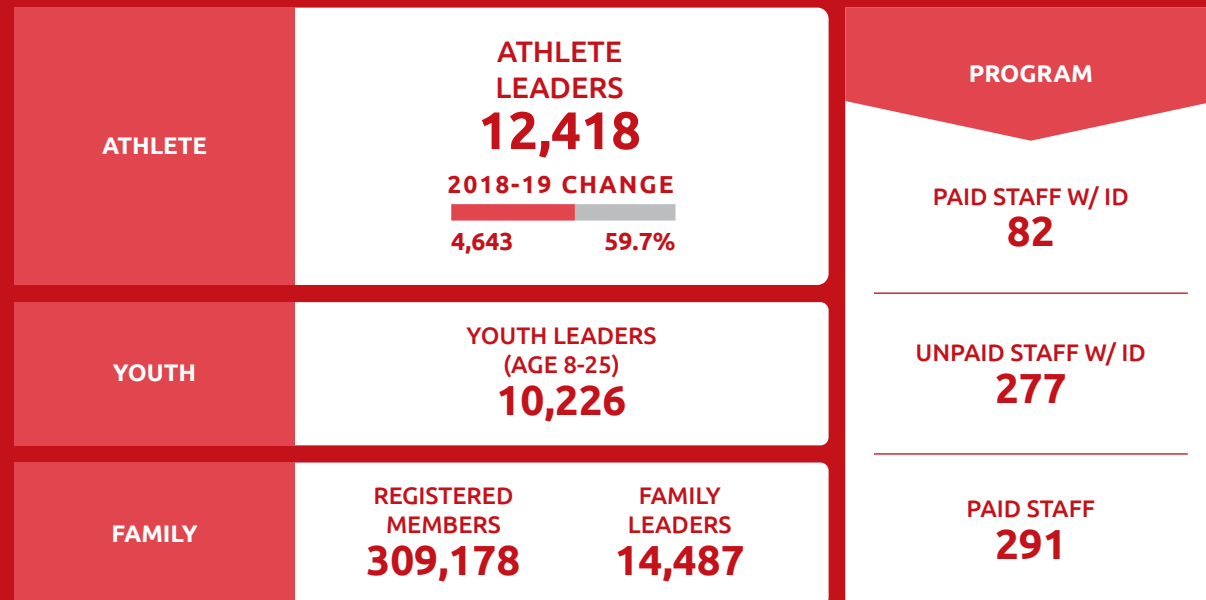


THE REACH REPORT

ATHLETES



LEADERSHIP



COMPETITIONS



PARTNERSHIPS

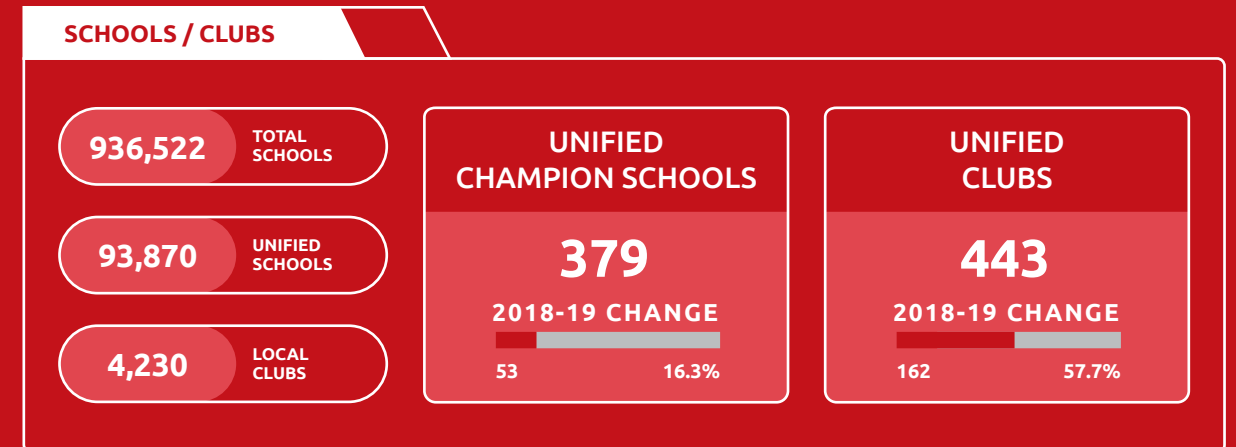
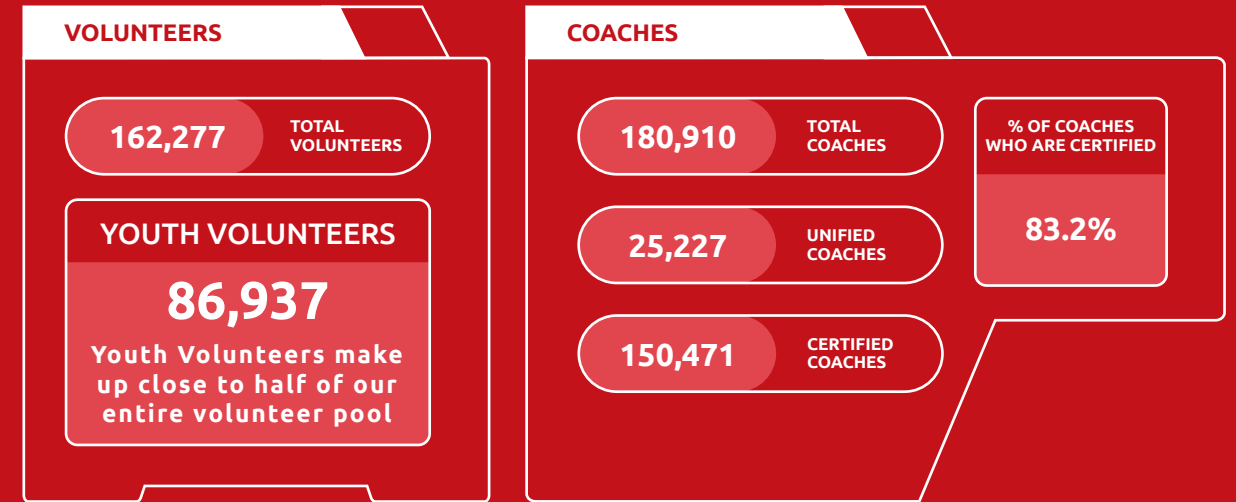


HEALTH

Health data were reported on an April 2019 - April 2020 cycle.



PROGRAM OPERATIONS





THE UNIFYING SPIRIT OF SPORT

From a gathering at a backyard to a movement serving over 6 million people with intellectual disabilities across 193 countries globally, Special Olympics has come a long way. As many stay indoors with no meaningful opportunities to be active or interact with the community, sports has been our vehicle to bring them out of isolation to being included.

It was also a milestone for the movement as the host nation dropped the term "disabled" and changed their vocabulary to adopt the phrase **"People of Determination"** — a huge step in making progress in our journey to inclusion. Inclusive in every sense, half of Special Olympics Asia Pacific's contingent to the World Games comprised of female athletes.

Furthering the relationship with FWD on Unified Schools and athlete leadership Special Olympics Asia Pacific worked with FWD to provide safe passage for the Special Olympics Singapore contingent by giving the team free travel insurance coverage.

The Global Youth summit, the Global Inclusive Health Forum and Healthy Athletes screenings were also held alongside the games.

Special Olympics Asia Pacific Medal Tally



SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD SUMMER GAMES

The world got to "Meet the Determined" at the **Special Olympics World Summer Games** at Abu Dhabi in March, which saw 1,117 athletes and partners in the Asia Pacific region receive a haul of almost 800 medals, participating in 21 out of the 24 sports offered at the Games.

COMPETITIONS

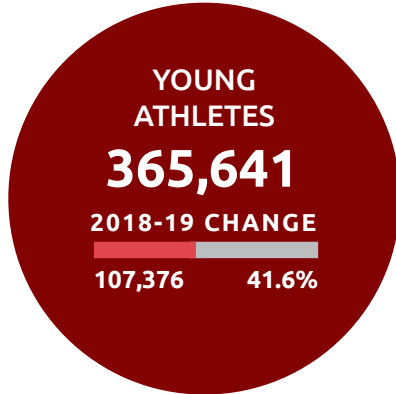


BEING BRAVE IN THE ATTEMPT

Beyond the large-scale Global Summer and Winter games that happen every two years, Programs across the Special Olympics Asia Pacific region have delivered close to 40,000 competitions in 2019. That's about four events per hour across the year.

There were several initiatives that saw its first launch in 2019. In July we launched the Inaugural **Asian Football Week** which brought Special Olympics Asia Pacific, Special Olympics East Asia and the Asian Football Confederation together to celebrate the unifying power of the world's largest and most popular team sport, and to promote social inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities across Asia.

ATHLETES	
ATHLETES	UNIFIED TEAMMATES
2,122,516	656,228
COMPETITIONS	UNIFIED COMPETITIONS
39,493	5,970
UNIFIED SPORTS UNIFIED ATHLETES	UNIFIED PARTNERS
309,775	346,453
YOUTH UNIFIED YOUTH UNIFIED ATHLETES	YOUTH UNIFIED PARTNERS
39,771	32,450



Another first was the **Special Olympics Asia Pacific Unified Badminton Championship** In association with the Badminton Association of Thailand gathered athletes from 14 countries to exhibit their skills, passion and grit. The star-studded launch was graced by Thai Tourism and Sports Minister Pipat Ratchakitprakan, celebrities like BNK48, government officials, World Badminton Federation's President Poul-Erik Høyer, partners and the public – all coming together to the arena to show their support for these athletes and cheering them on in this journey of inclusion.

The Special Olympics SEA Unified Football Tournament held at on 8 - 9 December, also showcased how the power of sport can foster mutual understanding, respect and acceptance for people with intellectual disabilities.

With each training and competition, with each face they meet and game they play, may they gain better health and greater confidence as they step out and be brave in their attempt.



FWD hosted a Young Athletes Play day in their premises, with staff volunteers taking the time to interact with these athletes.



ADVOCACY & RESEARCH

RALLYING THE VOICES OF THE COMMUNITY

What makes for a successful movement? It is usually about changing status quo, transforming mind-sets and getting people to get out of their comfort zone to support a cause that is meaningful. It is amazing to see the movement grow but we believe for the greatest impact, we need to go beyond preaching to a choir and to reach the wider society to help change the perceptions and stigma facing persons with disabilities.

During the World Summer Games 2019 alone, from 12–22 March, we achieved over 121 million impressions in key global media, this we hope will bring the much needed awareness to the movement. There was also a refresh of the regional newsletters in September 2019 which we hope will help increase engagement with key stakeholders and donors.

Also to help us better identify the needs and change perceptions, Special Olympics Asia Pacific sees the need to foster a **stronger research community** to help us address the significant gaps in data and information that propagate the lack of support for people with intellectual disabilities both within the Asia Pacific region and across the world.

HumanRace.asia Revamp

4 months

62,000
SITE VIEWS

FACEBOOK REACH
92 million

INSTAGRAM REACH
52,000 weekly
page impressions

Humanrace.asia is content hub powered by Special Olympics Asia Pacific that gives a voice to athletes with intellectual disabilities and the community around them. It provides an exclusive first-person insight into their lives and perspectives –to allow the audience to step into their shoes and see things through their eyes.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS YOUNG ATHLETES

plays a crucial role in creating an inclusive environment that will promote acceptance and respect among children with and without intellectual disabilities through play to help children with ID develop cognitive, motor and even social skills. It also helps give most families with children with intellectual disabilities a ray of hope – from seeing a life of uncertainties to now seeing what their child is capable of achieving.

MOTOR ACTIVITY TRAINING PROGRAM

is designed for athletes with multiple and profound disabilities, including athletes with significant physical disabilities who are unable to participate in official Special Olympics sport competitions because of their skill and or functional abilities. We hosted a 3-day MATP Advisory Committee meeting in May which was the first held in the region.

TO GUIDE & BRING OUT THEIR BEST

Many athletes with intellectual disabilities require specialised instruction, or methods of instruction. Special Olympics Asia Pacific conducts **year-round training for these coaches** in many sports. Once trained, they become ambassadors for inclusion, who not only provide the best instruction for an athlete with intellectual disabilities, but also to encourage more people to join and benefit from our sporting programmes.

CHUTIPA'S STORY

INCLUSION CAN CHANGE LIVES

A life-changing experience that reunited me with my long-lost mother.

My name is Chutipha Phansuwan. My family and friends call me Jay. I am 15 years old. I was born with an intellectual disability, and my mother left me when I was only 11 months old. Since then, I have been under the care of my paternal grandmother and my father. My grandmother helps my father, who works as a laborer, supplement the household income by recycling and selling discarded materials.

Growing up without being close to my family wasn't easy. I lacked confidence, and often doubted myself. Fortunately, through my school, I was introduced to Special Olympics and started training in table tennis when I was ten. Apart from table tennis, I've also picked up football and athletics. Sport became a friend to me. It invigorated and empowered me, and so I always tell myself that I have to train hard. The best reward comes when I get selected to represent my school in competitions.

This trip marks the very first time I will be flying out of my country, and I had to apply for a passport. However, as I am still a minor, it means I needed the consent of both my parents. And thus, the search for my mother began.

My coach contacted a friend who works in the local police force to help. It was a miracle that after several weeks, they managed to track my mother down. She is now living in a different province that is quite far away, working as a laborer in a rubber plantation.

The reunion wasn't easy for my mother as she now has a new family and they are not aware of her past. But she eventually signed the documents to give her consent so I can apply for my passport. Since then, I have spoken to her on the phone a few times, and I'm thrilled to be reunited with her.

I feel so happy that I now have a mother, just like other children. I cannot even begin to describe the joy I feel.



RATNA'S STORY

DON'T GIVE UP BEFORE THE MIRACLE HAPPENS

When I was four months pregnant in 1995, I knew that my baby was going to be born with Down Syndrome. Nadhrah is my youngest of four children.

Before she was born, I sat my three older children down and told them they must never mistreat her. I reminded them to never bully her, or use profanities in front of her no matter how frustrated they are. I explained that she would learn from them, and as older siblings, they must set a good example.

But it's not been easy trying to fit in. I've had strangers approach me from behind, saying, "You have such a beautiful child." But when they came closer and realized she has Down Syndrome, their expressions changed instantly. They looked as if they wanted to run away.

My other children have also had classmates asking them, "Is your sister retarded?" I told them, matter-of-factly, "Look at your sister. She can do everything that you can. Do you think she is retarded? I don't think so."

I have never been embarrassed by my child. I want to expose her to the world. I'm happy and proud to say she's mine.

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

Athlete's Oath



OUR MISSION

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, 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.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS AND THE UN SDGS AND CRPD

An overview of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) commitments in relation to the work of Special Olympics.



THE ASIA PACIFIC MANDATE

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

- Train the Trainer Programmes For coaches to improve their sports skills
- Athlete Leadership To equip athletes and young people with personal and professional development skills
- Getting athletes independent & employable

HEALTH & FITNESS

- Improve access to fitness through new technology like Sprout fitness app
- Train healthcare professionals to treat people with ID
- Provide guidance, support to families to prevent health problems

RESEARCH

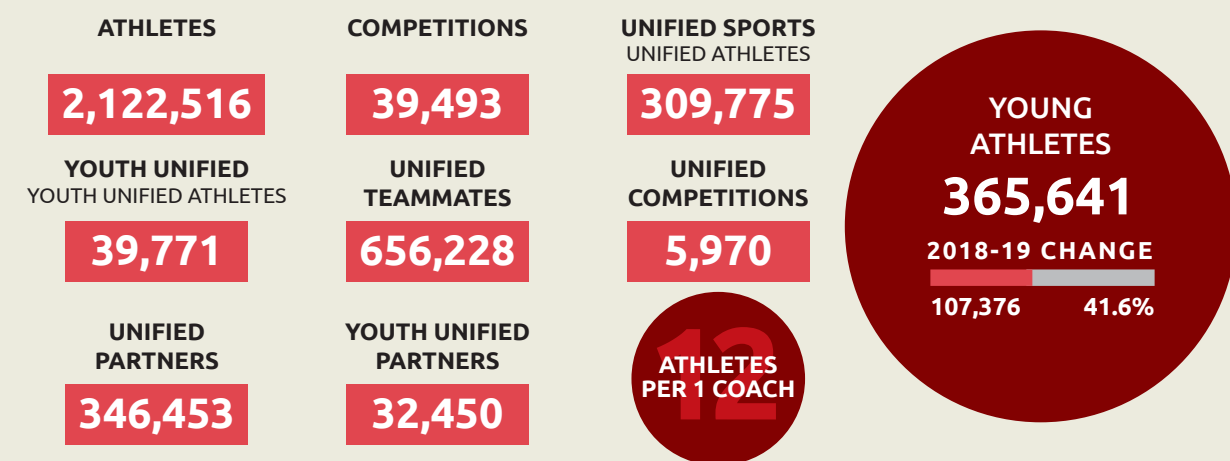
Develop a center of research to gather more information to improve the services and support for people with ID and their families by 2025

CHANGING ATTITUDES IN SOCIETY

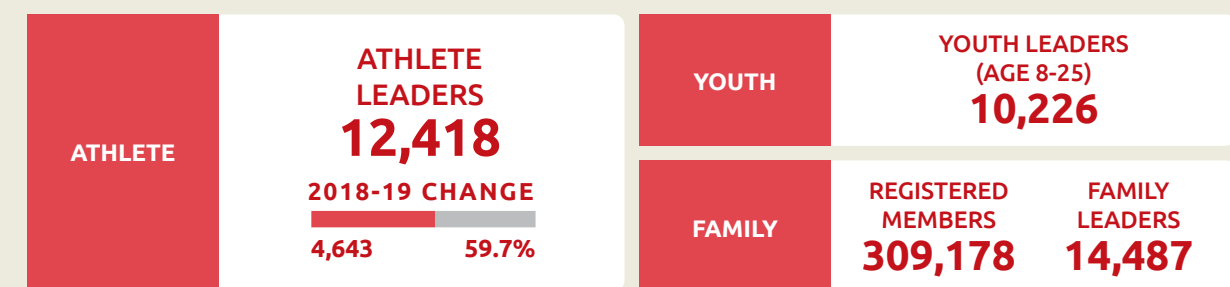
- Develop unified sports and inclusion programs in schools to foster positive attitudes towards people with ID
- Create educational toolkits and awareness campaigns like Human R.A.C.E. to address discrimination

THE REACH REPORT

ATHLETES



LEADERSHIP



COMPETITIONS



PARTNERSHIPS



HEALTH

Health data were reported on an April 2019 - April 2020 cycle.



PROGRAM OPERATIONS



COUNTRY LISTING

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| AFGHANISTAN | LAOS | PAPUA NEW GUINEA |
| AMERICAN SAMOA | MALAYSIA | PHILIPPINES |
| AUSTRALIA | MALDIVES | SAMOA |
| BANGLADESH | MARSHALL ISLANDS | SERENDIB (SRI LANKA) |
| BHARAT (INDIA) | MICRONESIA | SINGAPORE |
| BHUTAN | MYANMAR | SOLOMON ISLANDS |
| BRUNEI DARUSSALAM | NAURU | THAILAND |
| CAMBODIA | NEPA (NEPAL) | TIMOR LESTE |
| FIJI | NEW ZEALAND | TONGA |
| GUAM | NIPPON (JAPAN) | VANUATU |
| INDONESIA | PAKISTAN | VIETNAM |
| KIRIBATI | PALAU | |



DONATIONS FROM SINGAPORE



DONATIONS FROM OUTSIDE SINGAPORE



www.specialolympics.org



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Help us provide people with ID with a unified place where we can live, work and play together.

WHY OUR WORK MATTERS
Up to 200 Million people with ID in the world
2 times as likely to die before 50

6 out of 10 are overweight

38% have untreated tooth decay

3 times more likely to be bullied



When Nadhrah was nine, I sent her for weekly bowling sessions with the Down Syndrome Association. Her progress was slow. In the first three years of training, her balls consistently ended up in the gutter. Even my husband questioned whether she had a talent for the sport and suggested to stop her training, but I said no. The point of Nadhrah engaging in sports is not to win medals, but to make friends and to learn focus and self-discipline. We must persist.

When Nadhrah was 15, she was chosen to represent Singapore at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Athens. She brought home a silver medal in bowling. It was a huge achievement for her and such a joy for the family.

There are some who think that people with intellectual disabilities are unable to lead meaningful and active lives. But just look at Nadhrah. Her weekly schedule is packed. She works alternate days at a fast-food chain. In between, she attends courses in flower arrangement, speech and drama, sports training, and religious classes.

I'm a full-time homemaker, but Nadhrah has inspired me to give back to the community and lead an active life as well. I volunteer with the Special Olympics family support network, and I'm also part of her former school's caregiver support network.

Many people do not realize what children with intellectual disabilities are capable of. Often, when we go bowling as a family, people are surprised when Nadhrah throws a strike. So don't look down on our children, and don't give up on them. All we need to do as a society is to have patience and the right mindset to allow people with disabilities to reach their potential, at their own pace. They will achieve a miracle.



HEALTH IN FOCUS

People with intellectual disability make up between 1 and 3% of the global population, or up to 200 million people, but they are denied or do not have access to quality health services. Special Olympics provides health screenings and works to achieve inclusive, equitable access to healthcare for people with intellectual disabilities.

28 out of our 35 programs offer Healthy Athletes and many have partnered with dental and medical professional association, hospitals, clinics as well as universities, with five Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) that were signed across the region.

In 2019, Special Olympics Thailand held a Healthy Communities Partnership Meeting to review its existing program and to explore mechanisms to help influence government policies for better sustainability. Two meetings were led by the Health Department on Strategic Meeting for Key Stakeholders and National Advocacy Meeting for Children with Disabilities.

Together with Microsoft and partners, and in consultation with Special Olympics athletes, Special Olympics Asia Pacific created a home-based inclusive fitness App to help athletes keep fit anytime, every day.

In April, MOUs were formalised by Special Olympics Nepa and Special Olympics Bharat with the Pierre Fauchard Academy and Sumandeep Vidyapeeth University Gujarat respectively. This represents a leap in the standards of dental care for people with ID in the areas of prevention and therapy, who have often un-met dental care needs.

- HEALTH**
- Out of 10 people with intellectual disability,**
- 4** will have untreated tooth decay
 - 4** will have poor vision
 - 5** will have problems with flexibility
 - 3** will fail a hearing test
 - 2** will have low bone density
 - 6** will be overweight



COMMUNITY & YOUTH



YOUTH TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT

At Special Olympics Asia Pacific, we believe that youth are the driving force to foster inclusive societies across the region. We empower youth with and without intellectual disabilities by engaging them in leadership development opportunities that allow them to grow and develop as advocates for inclusion. Youth are a core focus of our region, with youth comprising more than half of our volunteers.

Close to 100 youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities from across 14 countries gathered in Singapore for **Youth for Inclusion 2019**, to co-create tech solutions for inclusion addressing common issues faced by youth with and without intellectual disabilities — Mental Health and Wellness, Bullying and Isolation and Post-School Opportunities.

VOLUNTEERS

162,277 TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

86,937 Youth Volunteers make up close to half of our entire volunteer pool

Being inclusive isn't just a service to those who aren't being included. It is being aware of those around you, to be much less wrapped around yourself and instead to care for others around you

Satyaprakashan Pandi Selvam Youth Leader



The event was supported by Lane Global Youth Leadership alongside corporate partners Kantar, Microsoft, FWD Insurance and Credit Suisse. Organised by a committee of youth leaders with and without intellectual disabilities, participants embarked on a 3-day journey of discovery and expression as they exchanged ideas, learnt from domain experts and refined their projects with advisors. To commemorate International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the participants celebrated the occasion with a walking tour around Singapore led by volunteers from FWD Insurance. The event culminated in a pitch presentation to the floor, where a panel of judges shared their feedback on the projects — finessing the ideas so these youth leaders are able to implement them back in their home communities.

In its third run, **Camp Confidante** is a 3-days 2-nights camp that aims to provide youth with and without intellectual disabilities with the opportunity to develop meaningful friendships. Led by a committee of youth volunteers, Camp Confidante brought together 104 campers and volunteers from mainstream and special education schools in Singapore to increase mutual understanding and learn together. For the first time, four youth volunteers from Special Olympics Indonesia joined as group facilitators. The volunteers took home their experience at Camp Confidante and organised a Unified Camp in Indonesia.

In May this year, Special Olympics Bharat organised a **National Youth Summit** attended by over 200 youth leaders from more than 20 states in India which culminated in 16 Unified Champion schools being recognized for creating an eco-system of acceptance, recognition, respect and inclusion. This was led by Youth who engaged their school community while reaching out to other institutions including mainstream, Integrated and Special schools to join them in their efforts to level the playing field.



STRENGTHENING FAMILY BONDS

The growth of the movement is made possible only with the support of the family members' of athletes in bringing awareness and social acceptance from the larger community. As such the movement tries our best to also be their pillar support with training and support. We have also formalised the relationship with our **Regional Family Leaders Input Council**.

Held in early September the **2nd Special Olympics Asia Pacific Families & Siblings Workshop** brought together these advocates for the movement from 10 countries. Parent and sibling leaders shared best practices and picked up resources that would allow them to better support the development of athletes across the region. Topics discussed include building strong family networks within local communities, storytelling techniques to better advocate for the movement, and fun activities that can improve the fitness of athletes at home. They also learnt more about developing cheerleading as a Special Olympics sport.



LEADERSHIP



WHERE THE BOLD BRAVELY LEAD

In order to deliver quality work across the region, Special Olympics Asia Pacific recognises the need to enable and empower the staff, coaches and volunteers as well as working closely with corporate partners and sector partners to expand our reach for greater impact and performance.

The theme for this year's **Asia Pacific Regional Leadership Conference – Partnerships: The Catalyst for Inclusion** - took on several dimensions as the delegates were put through the paces on how to leverage a partner to multiply their efforts and to spread the message and importance of inclusion.

Guest speakers from diverse backgrounds such as UNICEF, the Asia Development Bank and VISA International enlightened the participants on how to secure a partnership



and the benefits they could potentially bring while colleagues from Special Olympics International shared on relationship building, Games legacy and inclusive health.

Held in June, Special Olympics Asia Pacific piloted a new curriculum at the **Regional Athlete Leadership Workshop** with a progressive development pathway with the goal of achieving Unified Leadership which aims to to develop leaders with and without disability, creating an environment with meaningful opportunities for everyone. The Workshop also established experienced athlete leaders as role models by equipping them with facilitation skills to empower and better guide new leaders.

The **National Sports Directors Summit** was held over 3 days in late October with the aim of intensifying interaction with programs, identify needs, collect data and the sharing of the upcoming calendar of events. Discussions included setting up an online workspace



to aid collaboration as well as a tracking system throughout the year alongside census collection. There was consensus across the region for better structure and discipline in the delivery of competition with the need for more consistency, education around rules, preparation for competition as well as coach education.

At the **Regional Communications and Development Workshop**, a total of 13 participants from 11 countries shared best practices and were trained in social media strategies and content creation that optimizes reach and engagement. Expert trainers from digital agencies Rice Communications and Adtomica also shared their expertise with the participants on a pro-bono basis.

Topics covered included Understanding the Social Media Landscape, Best Practice Case Studies and metrics of measuring campaign success. Story-telling was also a big aspect of the training as tips were shared on how to create compelling content to best reach various audience types. Hands-on activities were encouraged as participants took the time to develop their content calendars and got the opportunity to plan a social media marketing campaign.

The **National Directors Workshop** on Building Sustainable Programs through Strong Leadership was held from 27 -29 September for National Directors across 11 programs. The objectives of the event was for Program alignment with the Global Strategic Plan and to promote Accredited Program Excellence.





A VERY SPECIAL CHRISTMAS

A Very Special Christmas (AVSC) is the single most successful benefit album in musical history. For the last 28 years, leading singers in the music industry lent their efforts to Special Olympics to create this holiday album series. Proceeds from the AVSC series go to the Special Olympics Christmas Record Trust (CRT). The CRT grant has enabled programs in the Asia Pacific region to serve the needs of people with ID, by strengthening capabilities in competitions, outreach, coaching, Board and staff training, and introducing new sports.



A Hong Kong-based insurer, FWD looked beyond its shores for a partner that would complement their vision of inclusion. The partnership was forged in 2017 and formalised in 2018, it entailed a grant of US\$1.25 million over a 3-year period that would benefit 6 Programs in the Asia Pacific region. The grant would go toward furthering our work in the areas of Unified Schools and Athlete Leadership. Through this partnership, FWD also provided safe passage to Special Olympics Asia Pacific athletes to the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games with free travel insurance coverage. They also hosted a Young Athletes Play day in their premises, with staff volunteers taking the time to interact with these athletes. At the Youth for Inclusion Summit, FWD volunteers also brought the participants on a walking tour around the Civic-District.

IKEA Foundation



The IKEA Foundation (Stichting IKEA Foundation) is the philanthropic arm of INGKA Foundation, the owner of the IKEA Group of companies. Their aim is to improve opportunities for children and youth in some of the world's poorest communities by funding holistic, long-term programmes that can create substantial, lasting change. The IKEA Foundation supports Special Olympics Young Athletes programmes through their Let's Play for Change initiative in four countries in the Asia Pacific Region.



A Special Olympics Global Partner, ESPN is our official media sponsor for Unified Sports. In the Asia Pacific region, ESPN has provided grants to Special Olympics programs to support Unified Champion schools to increase participation in Unified Sports across the region. ESPN was also the official broadcaster for the 2019 Special Olympics World Summer Games, Abu Dhabi.



A Special Olympics Champion Partner globally, the movement's relationship with the Lions Club International has been a long and fruitful one. Special Olympics Bharat also received a US \$1 million grant in 2017 from the Aruna Abhey Oswal Trust to help them further their work in the areas of Healthy Athletes, Young Athletes, and Unified Sports, and continues to gain momentum. The deal was brokered by Lions Club International. Regionally, LCI continues to successfully support the activities in the region.



Microsoft provides software for all accredited Special Olympics Programs and supports us in our effort to modernize our Games Management System, Connect. They also helped us in the development of a mobile phone application, Sprout, a home-based fitness app that will help our athletes stay fit even at home.

PARTNERSHIPS



In partnership with UNICEF, we have launched a Pilot Inclusion Project, “Promoting the inclusion of children with intellectual disabilities” in the urban districts of Kota Marudu and Sandakan in Malaysia’s Sabah state. The project will initiate activities for children and youth with intellectual disabilities, including engaging children with and without ID in early childhood development activities and school-going youth in inclusive, Unified Sports activities aimed at improving attitudes towards individuals with ID.

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