



**Special
Olympics**
South Africa

Special Olympics South Africa

2020 Annual Report

2020 HIGHLIGHTS



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MISSION

Special Olympics South Africa

Special Olympics transforms lives through the joy and power of sport for people with an intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics is the largest sporting organization for people with intellectual disabilities with over 7 million athletes in 180 countries across the globe.

South Africa hosts one of the largest numbers of athletes on the Africa continent with over 55 000 athletes. We are a national social movement that relies on volunteers, supporters, and family members.

Our mission is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disability, 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 South Africa Statutory status:

NPO Registration: 068-790

PBO Registration: 930028906

**VAT Registration Number:
414 0247 604**

**Section 21 Registration
Number: 2005/017529/08**





ACHIEVEMENTS IN NUMBERS

Number of athletes registered athletes
per sporting code:

ATHLETES

2019 - 55136

2020 - 55136

VOLUNTEERS

2019 - 2904

2020 - 2939

UNIFIED ATHLETES

2019 - 2177

2020 - 2202

FAMILY MEMBERS

2019 - 4193

2020 - 4845

YOUNG ATHLETES

2019 - 4113

2020 - 4113

UNIFIED PARTNERS

2019 - 2106

2020 - 2131

COACHES AND NEW UNIFIED COACHES

2019 - 5532

2020 - 5687



ACHIEVEMENTS IN NUMBERS

Number of athletes registered athletes
per sporting code:

AQUATICS

2019
1895
2020
1895

ATHLETICS

2019
27365
2020
27365

FLOOR HOCKEY

2019
2894
2020
2894

BASKETBALL

2019
2574
2020
2574

FIGURE SKATING

2019
766
2020
766

FOOTBALL/ SOCCER

2019
8329
2020
8329

BOCCE

2019
276
2020
276

OPEN WATER SWIMMING

2019
259
2020
259

GOLF

2019
1355
2020
1355

EQUESTRIAN

2019
954
2020
954

TABLE TENNIS

2019
1614
2020
1614

NETBALL

2019
1533
2020
1533

VOLLEY BALL

2019
1233
2020
1233

PAN AFRICAN GAMES

The **first ever** Special Olympics Pan African Games took place in Cairo, 23-31 January, 2020 under the auspices of HE Abdel Fattah El Sisi, the Egyptian President. This was a joint event hosted by the Special Olympics Middle East / North Africa and Africa regions, marking the first time that two Special Olympics regions join forces to create a combined Games.

The mission of the Pan African Games was to provide a high quality sports experience, and engage key influencers and communities to help create positive attitudes and bring about permanent change towards the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities throughout the continent of Africa.

Approximately **800 athletes** from **42 countries** including South Africa competed in **athletics, football, basketball** and **bocce**, alongside a range of activities such as **Healthy Athletes medical screenings**, a **MENA Regional Youth Leadership Summit**, **Young Athletes** and **Motor Activity Training Program (MATP)** activities.

Mr Charles Nyambe, Regional President and Managing Director of Special Olympics Africa, expressed his delight at the support for these historic Games.

“This is monumental- a great opportunity for athletes in Africa to showcase their skills and personal best at a continental event. A once in a lifetime opportunity for some! The entire leadership of Special Olympics was very excited and was looking forward to the Games, including the CEO of Special Olympics, Ms Mary Davis and several other leaders who attended.”

For the first time ever in the history of Special Olympics tournaments, the Pan African Games achieved full participation from both male and female athletes.

In a continent where women and girls are often held back from participating fully in sports and achieving their total potential, Special Olympics Africa and Middle East / North Africa wanted this effort to accelerate national commitments for fully inclusive societies.

Congratulations to our Special Olympics South Africa girls futsal team for participating in the Pan African Games, and for bringing home the **GOLD**.



PAN AFRICAN GAMES

We are so
proud
of you!

#ChooseToInclude
#InclusionRevolution



SOSA FOOD PARCEL DRIVE

In 2020 the South African economy was badly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown and restrictions. We were, facing a multitude of new social and economic challenges, of which the most terrifying for many people is hunger!

Our beneficiaries, people living with an intellectual disability, have been one of the population groups most affected by Covid-19 and job losses.

Due to a low level of education and exclusion from the job market, they normally rely on informal jobs to survive and these jobs were the first to go when the pandemic started. Very few retained jobs and were left with no resources and no way to support themselves or their families.

Government support was not effective for those struggling with hunger and so, Special Olympics South Africa decided to develop their own food parcels to address this food crisis through the support of numerous organisations.

SOSA FOOD PARCEL DRIVE

In total, we were able to provide about 10 745kg's, of food parcels to our beneficiaries and their families.



STORIES AND TESTIMONIES

MS. MARTHA MASHIYANI

We spoke to Ms. Martha Mashiyani, who expressed how terrible the National Lockdown was on her and her family as she amongst others was one of those parents who was retrenched from her job.

It was tough when all the food supplies they had at home started running out. She highlighted how the support grant was not even enough to help provide for her and children as most of it was used in getting medical supplies, especially during the lockdown level 5.

Martha mentioned that she doesn't mind if she doesn't mind going hungry for day, but cannot deal with having to see her children starve due to her not being able to provide food for them.

She then expressed with tears of joy how extremely grateful she is to Special Olympics South Africa for coming to Leandre and providing these food parcels. That yes, it does not guarantee that they will last for a long time but this food parcel will help feed her family for a month.



2020 POLAR PLUNGE

AN OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THE 2020 SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH AFRICA ANNUAL POLAR PLUNGE!

“A POWER LINE-UP OF OVER 150 CELEBS TOOK THE PLUNGE”

The 4th edition of the Polar Plunge took place on the 5th September 2021 at Altitude Beach in Fourways.

The target was reaching a **150 celebrities and business leaders** to commit to taking the plunge for the athletes of Special Olympics South Africa.

The focus for the Plunge was to continue to raising funds for food parcels for Special Olympics athletes and their families that have been left destitute by the corona virus and lockdown in South Africa.

With the plunge in its 4th year, the support from well-known personalities and media was phenomenal as most of them not only did they commit to plunge but also opened their pockets to help feed the less privileged families of our athletes.

South Africa PR Guru and Deputy Chairperson of Special Olympics South Africa, Melanie Ramjee, said

It's truly humbling when people who themselves have been financially affected by the global pandemic still see the need to get involved, That's the ubuntu I signed up for" when I joined Special Olympics South Africa.



2020 POLAR PLUNGE



2020 POLAR PLUNGE



COMMEMORATING MANDELA DAY 2020 WITH THE MARK FISH FOUNDATION

In 2020 the essence of Mandela day is to take action, inspire change, and make every day a Mandela Day!

Our communities across South Africa where affected by the spread of Covid-19, which hit our economy, causing new social and economic challenges, and one of the most terrifying of these was hunger.

In honour of 67 Minutes of Nelson Mandela, Special Olympics South Africa in partnership with the Mark Fish Foundation, did a food parcel and essentials drop off for 300 of our families at the Matshidiso Special School in Tsakane Brakpan.



NATIONAL RECREATION DAY 2020 #626CHALLENGE

In association with the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, and the Sports for Social Change Network, we took part in National Recreational Day 2020 and accepted the “6 to 6 challenge” which was implemented nationwide on the 2nd of October. The challenge entailed 12 hours of non-stop physical activity that started at 6 am and ended at 6 pm.

Our 80-minute segment took place at Iteko special school in Tlhabane, Northwest and was live-streamed on our Facebook page.

In conjunction with our activities for National Recreation Day, we supported athletes at Iteko Special School and Reoleboge Special School, by providing 118 food parcels to needy athletes and their families.



NATIONAL RECREATION DAY 2020

#626CHALLENGE



THE POWER OF YOGA

We hosted the first ever YOGA session at Cresset House with Ms Wardah Hartley, SOSA supporter, Personal trainer and Founder of FabuFit-yoga and Movement.

Where she presented our athletes with a meaningful and adaptive yoga session to help improve the wellbeing of our athletes.



**Special
Olympics**
South Africa



OUR AMBASSADORS



Mark Fish



Desiree Ellis



Melanie Ramjee



Simphiwe Dlodlu



Letshego Zulu



Kim Jayde



Paul Kamanga



Quinne Brown



Sbusiso Shongwe

**Special
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South Africa



OUR AMBASSADORS



Diamond Thopola



Lerato Phago



Ginnie Mc Lellan



Gareth Mc Lellan



Lynn Forbes



David Rees



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Special Olympics South Africa



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