

Improving the Lives of People with Intellectual Disability in Africa



2007-10 Development Strategy

Briefing Paper

(7/1/2007)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND NEED

1.1 Executive Summary

At the recent signing of the UN's Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of People with Disabilities, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated: "Today promises to be the dawn of a new era – an era in which disabled people will no longer have to endure the discriminatory practices and attitudes that have been permitted to prevail for all too long."

To turn the words of this convention into real progress for people with intellectual disabilities, particularly in the developing world, is an enormous challenge. In Africa alone there are 10-15 million people with intellectual disability living lives of isolation and social exclusion, with little access to services in health, education and employment. But awareness is rising, and momentum is being established.

As the world's largest sports organization for people with intellectual disability, serving more than 2.2 million individuals in 160 countries, Special Olympics is strongly placed to catalyse acceptance, dignity and opportunity to the world's 170 million people with intellectual disability. For a segment of the population routinely stigmatized and isolated, Special Olympics has proven programming for improving health, building self-esteem, and empowering families, as well as being an effective tool for changing public attitudes and local community engagement.

The past five years has seen a surge in activity for Special Olympics in Africa. Special Olympics Africa has built basic programs in 30 countries and currently serves more than 75,000 individuals. In addition to its core sports activity, Special Olympics is becoming a recognized advocate ensuring individuals with intellectual disability and their families are not forgotten as the world works towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in areas of poverty reduction, health care, and primary education.

As part of its Global Strategic Development Plan 2006-10, Special Olympics is applying additional attention and urgency to development in Africa. Working closely with government ministries and international NGOs, SO Africa aims to support 600 community projects in 12 major African countries, reaching at least 120,000 children and adults with intellectual disability. Through this activity, Special Olympics Africa aims to significantly strengthen its contribution to the protection and promotion of rights and dignity for people intellectual disability throughout the region.

This paper is a summary of the 2006-10 development plan created to inform and engage governmental and non-governmental organizations with interests in human development in Africa. Special Olympics Africa is seeking experienced partners in the fields of disability, sport, health, education, child development and communications to achieve significant and sustainable step forward for people with intellectual disability over the next 4 years.

1.2 A Neglected Need: Intellectual Disability in Africa

Statistics

There are almost 800 million people living in Africa, 50 million of who are disabled (an estimated 10-15 million being intellectually disabled)¹.

The causes of intellectual disability in Africa are, like anywhere else in the world, a combination of genetic factors (20%)² and environmental factors such as malnutrition, poor pre-natal care, and childhood disease. 90% of children with intellectual disability die before age 5; those who survive have little or no specialized education; and 70% of disabled adults are unemployed and live in poverty³.

Perceptions and Stereotypes

Influenced by traditional beliefs and customs which see disability as a curse or the manifestation of sin and disgrace, intellectual disability is a serious stigma in Africa. When an intellectually disabled child is born, it is often rejected by the father and shunned by the community.

In addition, media portrayals of persons with disabilities have helped to reinforce these stereotypes. The media all too often presents images of dependency, unfitness and incapacity. It seems that the only things that are newsworthy about disabled people are their impairments and the length of time they have "endured" their lives. Books, stories and films that have impacted on both global, and particularly African, collective consciousness have underlined this view of disabled people.

Effects and Consequences

The consequences of the discrimination against disabled people and their families are numerous and interwoven. A direct correlation exists between intellectual disability and poverty: Not only is an intellectually disabled child likely to be an added financial burden on a household, but also, through inactivity, social isolation and neglect, the chances of such a child learning the skills necessary to become productive citizens and escape poverty are minimal⁴.

The invisibility of this population also leads to invisibility in national action plans concerning education, health and poverty reduction.

¹ United Nations Population Information Network

² <http://www.pearlsof africa.org/html2da>

³ <http://www.pearlsof africa.org/>

⁴ <http://www.pearlsof africa.org/htmlDIA.html>

2. ADDRESSING THE NEED: THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Special Olympics Africa (SOA)

Special Olympics Africa (SO Africa) is one of 7 regions in the global Special Olympics movement, reporting to the Special Olympics Inc. headquarters (Washington DC, USA). SO Africa is currently staffed by a Managing Director and 7 full-time staff spread throughout the region (see Appendix 1).

The SOA staff is responsible for setting up and annually reviewing independently registered National Programs who are then responsible for implementing Special Olympics within that country. (See Appendix 2)

The Special Olympics Development Model

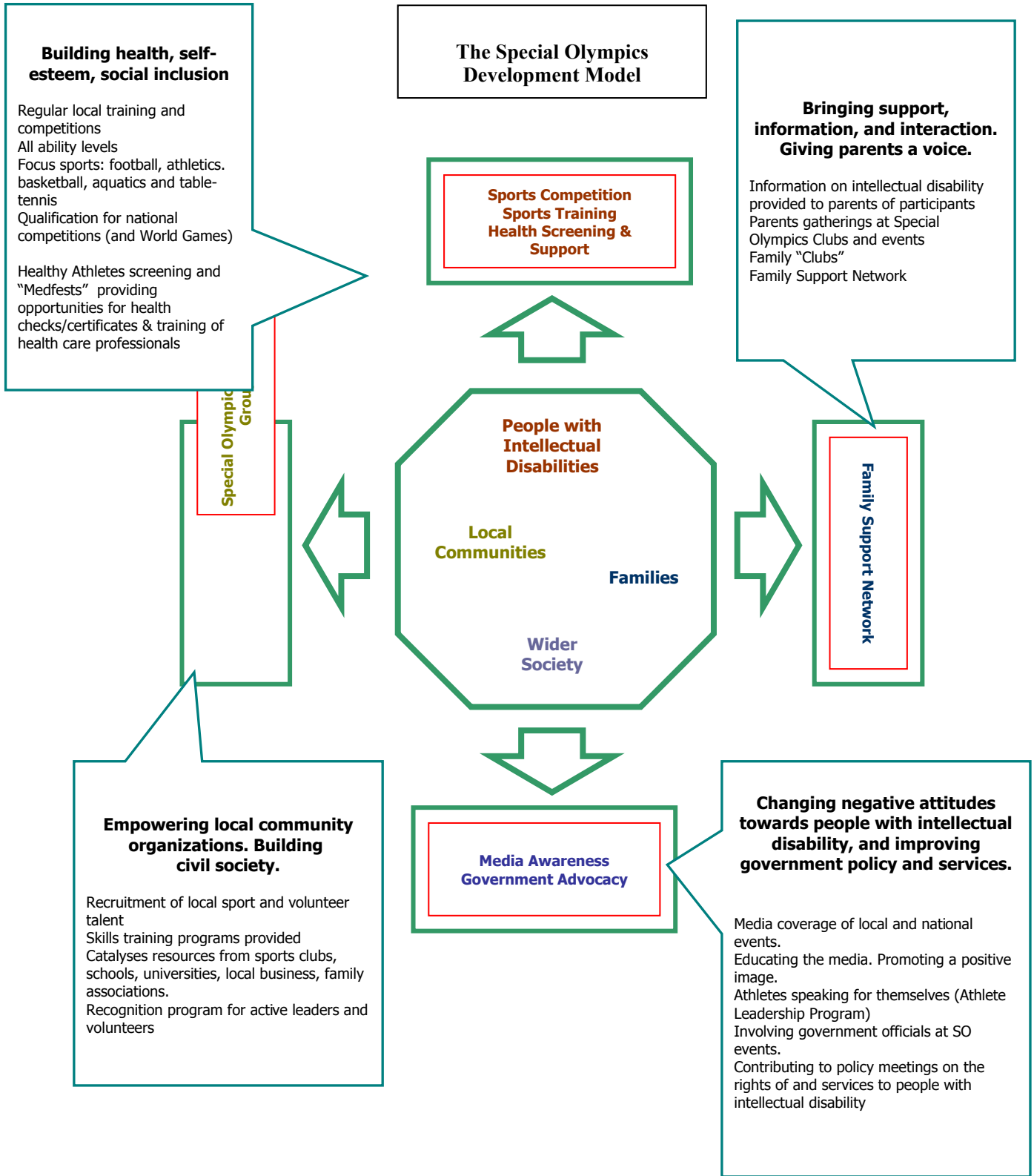
Through creation of strong National Program Boards and empowerment of local community resources, Special Olympics implements a service-delivery model combining sports programming with initiatives in health, family support, public education and government advocacy.

Special Olympics focuses its efforts on four target groups:

- **Individuals with intellectual disability** of all abilities and ages.
- **Families** of these individuals (usually the primary source of life-long sustenance and care).
- **Local community organizations** and volunteers who can be mobilized to support these individuals.
- **The wider public and the government** whose awareness and positive attitude towards intellectual disability is critical for long-term developments in quality of life.

In addition to local activities, National Programs also create high-profile national events to stimulate local activity and to raise high-level awareness and, through the media, present positive stories and images of people with intellectual disability.

In all this work, partnerships with governmental departments of social welfare, health, education, and sports are essential, as is the support of local business.



Insert

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IN AFRICA

**Recent Articles from Special Olympics International Magazine:
*Spirit Magazine***

Special Olympics in Africa

Football Project Kicks Off in Africa

FIFA-Special Olympics Development Project launched in Tanzania, Namibia and Botswana

The FIFA-Special Olympics Development Project was formally initiated with high-profile launches in Tanzania, Namibia and Botswana. At the launches a Protocol of Cooperation was signed by the respective countries' Football Federations who pledged their full support toward footballers with intellectual disabilities, on and off the field.

Federico Addiechi, FIFA's Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, was the keynote speaker at the Namibia launch. "The opening was very successful and its detailed organization showed the high level of professionalism that the Special Olympics team has put into the joint FIFA-Special Olympics initiatives."

The Botswana launch was held in Maun, a small town in the north of the country, located in the south-west edge of the Okavango Delta, a major tourist attraction. The local Chief, Charles Letsholathebe, whose name means "the one who holds the spear," officially welcomed Special Olympics to his town.

Project activities focusing on the recruitment and training of coaches and athletes began in May 2006. The goal of the one-year project is to recruit 500 new Special Olympics footballers in three pilot programs and to use the project to support family education and basic health screening.

Submitted by Michael Smith, Managing Director, Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia, and Charles Nyambe, Project Coordinator, Special Olympics Africa.

Top left: Special Olympics Tanzania footballers Hatibu Matali and Abdul Mathias at the National Stadium.

Photo: Special Olympics Tanzania

Right: In Botswana, guest of honor Frank Ramsden, Assistant Minister of Works, Transport and Communications (in gray suit), meets Special Olympics athletes (left to right) Kumo Bofedile, Moses Paul, Oabile Sepakonyana and Kago Makondo, all from Moremi Primary School.

Photo: Special Olympics Botswana



Athletes beat the odds in Zimbabwe:

Despite political turmoil, gasoline shortages and mechanical failure (a bus full of athletes from Gweru broke down on the way), Special Olympics Kwekwe, one of Special Olympics Zimbabwe's 11 sub-Programs, held an athletics competition for 86 athletes, including the Gweru athletes, who were rescued by a commuter bus and driven to the competition. Throughout the day, student musicians played music on traditional mbira instruments. Special Olympics Kwekwe recruited 70 new athletes in 2005.

Photo: Special Olympics Zimbabwe



Above: (From left) Mr. Federico Addiechi, FIFA's Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, with Deon Namaseb, Special Olympics Namibia athlete Board Member.

Photo: Special Olympics Namibia



Breaking Cultural Barriers

Special Olympics Nigeria's Official Launch

by Folashade Bolumole

WITH AS MANY AS 3 MILLION PEOPLE with intellectual disabilities in Nigeria, the most heavily populated country in Africa, the nation formally launched its Special Olympics Program at a football (soccer) and athletics event in Lagos. It was an ideal venue for guests to be introduced to their country's first athletes.

More than 150 Special Olympics athletes as well as 50 coaches from 20 schools participated in five-a-side football (soccer) tournament and 100-meter races. Athletes and coaches came from three of the six geo-political zones of Nigeria.

Board Chairman Victor Gbolade Osibodu said that the national Program had recruited more than 3,000 athletes and trained 629 coaches and volunteers. "We hope to break the barriers of cultural inhibitions and open doors of opportunity for well-meaning individuals and socially responsible corporate organizations to partner with Special Olympics Nigeria in this important humanitarian cause."



(From left) Funmito Agosto (Board Member), Udeme Ufot (Board Member), Jimi Agbaje (special guest), Funmi Omogbenigun (MTN representative), Hetty Bakare (Board Member), Victor Osibodu (Board Chair) and Charles Akindayomi (Board Member).



The Commissioner for Establishment and Training, Chief Ebenezer Akingbolade, representing Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Executive Governor of Lagos State, was an honored guest at the Program launch.

National Director Fola Bolumole hopes that Special Olympics Nigeria will reach more than 10,000 athletes by the end of 2007. "The first challenge is to reach the more than 480 registered schools and centers. As our Program grows, we hope our success will help reach the hard-to-reach, especially the adults who could benefit from participating in Special Olympics," said Bolumole.

Major sponsors for the launch and competitions consisted of some of Nigeria's leading names in business, including MTN, a telecommunications company, and Access Bank PLC, a financial services company. The list includes Guaranty Trust Bank, Nestlé, Vigeo, Saatchi & Saatchi, Phillips Consulting, Channels Television, Citiserve and Total Consult. Other sponsors were Coca Cola, SmithKline and Nigeria-German Chemicals.

Much still needs to be done in Nigeria, but with the support of national and multinational corporations and the commitments of families and volunteers, Special Olympics Nigeria can bring new hope to athletes.



“Special children should not be locked away or put in a backyard. With encouragement and training, the best can be brought out of them.”

*Nnonye Chima
Special Olympics
Family Member*



Special Olympics Nigeria officially launched its country's new Program in Lagos with a five-a-side football tournament and 100-meter races. More than 150 athletes as well as 50 coaches from 20 schools participated in a football tournament and 100-meter races.

Photos: Special Olympics Nigeria

Nnonye Chima, a parent of two Special Olympics athletes and a volunteer teacher at the Daughters of Divine Love Charity Home, hopes to see an end to isolation for people with intellectual disabilities. “Special children should not be locked away or put in a backyard. With encouragement and training, the best can be brought out of them,” she stated.

Folashade Bolumole is the National Director for Special Olympics Nigeria.



Remote Possibilities

by Yohana Madole

Special Olympics Tanzania athlete Yohana Madole, 20, is working with his Program's Board of Directors to bring Special Olympics to remote villages throughout the Africa region.

Photo: Courtesy of School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Reaching athletes in isolated areas of Tanzania poses challenges

The Special Olympics Tanzania Board of Directors to which I belong dreams of increasing the number of athletes, especially from remote villages. We have been facing a number of challenges which hinder our efforts to reach athletes from these remote villages. One of the reasons includes lack of awareness—people in the remote villages do not know much about Special Olympics. The largest numbers of athletes we have are those already in a school system, and many of these schools are found only in urban areas. Some parents in the remote villages do not like to expose their children with intellectual disabilities; this is because of ignorance. Communication in Tanzania is not reliable; most parts of the country are not accessible during the rainy season, which makes it difficult to reach athletes using roads or railways. Not many people in Tanzania can afford to own or use telephones.

Undaunted, Special Olympics Tanzania held a train-the-trainer workshop for coaches from 23 sub-Programs, most from rural areas, who, in turn, trained 10 coaches each for a total of 460 new coaches.

Some parents in the remote villages do not like to expose their children with intellectual disabilities; this is because of ignorance.

“

Some parents in the remote villages do not like to expose their children with intellectual disabilities; this is because of ignorance.

”

When the Program's 2006 National Games were held in March, scores of athletes and coaches who had never competed outside their villages, came back home as heroes, relating exciting experiences, helping conquer ignorance and shame along the way.

Editor's note: Yohana Madole is a Special Olympics Tanzania athlete and a Special Olympics International Global Messenger (Class of 2004-2006). He lives in Dar es Salaam, the capital of Tanzania, a republic in southeastern Africa. Kiswahili is his native language.

3. SPECIAL OLYMPICS AFRICA 2007-2010 STRATEGIC APPROACH, GOALS AND PROJECTED OUTCOMES

3.1 Strategic Approach: Building 12 Model National Programs

- **Geographical Focus**

While continuing to establish basic programmes in new countries, SO Africa will focus its management time and investment on expanding the quality and scope programs in 12 “Focus Programs.” All these programs have a reasonably strong Special Olympics leadership and local program network. By focusing on countries with relatively stable politics and growing economies, within 3 geographical areas, SOA believes it can have the most successful sustainable impact on the lives of people with intellectual disabilities and the communities in which they live.

Special Olympics will focus on 12 programmes: EAST AFRICA: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda. WEST AFRICA: Nigeria, Cote D’Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia. SOUTHERN AFRICA: South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zambia.



Strategic approach contd.

- **Creating Professional National Programs with Measurable Impact**

In order to improve quality of each existing program, to continue to expand, and to link in more effectively to other partners, it is considered essential to develop full-time paid staff to support what is currently a largely volunteer-managed structure.

Professionalizing National Special Olympics programs will also include implementing international standards of administration, data collection, grant management and financial transparency.

Staff will be recruited from local talent who fully understand the local environment and are aware of the barriers and opportunities relevant to their local communities. Special Olympics Inc. brings significant management experience from its global operations, but will also seek partnerships with capacity building expertise on the ground in its Focus Programs in Africa.

- **Working Towards Sustainability**

In order to meet the long-term needs of people with intellectual disability, their families and their communities, Special Olympics must follow an approach that ensures gradual self-sustainability of its programs. Building professionally run, financially transparent national programs that can gain the trust and support of funding agencies, as well as building human capital through training programs, knowledge sharing, and volunteer activation are the foundations such sustainability.

Through its profile and global appeal, Special Olympics has shown that its National Programs can successfully leverage local resources, particularly value-in-kind (VIK), from government, the business sector, and other agencies, particularly for the funding of community and national competitions.

While the challenge of activating support for a sustainable and vital staff infrastructure will continue to be the major funding challenge, SO Africa believes it can establish fully self-sustaining programs in at least South Africa, Kenya and Nigeria by 2010, as well as making steady progress in other countries.

3.2 Strategic Goals and Outcomes for 12 Focus Countries

(2007-10)

Goal #1: Expand and strengthen community-based Special Olympics committees and clubs, enabling increased outreach and support to participants, families and volunteers.

Outcomes

- 60 Provincial Committees in 12 countries delivering year-round support to 600 registered community organizations & clubs.
- 2,500 new coaches recruited and trained.
- 5,000 new volunteers recruited.

Goal #2: Significantly increase access to Special Olympics sport activities to people with intellectual disabilities, offering high-quality programs that make a measurable impact on self-esteem, learning, and social inclusion.

Outcomes

- 120,000 participants in year-round activities (50% of these being **new** athletes).
- 1500 community-based competitions conducted annually.
- 60 Provincial competitions conducted annually.
- National Games conducted every 2 years.

Goal #3: Ensure that at least 20% of Special Olympics participants receive at least basic-level *health screening* and improved follow-up care. Use this health program to raise general awareness of the health needs for people with intellectual disability.

Outcomes

- 25,000 individuals involved in Health Screenings at National Games or other health events, and through new partnerships with government and health NGOs, significantly increased follow up care following screening.
- Data collected at all screenings compiled and presented to each national ministry of health.

Goal #4: Significantly broaden the involvement of *families* in the Special Olympics movement and bring improved understanding of intellectual disability and the potential for learning and development.

Outcomes

- 60 Provincial Family Support Networks created.
- 15,000 family members involved in support and education activities.

Goal #5: Reduce the public stigma and misconceptions about intellectual disability by the promotion of positive Special Olympics stories and images.

Outcomes

- Significant TV media coverage of annual Special Olympics Games in each focus country.
- 1 multi-country TV campaign including advertisements/Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about Special Olympics and intellectual disability.
- Public attitude change study conducted in at least 2 countries showing change in public perceptions (2007-2010)

Goal #6: Raise the level of awareness of the needs of people with intellectual disability amongst African governments, and with international organizations.

Outcomes

- In each program, at least 5 key government ministers involved annually in high-profile National Games or other activities.
- Special Olympics participation in annual policy meetings concerning the rights of and services to people with intellectual disability.
- Documentation of progress in legislation that will materially improve the lives of people with intellectual disability and their families.
- Contribution of SO Africa material to UN conferences monitoring the Convention on Protection and Promoting of the Rights and Dignity of People with Disabilities (2006)

4. SO AFRICA INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS (2007-10)

4.1 Investment Overview

In order to achieve its goals in its 10 Focus Programs, Special Olympics Africa needs to attract, invest and manage an estimated additional **2.6 million euro/yr for the next 4 years.**

This investment to be applied as follows:

- Building strong National Program support offices and national-level initiatives, including health screening. (45%)
- Supporting sub-national Provincial Committees who in turn provide year-round support, training, events and equipment to local clubs. (45%)
- SO Africa management and support of the National Programs and pan-African promotion and advocacy. (10%)

Reaching 120,000 participants by 2010 would yield an overall cost of approximately 30 euro per person directly impacted. The broader impact on the 10-15 million people with intellectual disability in Africa should also be significant.

4.2 Draft Budget (See attached excel)

4.3 Budget Narrative

Building Strong National Programs

Basic staffing requirements per program:

- **National Director** to provide strategic direction and address the key priorities of their program.
- **Program Development Manager** to support the monitoring and evaluation of all international and global funding initiatives.
- **Focus Sports Coordinators** for football and athletics, the two major sports (part-time/stipends).
Grants and Administration Coordinator to ensure efficient monitoring and evaluation takes place to enhance the ability of their programme to learn from best practices and secure and manage grants.

Other costs: Travel to Provincial programs; Creation and dissemination of training materials; Conducting National Leadership Seminars; Office costs.

Budget Narrative contd.

2. Supporting Provincial (sub-program) Committees and Local Clubs

Staffing requirements per program:

- **Provincial (sub-national) Coordinators:** providing training programs for local clubs and volunteers, making approaches to Provincial government and sponsors, conducting Provincial level events.
- **Other costs:** Travel to local programs, seed-funding to start local groups, sports equipment, transportation to Provincial events, local volunteer recognition.

3. Strengthening Special Olympics Africa Support and Project Management

In order to ensure that all National Programs are adhering to high standards of program development and reporting, and to provide full reporting to funding agencies, Special Olympics Africa realises the importance of Regional Staff able to monitor and provide regular advice and guidance to all programs.

Additional staffing requirements beyond current levels:

- **Regional Program Coordinators** (W.Africa / E.Africa / Southern Africa) to provide training, support and progress reporting. Ensuring high standards of national project management and financial transparency.
- **Grants/Investments Coordinator** to cover all aspects of financial management and centralized collection of financial data and progress reports. Reporting of progress to funders.
- **Football Project Coordinator** (funding already secured from FIFA) bringing additional support to the regions most popular sport, and to tie in development opportunities related to the FIFA World Cup coming to S.Africa in 2010.

Other costs: Travel to national programs, creation of materials, pan-African promotional activities.

SO AFRICA 2007-10

FOCUS PROGRAM PROJECT: 12 NATIONAL PROGRAMS

DRAFT BUDGET (EXTERNAL INVESTMENT)

07/01/2007

	EURO		
	12 Focus Programs*	SO Africa	TOTAL
1. NATIONAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT			
National Director (25K)	300,000		
Sports & Program Director (18K)	216,000		
Sport Coordinators stipends for Focus sports: Football/Athletics (2K eac./yr)	48,000		
Grant Coordinator /Accountant (15K)	180,000		
Travel (20k)	240,000		
Health Screening Program (5K per screening 2 per country per yr)	120,000		
National Seminars (6K each)	72,000		
Office Costs (500/month)	72,000		
Provincial Committees/local program support; 10 per country. (10K each)	1,200,000		
TOTAL NATIONAL PROJECTS	2,448,000 €	91%	
2. SO AFRICA PROJECT MANAGEMENT			
Regional Project Coordinators (3) (40k each)		120,000	
Grants Coordinator/Accountant (30k)		30,000	
Travel (20k per regional coord)		60,000	
Football Project Coordinator + Travel		30,000	
Materials/Promotion/Advocacy		60,000	
TOTAL SO AFICA PROJECT MANAGEMENT		240,000 €	9%
TOTAL PROJECT (EXTERNAL INVESTMENT)			2,688,000 €
Cost per participant = Budget / Av # athletes/yr	30 €		

* note: S.Africa salaries expected to be up to 100% higher.
 But access to local start-up funds higher.
 Same amount allocated per program from project funds.

APPENDICES

SO Africa Staff

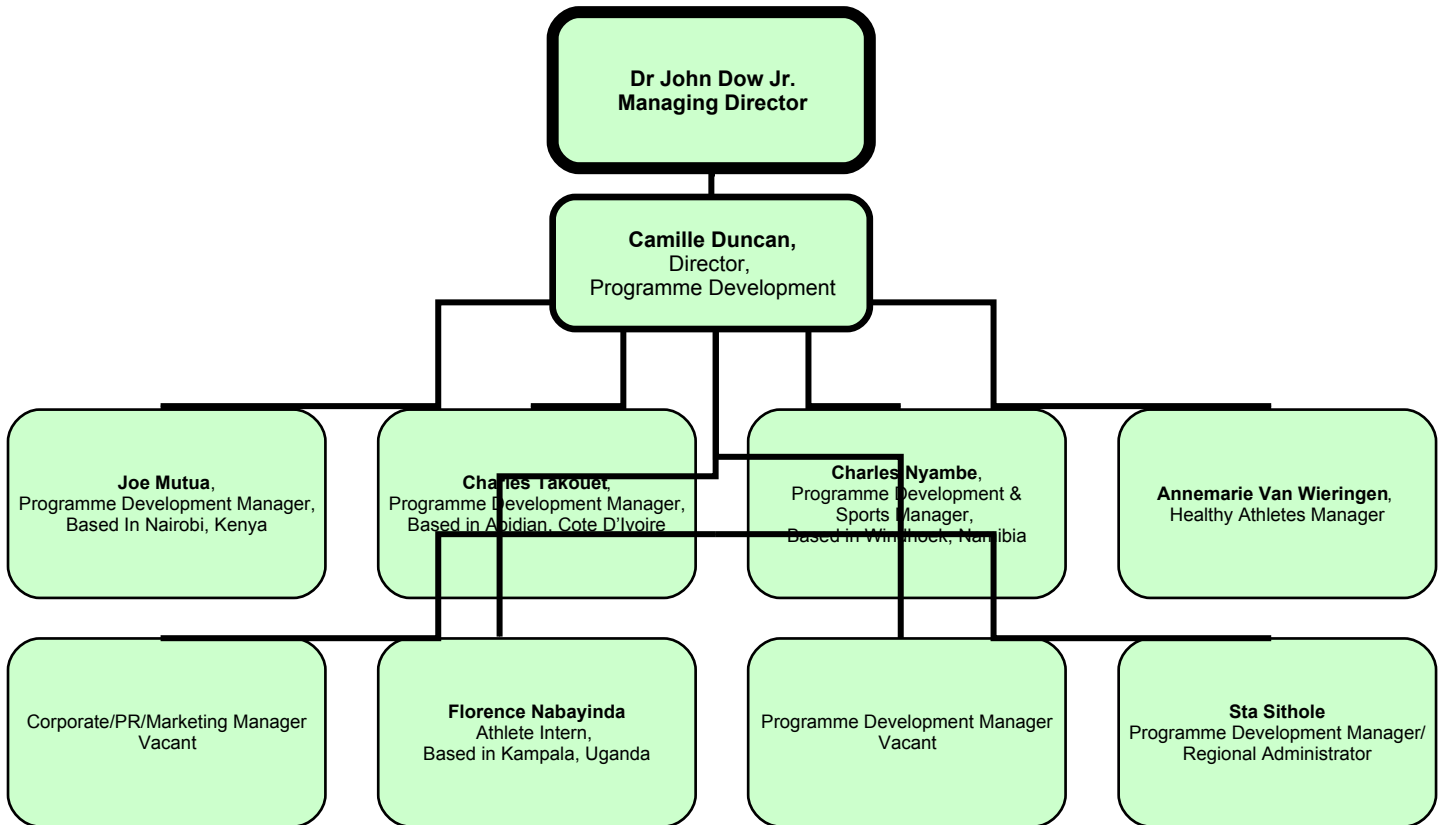


SO Africa Structure



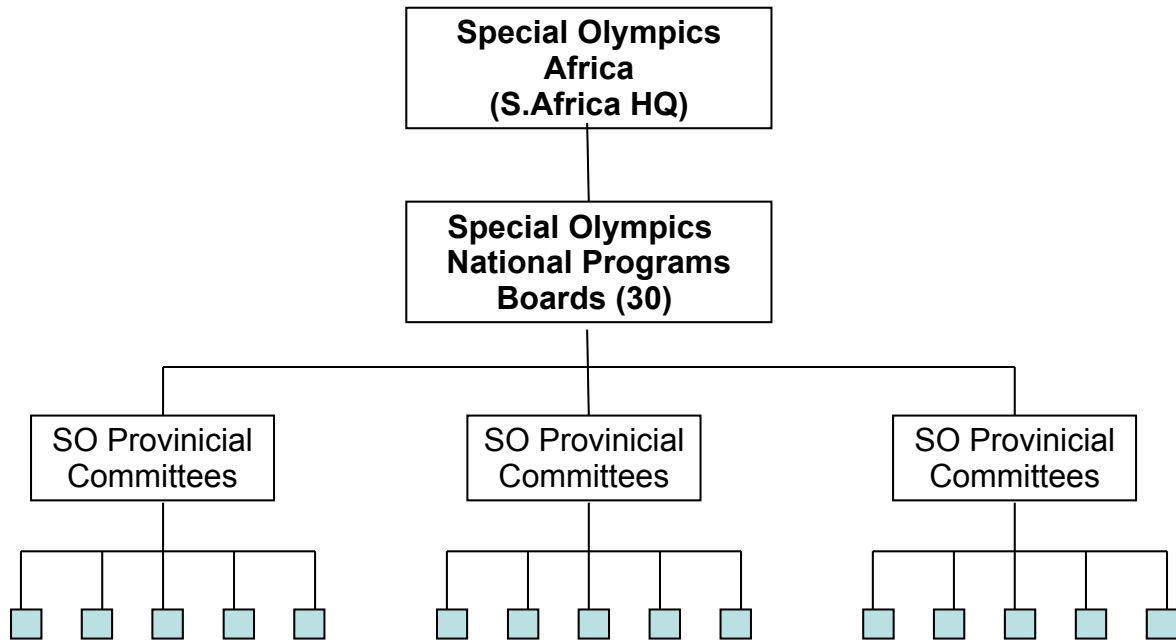
Case Study: SO South Africa

APPENDIX 1: CURRENT SO AFRICA STAFF



APPENDIX 2:

SPECIAL OLYMPICS STRUCTURE



**Local Special Olympics Programs / Clubs providing
Year-round services for people with intellectual disabilities**

APPENDIX 3:

Special Olympics South Africa Development in 2005-6 Program Profile

Special Olympics South Africa

There are an estimated 500,000-1million individuals with intellectual disability in South Africa. Over the past decade the country has made great efforts in recognizing the rights of all its citizens, including those with disabilities. Services, however, are generally lacking.

With significant investment from Special Olympics Inc.'s International Headquarters, Special Olympics South Africa (SOSA) has become one of Africa's largest and fastest-growing program, with major potential to expand activities and serve as a driver of rights and services for people with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics South Africa Board and Supporters

The SOSA Board of Directors was recruited from a cross section of well-known and high profile South Africa citizens representing the corporate, social services, education, political sectors of South Africa, as well as a current Special Olympics South Africa athlete. The Program is currently headed by a 7-member Board of Directors which is chaired by Dr. Mathews Phosa. Dr. Mathews Phosa, Chairman was recently named as the President elect of the South Africa Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Phosa is a former Provincial Premier of South Africa and currently serves as an executive member of the African National Congress.

Mrs. Leah Tutu, wife of Archbishop Desmond Tutu serves as the Special Olympics South Africa Ambassador. In this role, Mrs. Tutu will use her position in South Africa citizenry to be a spokesperson for Special Olympics and to bring awareness to Special Olympics in South Africa.

Former President Nelson Mandela is a world-wide known icon who has spent a lifetime championing the cause of equal human rights for all citizens. Mr. Mandela is a strong supporter of Special Olympics and officially declared open the 2003 Special Olympics World Games in Dublin, Ireland.

National Staff

The SOSA Board, working closely with SO Africa, is charged with building a professional staff capable of providing support services to provincial programs, and for developing national relationships with government, sponsors, and other agencies.

Currently, the SOSA staff comprises one full-time National Director, an administrative assistant, several volunteers who support the administration, and four provincial committees comprised of 6 volunteers who work with other volunteers within districts. The current staff and operating budget for SOSA is covered by international grant funds from Special Olympics Inc.

Registering Provincial and Local Programs

The National office has created Provincial Committees in 4 of the 9 provinces in South Africa. These committees work regularly with the SO Africa staff. Between 2005 and 2006, SO Africa staff have travelled to the provinces and carried out coach training for around 700 coaches and local program coordinators.

SOSA currently offers programs for 16,000 athletes, recruited from special schools (70%), centers (15%) and institutions (15%).

SOSA and its provincial committees have created a good calendar of competitions, particularly at the local community level.

In 2006:

Total number of local competitions from January to December: 502

Total number of provincial competitions: 1

Total number of National competitions: 1

The 2006 Special Olympics South Africa (SOSA) National Games were December 1-3, 2006 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Games involved 300 athletes and 49 coaches from the provinces of Limpopo, Western Cape, Kwazulu Natal and Gauteng. Athletes competed in Unified Basketball, Bocce, Gold, Athletics, Aquatics and Table Tennis.

Beyond Sports: Health Screening and Family Involvement

There are currently 110 families formally involved in the SOSA Program. In December 2006, a Families Forum was held during the National Games attracting a lot of family interest. As such, family member involvement is expected to grow significantly in 2007.

3 separate Healthy Athlete screening events took place in South Africa in 2006, all of which included a "Medfest" component which offered the opportunity for potential athletes to be screened by general physicians and acquire the required complete medical certificate.

An overview of the screening statistics for 2006 is as follows:

Medfest: 595; Special Smiles: 377; Healthy Hearing: 240; FUNFitness: 124; Opening Eyes: 168; Health Promotions: 323

One of the main challenges facing SOSA will be competing with other NGOs who provide services in areas which are seen as "life saving", e.g. HIV AIDS, malaria, starvation, health care. SOSA will therefore need to partner with some of these NGOs to be able to reach out to the ID population in these groups and at the same time continue to draw awareness and funding to the Program.

Direct SOI investment in SO S.Africa

In 2006, SO Africa invested US\$325,000 in the development of SO S.Africa. Broken down into the following areas:

- 20% - SOSA Staff %
- 65% - Seminars and Local Development
- 15% - Equipment

Health screenings were funded directly by grants from the US Government (Center for Disease Control) and from Lions Club International. -- funded from separate HA funds

This direct investment has now begun to leverage local sources of cash or value-in-kind funds. In 2006, around US\$200,000 was raised in cash and VIK from the corporate and governmental sectors. Interest from sponsors is growing each year.

Future Plans

By building on its growth from the past two years, SOSA is in a position to increase its public awareness, expand fundraising from the governmental and private sectors, and strengthen partnerships necessary to attract additional resources. Working more closely with the government and other NGOs, SOSA aims to strengthen its role as a sustainable and visible advocate for the overall rights and opportunities for people with intellectual disability and their families.

SOSA's Programmatic Goals for the next 4 years include:

1. Expand SO to all 9 Provinces and develop the quality of these provincial programs
2. Recruit and train 1,000 new coaches and 2,000 volunteers
3. Expand the program to reach over 25,000 participants
4. Involve 2,000 families
5. Conduct health screening for 60% of athletes and link with other organizations to ensure preventive or follow up care.

For further information on Special Olympics S.Africa, please contact:

Camille Duncan

Acting CEO
Special Olympics South Africa
Johannesburg Stadium
124 Van Beek St.
New Doornfontein 2194
CDuncan@specialolympics.org