

T1TEMPLATE FOR REPORTING ON RECENT INITIATIVES ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Special Olympics “Unified Teams” Programme

Provide a summary of the initiative, including a brief overview, proposed/actual outcomes and an assessment of any lessons learned and the way forward.

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| Please provide more details on the initiative below: | | |
| Objective(s): | <i>Please indicate which, if any, of the following fell among the main objectives of the initiative:</i> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that no one is left behind | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research development, data collection and/or data dissemination | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing and fighting corruption in sport |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict prevention/peace building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy development for mainstreaming and integrating sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource mobilization, programming and implementation |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research, monitoring and evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other (please specify) |
| Implementation mechanisms: | <p><i>What are the means/processes of implementation of the initiative?</i> Special Olympics Unified Teams is an inclusive sports programme that combines an approximately equal number of Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) on teams for training and competition. Establishing inclusive unified football school teams programmes in secondary schools allows adolescents with intellectual disabilities to participate in sports activities which otherwise they could not participate in. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.</p> <p><i>What are the main deliverables/activities involved?</i> The main activities and deliverables are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing inclusive unified football school teams programmes in 4 pilot secondary schools with the highest number of pupils with intellectual disabilities by June 2020 – including creating a manual for school psychologists and teachers, training teachers, providing equipment and establishing teams. • Organization of Schools’ unified sports activities and inter-school competitions – including school tournaments and national tournaments for Unified teams including adolescents with and without intellectual disabilities. <p><i>What is the time frame of implementation?</i> The programme started in July 2019 and is planned to run until June 2020, with a possibility of extension.</p> | |

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| Target Audience(s): | <p><i>Who are the beneficiaries of the proposed/implemented initiative?</i> The key beneficiaries are high school students (15-19 years old) with and without intellectual disabilities.</p> |
| Partners/Funding: | <p><i>Who are the main organizations/entities involved in the initiative and what are their roles in development and/or implementation?</i> The Unified Teams is run by the NGO Special Olympics, an organization established in 2007 in Montenegro. Since 2011, UNICEF have shared a strong global partnership with Special Olympics to integrate children with disabilities into development strategies and programming, and to provide sustained social integration. To implement the programme in the country, NGO Special Olympics cooperates closely with Ministry of Education, high schools and municipality authorities.</p> <p><i>What are the main sources of funding of the initiative?</i> Unified Teams has been funded by UNICEF CO Montenegro, through its Adolescent Empowerment Programme that is supported by ING.</p> |
| SDG Alignment: | <p><i>To what SDG goal/target/indicator is this initiative targeted?</i> <i>Please indicate any other national or internationally agreed goals/commitments to which this initiative is aligned.</i></p> <p>National Strategy for Sustainable Development by 2030 sets as one of its objective inclusive and quality education as well as the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all. A special measure within the framework of the mentioned strategic objective is to provide comprehensive, inclusive and quality education - SDG 4 (4.1 and 4.a).</p> |
| Alignment with global frameworks: | <p><i>How does this initiative align with/contribute to the objectives of the Kazan Action Plan *, WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity or other related internationally agreed frameworks on sport and/or physical activity?</i></p> <p>The `Unified Teams` programme is contributing to the achievement of the Kazan Action Plan though fostering of the inclusive climate through sporting activities. In this way, one of the most vulnerable groups in society, children with intellectual disabilities, can be more visible in society and achieve their full potential. When it comes to the WHO Global Action Plan on Physical Activity, initiative is contributing to the objective 1 Create Active Societies and its Action 1. 4 aimed at the strengthening of the pre- and in-service training of professionals and it also contributes to the creation of active and inclusive society.</p> |
| Alignment with United Nations Action Plan on SDP: | <p><i>Which of the four thematic areas of the UN Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace is this initiative designed to align?</i> The initiative is designed to align to the thematic area 3. Resource mobilization, programming and implementation.</p> <p><i>To which action area(s) of the Plan is this initiative designed to contribute?</i> The initiative is designed to contribute to the two action areas: (I) Encourage multi-stakeholder programme development and implementation at all levels (iii) Strengthen partnerships at the policy level across the intergovernmental and non-governmental development sectors, sport federations and other civil society stakeholders</p> |

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| <p>Outcomes:</p> | <p><i>What are the expected/actual outcomes of the initiative?</i></p> <p>Adolescence brings major physical, psychological and social changes, and with them greater challenges to the socio-emotional characteristics and needs of children with special needs in education. The Unified Teams programme contributes to the quality and inclusiveness of high school education in Montenegro. It was inspired by a simple principle: training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding. In Unified Sports, teams are made up of people of similar age and ability. That makes practices more fun and games more challenging and exciting for all. Having sport in common is just one more way that preconceptions and false ideas are swept away.</p> <p>Expected outcomes of the initiative are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improvement of the physical, emotional and social abilities of children with and without disabilities. 2. Enhancement of the capacities of both teachers and parents of children with intellectual disabilities in the field of skills related to physical, social and other developmental areas. 3. Positive influence on attitudes of families and communities towards persons with intellectual disabilities |
| <p>Mechanism for monitoring and evaluating implementation:</p> | <p><i>What are the mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation, outcomes and impact of the initiative?</i></p> <p>The impact of the initiative is measured through the regular monitoring field visits to the high schools and the use of the checklists (explained in the next paragraph).</p> <p><i>What are the specific monitoring and evaluation tools involved?</i></p> <p>Evaluation of the effectiveness of the program is conducted based on the defined Monitoring Checklist for the assessment of the current developmental status of adolescents. The purpose of this tools is to monitor the overall progress of children in their development of skills and locomotion.</p> |
| <p>Challenges/Lessons learned</p> | <p><i>What have been/were the main challenges to implementation?</i></p> <p><i>What lessons learned have been/can be utilized in the planning of future initiatives?</i></p> <p>The programme has started in July 2019, so it is still early to talk about lessons learned. No major challenges or roadblocks have been identified so far, partly due to very good cooperation that UNICEF Montenegro has with both the Special Olympics organization and the Ministry of Education.</p> |

*Please in replying use the definition of sport of the Kazan Action Plan of 2017 : “ [...] Noting that, for present purposes and unless specified otherwise, the term “sport” is used as a generic term, comprising sport for all, physical play, recreation, dance, organized, casual, competitive, traditional and indigenous sports and games in their diverse forms;2.Highlighting that sport for all, including traditional sport and games, is a fundamental field of intervention for governments to achieve the full potential of physical activity for personal and social development; 3.Recognizingthat the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda / Sustainable Development Goals form the overarching policy consensus on development priorities, goals and targets that guide international and national policy design, implementation and monitoring;4.Stressing that the preamble of the 2030 Agenda acknowledges sport as an important enabler of sustainable development and peace; [...]“