



**AGITOS**  
Foundation

Developing Sport,  
Changing Lives

[www.agitosfoundation.org](http://www.agitosfoundation.org)

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## Who we are

More than one billion people, nearly 15 per cent of the world's population, have a disability and this number is increasing all the time due to conflicts, chronic diseases, insufficient medical services and age.

The World Health Organization estimates 80 per cent of the world's population with a disability live in developing countries, and just 2-3 per cent of children in this group have access to school.

Worryingly, more than 800 million people with a disability live in poverty, with 3.5 million of them refugees.

Even in developed countries people with a disability face multiple problems. Between 50 per cent and 70 per cent are unemployed because employers wrongly assume they are unable to work.

The Paralympic Movement and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) have an exceptional track record for using sport to showcase on a global level what can be achieved by people with a disability. Events such as the Paralympic Games, dating back to 1960, have proven to change perceptions of people with a disability and drive social inclusion. Paralympic Sport has shown it can help individuals recognize their own potential and empower them to lead for change in society, helping promote equality.

The Agitos Foundation, which takes its name from the Paralympic Symbol (the Agitos) and comes from the Latin meaning "I move", was created by the IPC to fulfil its strategic goal in terms of

development and education. It acts as a catalyst supporting the implementation of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, through the impact of sport and physical activity.

Through developing sport opportunities, the Foundation aims to improve the life experiences of people with a disability around the world, leaving a long-lasting mark on a more inclusive society.

## Our mission

The Agitos Foundation is the leading global organization developing sport activities for people with a disability as a tool for changing lives and contributing to an inclusive society for all.

## Our vision

To lead the Paralympic Movement's aspiration of driving change towards an inclusive society.





## What we do

The Agitos Foundation develops and promotes physical activity and sport for people with a disability as a tool for creating positive social change throughout the world.

It harnesses sport's unique potential to build confidence, change perceptions and drive social inclusion to improve the lives of the world's one billion people with a disability.

Overall, the Agitos Foundation plays an important role in sustaining and delivering the Paralympic Movement's global objectives: to help create a more inclusive society.

It does this by increasing awareness, forming partnerships and securing the necessary resources to implement programmes covering four key areas:

- Sports development
- Awareness and education
- Advocacy and inclusion
- Knowledge and research

The Agitos Foundation extends the philosophy of the Paralympic Games, whose athletes are role models of human potential and act as leaders of change.

## How do we work?

To fulfil its mission the Agitos Foundation looks for global and regional partnerships with common strategies, goals and complementary capacities. These partnerships aim to create and promote opportunities to engage in and grow people with a disability.

Using its ever growing knowledge base, decades of experience, resources and global network to other foundations, companies, governments and international bodies, the Agitos Foundation aims to use physical activity and sport as a tool for social inclusion all around the world.

The IPC and the Agitos Foundaton is grateful to all our partners who make our work possible.

“Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination.”

*Nelson Mandela*



## Sport development

***Increase the number of people with a disability practicing physical activity and sport.***

Athletes are the essence of the Paralympic Movement and it is the Agitos Foundation's goal to increase the number of people with a disability participating in sport from the grassroots through to the elite level and the Paralympic Games.

To achieve this, the Agitos Foundation implements sport development programmes at all levels. These boost athlete participation and career development, increase competition opportunities, develop athlete pathways, improve organizational capability, provide accessible venues and affordable solutions to sport participation.

### Case study: Low Cost Wheelchairs

The Agitos Foundation has partnered with Motivation, an international development charity supporting people with mobile disabilities, and relevant international sport federations to develop low-cost sports chairs for use in Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Tennis. Over 4,000 are now in use in over 50 countries.

To coincide with London 2012, a low cost racing wheelchair has been developed giving thousands more people around the world the opportunity to take part in Athletics.

[www.sport.motivation.org.uk](http://www.sport.motivation.org.uk)

## Awareness and education

***Raise awareness and educate people on the abilities and achievements of athletes helping to change society's attitude towards people with a disability***

The day-to-day life of people with a disability is well known by those close to them. But for the majority of society, there is a lack of information about how life is when you have a disability, what the challenges are you face and what your daily goals are. Athletes embody what we call the "Paralympic Spirit". They demonstrate why sport is a vehicle that leads an individual towards achieving personal greatness and can inspire others to surpass expectations. The Agitos Foundation develops education programmes that showcase this spirit that links sport with social awareness and that ultimately will change perceptions of people with a disability and leave tangible legacies on a global level.

### Case study: Paralympic Schools Days

Created by experts in Paralympic Sport, disability and pedagogy, Paralympic School Day is a resource kit featuring a set of activities and background information which can be used to educate young people about Paralympic Sport, individual differences and disability issues in a fun and playful environment.

Hundreds of thousands of youngsters now have a greater awareness and more positive attitude towards people with an disability after participating in a Paralympic School Day.





“Research into sport injuries at the 2002 Paralympic Winter Games led to a new design for sledges in Ice Sledge Hockey. This led to a huge reduction in the number of leg injuries.”

Keith Blase  
Chair of IPC Ice Sledge Hockey  
Sport Technical Committee

## Advocacy and inclusion

***Contribute to the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to achieve inclusion***

In developing countries 80 per cent of people with a disability live in poverty. This is partly because between 80 and 90 per cent of this group at working age are unemployed. Just 2-3 per cent of children with a disability attend school.

Even in developed countries people with a disability face multiple problems including extremely limited job opportunities - the official unemployment rate for persons with disabilities of working age is at least twice that for those who are able bodied.

These are all aspects that reflect the discrimination people face each day. The Agitos Foundation works to reduce this discrimination, promoting their well-being through equal education, health, housing, sports, leisure and employment and accessibility to their environment.

### Case study: Improving Accessibility

Staging the Paralympic Games has led to accessibility improvements in a number of cities around the world, making for more inclusive societies.

In China RMB 1 billion was spent on 14,000 accessibility projects in the lead-up to the Beijing Games. Ahead of London 2012, the South Bank of the Thames was made accessible for all to enjoy whilst in Sochi, it is hoped the creation of a barrier free environment prior to the 2014 Paralympic Winter Games will act as a blueprint for the whole of Russia.

## Knowledge and research

***Share existing best practice and implement programmes that widen the knowledge base of the benefits of sport for people with a disability***

Over the last few decades science and research has drastically changed the well-being of people with a disability, thanks to new knowledge, services and products that empower their ability. The Agitos Foundation goal is to promote innovative projects that approach knowledge and applied research in physical activity and sports as a tool for changing their lives and achieving improvements in the day-to-day life of persons with disability.

### Case study: Sports Injury Studies

The Agitos Foundation is supporting sport injuries research projects at London 2012. Such studies are vital for the advancement of all sports. Following research at the 2002 Salt Lake City Paralympic Winter Games, the design and structure of sledges for use in Ice Sledge Hockey were revised to reduce the high number of lower leg injuries. At the next Games in 2006 there were no lower leg injuries in Ice Sledge Hockey.



## The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Agitos Foundation raises awareness of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted on 13 December 2006.

The Convention drives the perception of persons with disabilities to a new height by viewing them as "subjects" with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent as well as being active members of society.

The Convention is intended as a human rights instrument with an explicit, social development dimension and reaffirms that all people must enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Agitos Foundation endorsed the statement of the rights of people with disabilities and works to ensure its implementation throughout the world.

"The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities aims to achieve human rights and development for all. The Paralympic Games are a powerful force for advancing this objective; they inspire not only athletes, but all of us, to recognize the unlimited potential of all persons."

*Ban Ki-Moon*  
UN Secretary General



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