

BEFA

WOMEN & Child CARE Foundation



CAC/IT/NO 36322

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29th January 2016

Dear Stakeholders,

RE: UN GLOBAL COMPACT COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

I am pleased to confirm that BEFA Women and Child Care Foundation is in continual support of the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

This is our Communication on Engagement describing the actions BEFA has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles.

BEFA is committed to sharing this information with our stakeholders and all who support the Global Compact Principles using our usual channels of information.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

BARR. MS. NNEOMA ALBERT-BENSON

BEFA President / Chief Executive



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COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

BEFA Women and Child Care Foundation is a non-governmental organization of legal practitioners and professionals in various fields that provide poor women and children with a wide variety of aggressive quality legal services which effectively helps them to gain equal access to the courts, empower them to control their lives, and impacts on the major causes and effects of poverty. BEFA Women and Child Care Foundation is also in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since August 2013.

BEFA MISSION: To provide legal aid, provide access to the courts and provide an injured woman/child with the wherewithal to seek redress and to prosecute same to its logical conclusion; To analyze poverty's complexity, to develop multi-faceted programs and partnerships to address poverty and to advocate for broad based support for the eradication not only of poverty but also of its underlying causes.

BEFA VISION: We envision a world where every woman is bestowed with a crown of Beauty instead of ashes.

BEFA CORE ACTIVITIES / PROGRAMS: BEFA is deeply committed to improving the lives of poor women and children in our society. We choose to focus particularly on women, because in every society, women struggle against gender norms that limit their resources and opportunities for improvement and because we know that women's empowerment is a tremendous resource for social change and a prerequisite in the broader fight against global poverty.

BEFA Provides legal aid for women and children by ensuring that the rights and livelihood securities of women and children are protected and enforced. BEFA achieves this by liaising with law enforcement agents and representing women and children at all court levels.

Our Legal Aid Unit is responsible for:

- ❖ Effective representation of women and children;
- ❖ Providing quality legal service to Women and Children in the society;
- ❖ Promotion of rights of Women and Children as enshrined in the United Nations Charter;
- ❖ Providing legal enlightenment and counseling to citizens especially the less privileged;
- ❖ Develop and implement effective policy reform;
- ❖ Advocate for efficient and responsive judicial system;
- ❖ Participate in human rights advocacy programs

In addition, BEFA provides legal education for women and provides basic human rights education for children in primary and secondary education levels through their schools and communities.

In December 2014, BEFA launched the Save Victim Service Initiative that provides rehabilitation and reintegration processes for women and children who have been adversely affected by various forms of human rights abuse/violations through therapy, counseling and training.

BEFA empowers women to challenge and change the context in which they live by providing basic legal and human rights education, vocational training, basic training in finance economics, sexual/reproductive health education, family planning and providing necessary seeds & tools.

BEFA from its inception adopted a rights-based approach to help us expose the roots of vulnerability and marginalization and delve more deeply into gender, governance and other manifestations of power relations.

A rights-based approach:

- Insists that poverty is neither natural nor inevitable, but has roots in political and economic decisions;
- Helps us identify the structural and societal causes of poverty and marginalization;
- Aims to address relations between those who wield power and those who do not;
- Provides a means of strengthening people's capacities to claim and exercise their rights; and
- Clarifies authorities' duties to those they serve.

By our shift of understanding poverty as a phenomenon of unclaimed rights as well as of unmet needs, we now have a greater appreciation of the human made, structural elements that underlie the poverty of entire groups of people.

In this shift, we join the United Nations Global Compact and many other colleagues in the International arena: global groups, National and local groups and our peer nongovernmental organizations across the continent, to make remarkable impact with our expanded understanding of empowerment that combines theory and practice to promote sustainable change.

TOOL FOR MEASUREMENT: *How can we be sure that we are making distinct contributions to poverty eradication and human rights enforcement?* BEFA places great value on programmatic accountability to those we serve, to our donors and to ourselves as a learning organization. BEFA weaves formal monitoring and evaluation processes into every project that we implement. In addition, we maintain a global system that monitors high-level indicators (the number of people we reach each year, with what types of interventions and certain information about them such as location, age, and livelihood).

To enrich our existing information systems, BEFA launched a multi-year research process in 2014 to examine our programmatic impact on the underlying causes of poverty and rights denial. We use carefully chosen and applied methodologies to conduct original research on the impact that BEFA's work has on individuals, structures, and relations in a given context. Additionally, we mine other data sources to better understand our contributions to poverty eradication.

We participate with other peer organizations and the United Nations Global Compact to continually weave developmental strategies into our work. By monitoring our progress and evaluating our achievements against the intended outcomes, we can adjust current work, learn from experience and build upon success.