

Virtue Foundation
Non-Business Participant- *NGO Local Designation*
Communication on Engagement (COE) with the United Nations
Global Compact
2014- 2015

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To the representatives of the
United Nations Global Compact,

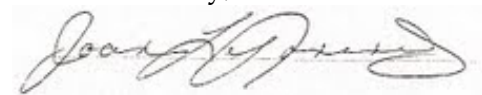
This letter serves to reaffirm the Virtue Foundation's commitment to United Nations Global Compact and its mission of promoting action in corporate social responsibility in the following areas: Human Rights, Labor, and Anti-Corruption.

As a non-profit organization working in a diverse spectrum of project areas and countries, Virtue Foundation has the opportunity to coordinate with a variety of partners and stakeholders, all of which help to get involved in furthering development both on a small and large scale.

Of the various kinds of partners Virtue Foundation has worked with over the years, *businesses* have been immense supporters of Virtue Foundation work. Through CSR activities, business entities can have a very positive impact on forward progress in the development arena. At Virtue Foundation, we engage with businesses that want to do exactly this. Through a variety of partnerships and longstanding relationships, Virtue Foundation has been able to increase the impact and scope of its work by working with businesses on some of its projects, as shared in the document that follows.

The Virtue Foundation will continue to show support to the United Nations Global Compact in the coming years, as it seeks to further the Global Compact's mission and global agenda.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joan LaRovere", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr. Joan LaRovere
Co-Founder & Vice President
Virtue Foundation

*"...one person at a time,
one act at a time."*

The Virtue Foundation

The Virtue Foundation is a non-profit organization with Special Consultative Status to the United Nations. The Virtue Foundation mission is to increase awareness, inspire action and render assistance through healthcare, education and empowerment initiatives. Comprised primarily of volunteers, Virtue Foundation is guided by the principle that true global change must begin within each of us – *one person at a time, one act at a time*.

Objectives

Virtue Foundation seeks to provide both short-term impactful and long-term sustainable development solutions to communities across the globe. Our goals are to remedy pressing, immediate community concerns while establishing lasting partnerships to create and implement initiatives for development and advancement in the areas of health, education and empowerment.

Guiding Principles

Virtue's innovative model of sustainable development includes five guiding principles:

- Invest in local women leaders as agents of change to sponsor development projects.
- Create collaborative models among local and international organizations to maximize efficiency and impact.
- Collaborate with local leaders, NGOs, and other global partners to map specific evidence-based interventions through interdisciplinary research and analysis.
- Build capacity and train local professionals in and through evidence-based, high-impact service delivery.
- Facilitate public-private partnerships to create and implement appropriate and sustainable solutions for development.

Partners

United Nations, UNESCO, UNICEF, Refugees International, Apple, Microsoft, Toyota, Avon, Standard & Poor's, the Rockefeller Foundation, iCivics, Cornell University, Asia Society, FilmAid International, Nickelodeon, ABC, NBC, CNN, Newsweek, The Daily Beast, Columbia University, Harvard University, the Rockefeller University, MIT, and UC Berkeley.

SUMMARY OF NOTABLE VIRTUE FOUNDATION PROJECTS

I. Institute for Innovation and Philanthropy in Ghana

The Vision

The Institute for Innovation and Philanthropy in Ghana is a model approach to sustainable development, facilitating solutions to advance health, education, justice and empowerment in Ghana. The Foundation's goals within this project are to:

1. Facilitate cross-sector collaboration among local and global partners.
2. Support innovative research for development solutions.
3. Build capacity and train local professionals.

The Institute serves as a model institution to facilitate development solutions for women and children's advancement. It supports projects in Virtue's key focus areas—health, education, justice, and empowerment—as critical leverage points for successful development. In an effort to design a new approach to address existing and emerging global challenges of the 21st Century, the Institute builds upon proven strategies while incorporating innovative ideas for success including the following:

Medical Teaching Missions

Volunteer health professionals deliver critical surgical care and medical trainings at Korle Bu, Komfo Anokye, and Tumu District Hospitals.

Noninvasive Ventilation Program

Virtue Foundation has implemented a noninvasive ventilation pilot program for children under five that is reducing cause-specific child mortality rates due to respiratory failure from 14 to 4 percent in Korle Bu and Tumu hospitals.

Medical Supplies Donation

The Foundation has donated more than \$300,000 USD worth of medical equipment and supplies for distribution to hospitals and clinics in 21 districts in Ghana.

Supreme Court Clerkship Program

Promising young women attorneys are providing Ghanaian Supreme Court Justices with research support while receiving legal experience, training and mentoring.

II. Virtue Foundation Data Mapping for Sustainable Development Initiative

Each year, incredible resources are committed to development. However, the investment of such assets may not always yield the desired results or accomplish results in the most efficient due to the lack of easily accessible information. The Data Mapping Initiative seeks to use “smart-map” technology to represent the world from a development perspective to combine existing data at the national, regional, and most importantly, local and institutional levels, to create visually friendly and accessible representations of this data. Geo-spatial statistical analysis and advanced regression tools are applied to create a multi-functional and interactive map. These maps provide pivotal development-related information, and can show how and where resources can best meet needs. This kind of information is especially valuable to non-profit organizations being held accountable to donors, and organizations that must responsibly and effectively maximize resources. Most importantly however, the Data Mapping Initiative can stand on it’s own as a tool used to further effective sustainable development, through the empowerment of individuals in need so they can reach a state of self-sufficiency.

III. El Salvador Model Healthcare Initiative

In collaboration with local partners, Virtue Foundations leads a model healthcare initiative in Caluco, El Salvador. The Foundation’s purpose is to improve primary and preventive healthcare delivery through innovative, targeted solutions that can be replicated and scaled.

Mobile Health Clinic

In 2011 Virtue Foundation launched the Caluco Mobile Health Clinic to extend health professionals’ reach to remote populations. In 2012, the mobile clinic served nearly 4000 patients in Caluco’s 8 rural areas.

Dental Health Mission

In November 2012, a team of dentists and dental assistants traveled to Caluco to provide critical dental care and educational opportunities to local professionals on the ground. In collaboration with FUSADES and the local Mayor’s office of Caluco, the team was able to treat more than 40 patients in three days. In addition, Virtue Foundation donated more than \$10,000.00 USD worth of equipment and supplies to the community to ensure that local professionals could continue to provide essential dental health care to the population.

IV. Mongolia Healthcare Initiative

For the nomadic peoples living in remote areas of Mongolia, surgery is an inaccessible, unaffordable luxury. As such, the Virtue Foundation has established the Mongolia Healthcare Initiative. The Virtue Foundation recognized an unmet need for advanced surgical care and a lack of certain basic equipment and infrastructure in Mongolia and to help meet these needs, the Foundation organized the annual 'Surgical and Teaching Mission to Mongolia'. Since 2009, VF has organized annual missions where life saving and sight-restoring surgeries are brought to Mongolia, along with education to local surgeons and healthcare professionals.

V. Women Judges in the Pipeline Initiative

Rule of law and gender equality play key roles in peace, sustainable development, and poverty reduction. Moreover, studies show that gender equality is an efficient driver of development, and investing in women has been proven to have a multiplier effect. Thus, laws that protect and lead to the empowerment of women and girls are critical tools for ensuring an environment favorable to sustainable development and peace.

The goal of this initiative is to provide opportunities for women in the developing world to become judges, thereby increasing women's participation in the judiciary. Virtue Foundation is working with senior Women Justices representing three continents to facilitate high-level meetings and to launch pilot projects that can be replicated and scaled across geographies.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION IN LINE WITH THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

How do we engage businesses in participating in CSR as an 'NGO Local'

Entity

The projects and initiatives on the Virtue Foundation agenda are multifaceted undertakings. As such, we look to partners to help ensure these endeavors are as impactful as possible. This involves engaging with businesses in a number of ways and encouraging them to participate in our work

1. Surgical and Teaching Mission to Mongolia

The Surgical and Teaching Mission to Mongolia is one of Virtue Foundation's largest and most involved annual Medical Missions. Each year, a large number of specialized surgeons, nurses, and administrative staff travel to Mongolia to provide free surgeries and medical care to underserved populations.

Businesses support the Surgical and Teaching to Mongolia in a number of ways:

- Equipment/Supplies: Every surgery and patient encounter involves a large amount of medical equipment, supplies, and instruments. To source these items, Virtue Foundation teams with pharmaceutical companies and a variety of medical businesses in order to secure all of the items necessary to travel to Mongolia and carry out hundreds of surgeries. These items are donated, sold at a discounted rate, or loaned for the duration of the mission.
- Grants: If a pharmaceutical company does not have the exact item that is requested or needed for the Surgical and Teaching Mission, they often offer to help through monetary grants that can be used to purchase the items elsewhere.
- Manpower: In some cases, a pharmaceutical company will send a representative to Mongolia to assist on cases that involve heavy use of a specific piece of equipment that has been loaned. This ensures that the item is being used properly, but also that cases go smoothly and more patients ultimately seen.

Measurement of Outcomes for Surgical and Teaching Mission to Mongolia

Since the Virtue Foundation Surgical and Teaching Mission to Mongolia was introduced in 2009, the number of volunteers has grown significantly each subsequent year. With the availability of more surgeons to carry out increasingly advanced surgeries, more supplies are needed and more businesses are partnered with to fill the increasing supply requirements. This also means that more patients are ultimately served on the ground:

Increased interest in VF Mission
 More volunteers
 Increased need for supplies to accommodate patients
 More business relationships formed
 More patients served

| Year | # of Volunteers | # of donors/partners | Patients served |
|------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 2013 | 18 | 31 | 1000 |
| 2014 | 22 | 31 | 1130 |
| 2015 | 31 | 41 | 1115 |

Virtue Foundation hopes to maintain this trend for future missions, and to continue growing relationships with businesses, as to maximize impact on the ground in Mongolia.

2. Data Mapping for Sustainable Development: Virtue Foundation Ghana Explorer

As part of the Virtue Foundation Data Mapping for Sustainable Development Initiative, the Foundation has partnered with Wolfram Alpha, an internationally renown computational knowledge engine in order to launch the Ghana Explorer.

The Virtue Foundation Ghana Explorer is a multi-layered, relational map of Ghana that can be manipulated to queue multiple variables simultaneously. The Foundation spent several years on the ground collecting data on indicators in areas of health, population, geography, infrastructure, education, and many more for the entire country down to the local level. The Ghana Explorer is only the latest outcome of the Virtue Foundation Data Mapping Initiative vision and will be used to guide health, justice, and education programming in Ghana.

Measurement of Outcomes for Virtue Foundation Ghana Explorer

The partnership with Wolfram Alpha and resulting Ghana Explorer has been particularly fruitful for Virtue Foundation. Through the development of the Ghana Explorer and manipulation of data, Wolfram Alpha was able highlight a

variety of interesting trends not immediately obvious from a cursory glance at publicly available statistics and data. It was only through a thorough examination of trends, that the following came to light:

- Healthcare Spending: Healthcare spending in Ghana geographically concentrated. It is NOT evenly distributed (controlling for district population).
- Coverage of Hospital Services: There is a broad divide between the southern and northern regions of the country and how they are served by hospital facilities (the **southern region** is relatively well served vs. the **northern region** is not well served).
- Land Use: The districts in Ghana that are most heavily agricultural have lower under-5 mortality rates.
- Literacy Levels: There is a broad divide between the southern and northern regions of the country and the level of literacy (the **southern regions** have higher literacy levels vs. the **northern regions** have lower literacy levels).
- Literacy levels and mortality rates: district literacy is the strongest single predictor of the under-5 institutional mortality rate across Ghana districts.

The kind of data and trends that came out of the work and partnership with an entity like Wolfram Alpha is crucial for future Virtue Foundation programming. The launch of the Wolfram Alpha collaboration and the Ghana Explorer identifies unique trends, areas of need, and ensures that Foundation funds are being directed to areas where the largest impact can be made. This kind of information can also be used by other nonprofit organization as well, which is why Virtue Foundation hopes to eventually scale the Explorer concept globally.

Moving Forward

As the Virtue Foundation plans it's projects for 2016 and beyond, businesses will continue to be considered key partners and facilitators in the Foundation's work. It is clear by their past involvement with Virtue Foundation that businesses and private entities have much to contribute, and can truly have a significant impact on non-profit work.

With regards to the UN Global Compact, Virtue Foundation will to continue to show support to the UNGC as the Foundation continues to partner with businesses seeking to further development on both on a small and large scale. Together, the impact can be twofold, while promoting a sense of collaboration and partnership across two different, albeit linked, sectors.