



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

NGO Name: Lebanese Autism Society-LAS

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement [Ideally the two years prior to this report]

From: 01/1/2016

To: 31/12/2016

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

19/9/2017

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Lebanese Autism Society-LAS reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Arwa El Amine Halawi,

President of the LAS



Part II. Description of Actions

The Lebanese Autism Society –LAS is a non-governmental organization (registered by official decree No.19/AD dated March 10, 1999). The LAS was founded by parents of children with Autism and some professionals. To this date, more than 400 members joined the Association. LAS is a founding member and the coordinator of the Arab Network for Autism (ANA) and of the National Committee for Autism in Lebanon. LAS is also a member of different national and international organizations including Union Nationale des Associations de Parents et d’Institutions pour Enfants Inadaptés (UNAPIEI), World Autism Organization (WAO), AUTISM EUROPE, Association pour la Recherche sur l’Autisme et le Prévention des Inadaptations(ARAPI).

SDG3: Good Health and Well being

The LAS mission is to advocate for the rights of individuals with Autism and to provide them and their families support and services, from early childhood to adulthood.

SD4: Quality Education

One of LAS goal is to provide the best quality educational service for individuals with Autism and to escort them throughout all the stages of their life. The LAS targeted the following areas since 1999:

- Early Diagnosis and Intervention emphasizing the development of highly structured, specialized educational programs tailored to the individual needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other disabilities
- The promotion and support of the social integration of children and teenagers with Autism
- Building capacities of professionals and institutions providing services to children with Autism in Lebanon

SD10: Reduced inequality within and among countries

The LAS strongly believes that individuals with Autism should be included in the least restrictive environment, from childhood to adulthood.

Individuals with Autism have the right to be integrated in the society in all the stages of their growth, from schooling to job opportunities.

One of the most important mean to reach that goal is to spread awareness among the Lebanese Society in regards to Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

SD17: Partnership for the goals.

In order to implement all its’ goals, the LAS established partnership with different organizations, locally and internationally.



Part III. Measurement of Outcomes Please use the box below to include the most relevant qualitative and/or quantitative indicators to measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II above.

The LAS was able to achieve the following outcomes related its' different SDGs during the past years:

SD3: Good Health and well being

- Awareness Campaigns: Every year the LAS organizes awareness campaigns and specifically during the month of Autism. Awareness campaigns include:
 1. Lectures in schools and universities about Autism
 2. Presence in the media through TV interviews, articles in the newspapers
 3. On-going updates in the different social media targeting different age groups
 4. World Autism Awareness Day campaign; celebration of the World Autism Day on the 2nd of April through different activities such as Light it up in blue Campaign.
- Parent support: Focusing on the families of individuals with Autism is very important for their well-being
 1. LAS used to plan every month a parent support group, however, the LAS teamed up professionals in the different field and is planning to develop a more efficient parent support group for the year 2017-2018
 2. "Your day away" is a yearly campaign which aims in appreciating all the efforts of the families of individual with Autism through offering them a day away from their daily troubles and worries.

SD4: Quality Education

a- Educational and intervention department:

- CDIP: In April 2005, the Lebanese Autism Society (LAS) founded the Centre Early Diagnosis and Intervention Center (CDIP) , with the help of funds granted by Al Waleed Bin Talal foundation. The C.D.I.P was established to meet the growing need of an evaluation and intervention center for children with special needs. The CDIP offers the following therapies: Speech Therapy, Psychomotor Therapy, Special Education. Till this date more than 1000 families consulted the CDIP. A team of Special Educator, 2 Psychomotor Therapists, 2 Speech Therapists, 1 Clinical Psychologist and a team-coordinator are available at the center to ensure the best intervention.
- CCA French Section: The Lebanese Autism Society (LAS) initiated in 2000 at the Lycee Abdel Kader Hariri-foundation, a pioneer project ensuring the integration of Children with Autism in a general education setting. In the year 2007, the project was relocated at Collège du Sacré-Coeur, Gemmayzeh. 21 students are currently registered in this program catered by 28 professionals.
- CCA English Section: Following the success of the Classes for Children with Autism (CCA-FR) initiated in 2000, the LAS launched another integration project in 2009 in an English speaking



general education setting(CCA-En). The project initially started in Attaya High school and was then relocated in September 2010 to ADDUHA High School – Chamseddine campus, Chatila roundabout. 21 students are enrolled in this program for the year 2016-2017 catered by 24 professionals.

- LASCAIR: The Center for Autism Research and Intervention- LASCAIR opened its' door on the 17th of October 2014. A total of 45 students are registered in this program catered by 35 professionals. This center offers appropriate services for 3 age-groups:
 - Early Intervention Section: students aged between 2 and a half and 5 years old, needing intensive intervention to prepare them for a possible integration in one of our integration projects. 10 students enrolled this program for the year 2016-2017.
 - Specialized Classes: students aged between 6 and 12 years old, requiring a specialized intervention; these students are not able to enroll any of our integration program. 12 students enrolled this program for the year 2016-2017.
 - Pre-vocational and vocational Section: Teenagers and adults benefiting from a full pre-vocational and vocational program suiting their different capacities and skills. 24 teenagers enrolled the pre-vocational and vocational program this school year 2016-2017.
- Summer camp: Every summer the LAS organizes a summer camp for children and teenagers with Autism for a period of 6 weeks. Usually a total number of 30 kids and teenagers are enrolled in the summer camp catered by a total of 19 professionals. Outdoor activities are planned 3 times a week during the summer camp such as swimming, fieldtrips etc...

SD10: Reduced inequality

1. Through its' integration projects CCA-En and CCA-Fr, the LAS is providing the opportunities to children with Autism to be integrated in the least restrictive environment. 42 students benefited from this program during the academic year 2016-2017.
2. Through its' vocational program, the LAS is training adults with Autism to be independent and provide them with skills that would contribute in finding a future job opportunity. Students are being trained in different field such as carpentry, cooking etc. One of our Success story is Ali Tlais our talented painter that has been participating since 2011 in the BIEL Exhibition. By Selling his art work Ali is able to pay for his academic year.

SD17: Partnership for the goals

In order to reach its' different goals, LAS has established different partnership locally and globally; some of the partnerships are mentioned below:

- LAS is a founding member and the coordinator of the Arab Network for Autism (ANA) and of the National Committee for Autism in Lebanon. LAS is also a member of different national and international organizations including Union Nationale des Associations de Parents et d'Institutions pour Enfants Inadaptés (UNAPIEI), World Autism Organization (WAO), AUTISM EUROPE, Association pour la Recherche sur l'Autisme et le Prévention des Inadaptations (ARAPI).
- Different activities and events organized in 2016 to reach LAS' different goals:

Activity or event	Date	Details
Lecture at the CPF	28 January 2016	A lecture about Autism was given to students of the 5eme D at the College Protestant Français. These students held a cake sale to raise funds and awareness about Autism.
HSBC visit to LASCAIR	11 February 2016	As part of their volunteering week, a team from HSBC Bank Lebanon visited LASCAIR the new premises of the Lebanese Autism Society.
"Your day away"	23 rd February 2016	Your Day Away™ is a day away from constantly thinking about the stressful situations families with children with Autism often find themselves in. this event was celebrated at TabliyetMassaad-Gemmayse
Teacher's day Celebration	9 th March 2016	A nice dinner in celebration of our teachers took place on the 9 th of March at Olio, Gemmayse.
Lecture at the CPF	25 February 2016	Mrs. Caroline Arbadji presented the LAS to the students of the college protestant francais
Students from Saint Gregoire visiting LASCAIR	11 February 2016	Students from St Gregoire (3eme) visited LASCAIR premises and interacted with the teenagers of the Vocational Section
Students from College protestant visiting CCA-Fr	18 March 2016	Students of 2nd visited our students of CCA-FR in Gemmayse
Souk el Akel	7 April 2016	Souk El Akel supporting the Lebanese Autism Society- on April 7, 2016

Pre-screening Robinson Crusoe	16 April 2016	Pre-screening of the movie Robinson Crusoe on the 16th of April 2016
Youth Race	10 April 2016	The LAS participate in the Youth race on the 10th of April 2016
Visit from the Saint Coeur Kfarbedian school	11 April 2016	Visit LASCAIR
Lecture at the Haigazian University	18 April 2016	A Lecture was given at the Haigazan University on the occasion of the World Autism Awareness Month; Ali Tlais was one of the panelist to talk about his own experience
Visit of students from Ecole des pereCapucinsHamra	28 April 2016	Students from the "Ecole des peresCapucins visited our LASCAIR premises and interacted with our teenagers of the vocational section
CIS visit to LASCAIR	5 May 2016	CIS students visited LASCAIR
16th Funday @ the Beirut Hippodrome	14 May 2016	LAS organized the 16th Funday at the Beirut Hippodrome on the 14th of May 2016.
Press conference "Runsawa"	12 May 2016	Press conference announcing Runsawa event, at the Headquarters of the Lebanese Autism Society, in Sacre Coeur Gemmayse
Arab University Student visit of LASCAIR	24 May 2016	Psychology students of the Beirut Arab University visited our premises in LASCAIR and interacted with the teenagers of the vocational section
CCA-English student visiting IC Elementary School	17 May 2016	The students of the IC Elementary School invited our CCA-English student for a playdate to raise Autism Awareness
Run Sawa #sawaforaautism	16 May 2016 22 May 2016	On the course of 7 days, 4 ladies (Sonia Hanna, Nadine Kalot, Sandra Gargour, Grace Madi and Hourri Soufian) ran 250Km along the coast of Lebanon to raise funds and awareness for the Lebanese Autism Society
"les copains exposit"	25 May- 1 June 2016	Samer Hanna Photography Exhibition at Galerie Jacques Ouais all proceeds from his sales were donated to the LAS

“Shake Rattle and Roll”- Anti gala dinner	27 May 2016	Event organized at Meat the fish, Aishti Foundation to raise funds for the Lebanese Autism Society
Mini-conference Josef Schovanec	1 June 2016	LAS organized a mini conference at the smallville hotel. Keynote speaker Mr. Josef Schovanec
Beirut Art Fair	15 September 2016	“Lebanese Icons” By Ali Tlais
Future TV with Zaven	23 September 2016	Ali Tlais was a guest during Zaven Kouyoumdjian TV Program “ بلا طول السيرة”
Visit of “ l’union des Français a l’Etranger”	18 October 2016	On the 18th of October, l’union des Français a l’etranger association visited the LAS premises and offered books to the students enrolled in the integration program CCA-Fr.
For and after men shop	10 November 2016	Workshop Christmas Preparation; students of the vocational section were invited to draw; their drawing were used to the packaging of the shop.
Beirut Marathon Association	13 November 2016	More than 789 participants ran for the Lebanese Autism Society
Opera Recital for Autism- Matteo el Khodr	17 November 2016	Matteo el-Khodr singing for the Lebanese Autism Society on the 17th of November 2016 at the villa Sursock. All proceeds were donated to the LAS
“Tarbouche”	1st December 2016	Part of the proceeds were donated by MRs. Joanna Dahdah to The Lebanese Autism Society during the launching of her new Jewellery collection.
Christmas Sale	December 2016	LAS products were on sale during the month of Christmas (Chocolate and Christmas arrangements)
Fundraising dinner organized by the parents committee	3 December 2016	LAS Parents committee organized a event at Nai Restaurant under the patronage of Alaa Zalzali, sale of the tickets benefited the LAS
Christmas at the villa	9 December 2016	For the second year, Christmas at the villa had the pleasure to support the Lebanese Autism Society” The Lebanese Autism Society participated in “Christmas at the villa” on the 9th of December organized by GATA event and promotions; brand ambassador Ghina Ghandour

Light up a blue Christmas tree	10 December 2016	Event organized by the smallville hotel; a Christmas tree was lit up in blue to support the cause of Autism. Minister Elias Abou Saab was invited to attend the event
“lions we sing we serve”	December 2016	Project by Lions International, Nathalie Rousse singing for the Lebanese Autism Society-LAS; all proceedings of the sale of the CD benefited the LAS
Presentation about Autism college protestant francais	15 December 2016	Presentation about Autism was given to students 5eme D from the college protestant in Beirut; the students organized a movie screening to raise funds for the Lebanese Autism Society.
Lecture at the Lycee Franco Libanais, Achrafieh	14 December 2016	A lecture was given to the teenagers of the Lycee Franco Libanais Achrafieh
Visit of the Terminale students of the Soeur Maronites de la Sainte Famille school at LASCAIR	14 December 2016	Terminale students of the Sainte Famille school visited our premises in LASCAIR and interacted with our teenagers