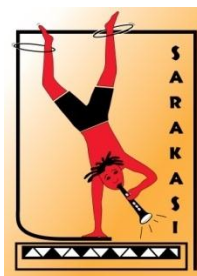


COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

SARAKASI TRUST



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

From: 17th of July 2015

To: 16th of July 2017

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

Please use the box below to include the statement of continued support signed by your organizations Chief Executive or equivalent.

12/10/2017

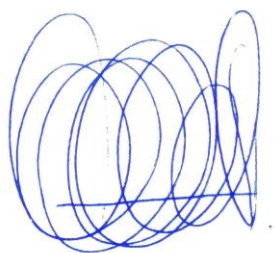
To our stakeholders:

Sarakasi Trust (ST) has been a member of the United Nations Global Compact – Kenyan Chapter, since July 2015. I confirm that ST reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our first Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact and we welcome feedback on its contents.

Sarakasi Trust (www.sarakasi.org) is a performing art charitable trust based in Nairobi Kenya. Its aim is to work towards building capacity in the arts, culture and entertainment sector. The organization has been working in the area of culture for development since its establishment in 2001. The aim is to positively transform the lives of children and youth from low income backgrounds.

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.

Yours Faithfully,



Marion Op het Veld
Co – Founder, Managing Director and Trustee

Part II. Description of Actions

Please use the box below to describe the actions your organization has taken in support of the Global Compact. It is strongly recommended that the actions taken are related to one or more of the specific activities suggested. *Please refer to the complete list of suggested activities for your type of organization found [here](#).*

Engaging with Global Compact Local Networks:

- **International peace day celebrations** in Nairobi where different stakeholders were involved, some of whom were members from the global compact network: with various the County Governments (Kisumu and Nairobi), Interest groups of Persons with Disabilities, Kenya Private Sector Alliance and among other civil societies and non-governmental organizations.

Join and/or propose partnership projects on corporate sustainability

- Civil Society Urban Development Platform (CSUDP) to empower youth from low socio-economic backgrounds.
- Communities clean up campaigns in collaboration with Crime si Poa and Kamiti Maximum Prison.
- Partnership with Special Education Professionals (SEP) to advance the rights of vulnerable children living with disabilities.
- Amani Lazima Project
- Kenya Association of Fundraising Professionals Member to share experiences and learn sustainability strategies in an ever changing donor world.

Engage companies in Global Compact – related issues

- Participation at the Annual Naivasha Hortifair helped to inform exhibitors from the horticulture sector and attendees on the plight of vulnerable children who are placed under institutional care such as Children's Homes, Borstal Institutions and Hospitals.
- Resource mobilization for sustainability of ST has been through the support state, corporate and non-corporate partners such as Civil Society Urban Development Platform, Moments of Joy, Special Educational Professionals, Ubuntu School and Aids Healthcare Foundation.

Join and/or support special initiatives and work streams

During this reporting period, ST was able to run various special programs that have been instrumental in reaching out to communities through its planned activities:

- **Amani Lazima Project**

This is a Swahili word which literally means "*Peace is a Must*". Its a grass root intervention mechanism for disenfranchised youth from informal neighbor hoods who are susceptible to negative influences i.e. mainly from crime and drugs. Together with on the ground stake holders youth are involved in activities) each month in a different slum that are designed to reach out to interest the youth, create a positive attitude, generate self-esteem, a feeling of ownership and to empower the youth. Examples of activities include workshops, mentorship programs, peer to peer reviews, dance and acrobatic trainings among others.

Currently the project integrates the following aspects in its activities:

- **Gender:** Ensuring equal representation of participants to curb gender disparity
- **Environment:** Sensitization of communities on concepts and principles of environment, sustainable development and seeking consensus on collectively tackling environmental issues.
- **Cohesion:** Conducting community workshops, life skills training and involving different stake holders e.g. local administration, disciplined forces and government.

- **Smiles for Change:**

This is a special program under Sarakasi Trust. It aims to promote the health and wellbeing of vulnerable children and youth using arts and laughter. Activities for the program are:

- **Creative:** painting, drawing and crafts.
- **Entertaining:** singing, dancing, drama, clowning, puppetry & poetry writing, music.
- **Educative:** Storytelling, writing, open forums and educative drama on life skills.

To achieve its overall goal, the program is divided under the following categories:

- **Hospital Project:** Sessions are conducted once a week at the biggest referral hospital in East and Central Africa Kenyatta National Hospital. The artists currently reach out to children in the hospital's main paediatric ward (level 3) and the burns unit (level 4)
- **Special Needs Program:** Visits are conducted to Ubuntu School, Maai Mahiu once bi-monthly. This is a day care centre for children living with disabilities.
- **Comprehensive Care Clinic:** Activities are tailor-made to engage children who are living positively during clinic visits. The aim is to reduce stigma, encourage them to comply with medication and also ensure consistency in keeping appointments.
- **Community Sensitization and Training:** These are mainly outreach programs to inform members of the public on various issues as regards child protection, child right and child safeguarding principles.

- **Talanta Project:**

The Talanta Project (Talanta is Kiswahili for 'talent') began in January 2010 and ran for one year. Founded by the Disability Millennium Foundation and Sarakasi Trust, this project involved training, capacity building and performance opportunities for blind and visually impaired musicians and deaf acrobats and dancers recruited from informal settlements and slums and in the process alleviating poverty. The project's mission was to protect and promote differently abled people's rights and advocate for their proven abilities, gifts, talents and bequest in society. Sarakasi continued to involve deaf and hearing-impaired artists in its training program. In 2015 the project offered training to 15 artists every Thursday in dance, acrobatics and Yoga. They also got to perform in 2 events; Disability Awareness at The Boma Hotel in July and Human Rights Day in December at Uhuru Park.

- **Prison Program:**

Sarakasi (through its Smiles for Change program) expanded to Kamiti Maximum Prison a few years ago, where we taught art to a group of 14 clients twice a month, which was done in partnership with Crime Si Poa (Crime is not cool). From 2015 Sarakasi offered other talent classes like acrobatics and music (the latter in cooperation with Sauti Academy). Crime Si Poa Campaign (a program under an NGO called Youth Safety Awareness Initiative), founded by a Kamiti inmate, is a lobby and advocacy program that seeks to engage youth in Kenya against crime and delinquent behaviour through advocacy and cultural events. Other activities Sarakasi has organized in 2015 in cooperation with Crime Si Poa were a clean up of Ngara, a Hip Hop Hook Up Street edition in Muranga town and a Hip Hop Hook Up Talent exchange event in Kamiti Maximum prison.

Participate in Global Compact global and local events:

- **Building Future Markets:** This focused on the challenges of addressing skills gap and employability of youth in Kenya, and identified the key opportunities and initiatives which can be

implemented by the various stakeholders across both private and public sector in partnership with the civil society and development community. It was useful as one of the goals of Sarakasi is to eventually be accredited as an institution of training in arts and culture, with a recognized curriculum by government and other actors in TVET.

- **Alternative Dispute Resolution Forum:** The emphasis of the discussion was to share information of the need to resolve disputes without antagonizing the adverse partying a bid to maintain cordiality in professional relationships. It's importance extends also in the field of arts and culture and more so for non- profits where relationships with partners and stakeholders are key to ensure success of any initiative aimed towards the public good.
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- **Developing Inclusive Value Chains:** Apart from gathering knowledge on success factors, challenges and enablers for developing and replicating inclusive value chains the event presented a crucial opportunity to network with stakeholders and potential partners.

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.

- Diversifying funding base and securing funding to ensure extension of Sarakasi Trust's activities for another 2 years. On average 35% of income secured was through organization's own income generating activities. The Trust celebrated 15 years of existence as and Arts and Culture development center in 2015.
- Increased community outreach and sensitization programs :
 - 12 Monthly trainings and workshops, notable ones include Voter education in collaboration with IEBC, Youth Fund & Youth Enterprise Fund Sensitization Campaign with Kisumu County Government etc.
 - Partnered with Crime Si Poa, led to the development of a weekly Acrobatics Prison's Program, where # inmates learn various skills in acrobatics.
 - 18 community sensitization campaigns on children with disabilities in collaboration with Special Education Professionals. These were held in 3 different centers for therapies of children with special needs where a total of 133 siblings of children with disabilities, participated, 70 mothers and 15 fathers.
 - 6 disco for youth with special needs event which was organized and held in partnership with SEP. An average of 150 children and youth were in attendance from different centers for children with special needs.
- Attended 3 global compact global and local events within the first year of membership.
- Formalized partnerships with 6 institutions and/or organizations that offer aim to better the life situation of vulnerable children and youth. Membership in various networks to further enhance project, program and consequently organization's sustainability e.g. Kenya Association of Fundraising Professionals and Global Compact Network – Kenya Chapter.
- Exploring merchandizing initiatives to further enhance the financial sustainability of the project i.e. A total of 10 Craft fairs and Bazaars,
- Increased engagement with stake holders and policy makers on issues regarding children and youth. Engage 5 state representatives to participate in community initiatives of the organization i.e. Local Administration – county administrators, chiefs, disciplined forces/police, representatives from parastatals and national government.
- Through Talanta Project, 15 hearing impaired artists were trained every week for one year in dance, acrobatics and Yoga. They also got to perform in 2 events; Disability Awareness at The Boma Hotel Kenya and Human Rights Day at Uhuru Park, Nairobi Kenya.