

## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

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### MAHAK – the Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer

#### Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 30/11/2016

To: 30/11/2018

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

01/12/2018

*To our stakeholders:*

I am pleased to confirm that MAHAK- the Society to Support Children Suffering from cancer 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 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,



Arash Ahmadian

Chief Executive Officer

## **Part II and Part III. Description of Actions and Measurement of Outcomes**

MAHAK - the Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer is a charity based organization established 27 years ago and continues since as an independent NGO exclusively funded by benevolent citizens concerned with the welfare of children with cancer and their families.

As of March 2018, MAHAK operated with 829 paid staff and hundreds of volunteers scattered across Iran, providing full treatment, research, and psycho-social support to every Iranian and non-Iranian family whose child has cancer and is in need of financial and medical support. This inclusive service has been provided to over 30,293 cases by end of March 2018 with close to 18,000 active cases receiving treatment and psycho-social support in all public and university hospitals throughout the country with pediatric oncology wards.

The followings are MAHAK's activities during 2016 and 2018 which are categorized below:

### **A) Join and/or propose partnership projects on corporate sustainability**

#### **- Opening the first non-governmental Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) Typing Bank in Iran - 2017**

MAHAK has always strived to promote the concept of social responsibility among all the strata of the society including business entities, academicians, students and public sector through organizing various congresses with the presence of experts in this field in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017. Accordingly, MAHAK has proposed and implemented partnerships on corporate sustainability and engage with other stakeholders to expand and increase the quality of services provision to cancer-stricken children and their families. For Instance, by organizing the 4th CSR congress, MAHAK was able to inaugurate the 1st Non-governmental HLA typing bank in July 2017 facilitated through a MOU with a private sector entity under the rubric of a social responsibility action according to which 5000 donated samples was planned to be collected.

By implementing the one-year project of 'Developing MAHAK's Human Leucocyte Antigen (HLA) typing bank', MAHAK thrived to introduce and offer a new and sustainable method of donation to all strata of the society. All eligible people from 18 to 50 are able to join this center and donate stem cells to the matched patients in need of transplantation.

Currently, this center has collected more than 6000 samples and due to its nature which had a different and specific project management method with the necessity of utilizing multi-disciplinary specialties, it was recognized as the Gold Winner of the International Project Management Association (IPMA) Global Project Achievement Award 2018 in the category of 'Sustainable Development Projects'.

By promoting the concept of donation in a novel manner which consequently leads to expanding and increasing the members of this center, MAHAK is striving to join international HLA typing banks in order to provide service to not only cancer-stricken children but also all patients in need of stem cell which in turn increases the chances of finding match donors for MAHAK children.

**- Empowering other charities throughout the country to increase the quality of service provision for cancer-stricken children and their families**

MAHAK has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Kassa Charity (Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer - Isfahan) and a MOU with Khorassan Charity (Khorasan Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer) to accelerate the process of providing treatment and support services to children with cancer throughout the country.

According to these MOUs, signed in May 2016, facilitated access to services provided by MAHAK, paid on-site costs, and continued practices for supporting cancer patients were agreed on so that no child with cancer will be deprived from treatment due to poverty and lack of facilities in their home town.

In these MOUs, MAHAK is responsible for covering 85% of expenses in the first year and the remaining 15% covered by the other party. Gradually and with the expansion of the activities of these two charities and their accumulated experience, the required resources are less covered by

MAHAK and increasingly more by benefactors. It should be mentioned that in this process, MAHAK will not stop the consultation and support coverage.

## **B) Engage Companies in Global Compact- related issues**

Organizing various specialized conferences creates a shared atmosphere among experts and specialists in the field of providing cancer-stricken with the most qualified services in order to increase the quality of their life. On the other hand, organizing such gatherings will engage different business entities in Global Compact-focused issues including Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). It should be mentioned that MAHAK has organized all the conferences free of charge based on its social responsibility towards the society to spread its knowledge and experience which has been attained through available resources from society through steadfast support of its ever expanding family of interested benefactors.

A brief description of the related conferences held by MAHAK during the last two years is as follows:

### **- The '4<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Corporate Social Responsibility with the theme of 'CSR in practice' in February 2017**

This congress was held with the main them of 'CSR in Practice' and introduced the successful CSR projects in different sections including business entities and NGOs. MAHAK introduced its 'Developing Human Leucocyte Antigen (HLA) typing bank' project during this conference which has led to an agreement with a private sector company as the financial sponsor of this project. In fact, MAHAK introducing this project as a sustainable case to the participants was designed to encourage them to actively take part in realizing the principles of Global Compact and ultimately, the SDGs in the role of sponsor. The participants of this congress were around 400 individuals from national and international business entities, NGOs, universities and the government.

Supporting this project by a private sector company created the context for generating added value both for MAHAK and that entity since a great opportunity has been made for saving many lives in the future. In other words, the outcome of this partnership is everlasting since development of this bank and provision of specialized healthcare in the field of transplantation

will create additional capacity for providing services to all patient groups in need of transplantation.

**- The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on ‘the Role of Support Services in Multidisciplinary Treatment of Childhood Cancer’**

MAHAK held the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Support Services Congress in November 2017 in the presence of 400 specialists in the fields of social work, psychology and oncology as well as MAHAK’s volunteer social workers. The new and the applicable methods were introduced to the participants which has assisted them to improve their abilities and the level of services they are seeking to provide. During this congress, MAHAK benefited from different expert knowledge and experience including Prof. Eric Bouffet, Head of International Society for Pediatric Oncology (SIOP) who provided advice in actualizing multidisciplinary approach at MAHAK Hospital as the first treatment center in Iran.

**- The ‘3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial International Pediatric Oncology Congress’**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Pediatric Oncology Congress in September 2018 was organized with the cooperation of Iranian Society of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology (ISPHO) and German Society for Pediatric Oncology and Hematology (GPOH) and hosted 300 attendees including national and international oncologists, medical experts and students. During this congress, the students had the chance of having poster presentation, meeting with the experts and oncologists and introducing their plans in order to familiarize them with updated international standards and create opportunities for executing them.

Since 2017, MAHAK has developed a more responsible approach towards environment by organizing its congresses with the aim of reducing natural and financial resources’ consumption. In the same vein, the following actions have been undertaken:

- No printed brochures
- Reduction in number of printed posters
- Reduction in catering expenses by utilizing the volunteers’ capacity

### **C) Participation in Global Compact global and local events**

Due to the fact that there are no Global Compact offices or Local Networks in Iran, unfortunately, we have no chance of participating in local events. But ever since our membership has been accepted by Global Compact, we have strived to sharpen our focus and strengthen our efforts to participate in GC global events and online programs to better know this organization and follow its rules more effectively.

### **D) Implementing and promoting the ten principles of UN Global Compact in the management and administration of the organization**

Adherence to Global Compact ten principles and in a more comprehensive level, to UN Sustainable Development Goals is what leads MAHAK to realize the 3<sup>rd</sup> goal of SDGs: “Good Health and Well-being”. This charity organization which is active in supporting cancer-stricken children with more than 800 staff and thousands of volunteer has planned and implemented its strategies and programs based on Global Compact principles in different areas of Human Rights, labor, Environment and Anti-corruption and has always strived to promote the concept of collaboration with other individuals and organizations from various strata of the society. Accordingly, MAHAK continuously provides its stakeholders with the reports on the current status of realizing Global Compact principles based on its core values of transparency and accountability.

MAHAK accepts as true the equal right of patients in receiving treatment services regardless of their race, nationality or geographic location. In the same vein, during its third strategic plan, this organization is focusing on integration of treatment services at MAHAK hospital and comprehensive integration of social work and psychological services for cancer-stricken children and their families across the country.

To adapt its performance with global standards, to ensure that the public donations are utilized in the best way and in order to have continuous advancements and improvements, MAHAK participated in SGS NGO Benchmarking for the 8<sup>th</sup> time in 2018 as one of the few charities in Iran

which has always volunteered to be audited. Based on the findings of this benchmarking exercise, SGS announced that MAHAK has become the top scorer in the global NGO Benchmark practice with a score of 97.5% from among all the global organizations which have valid certificates in October 2018.

One of the important points which cannot be stressed enough is that all the achievements made by MAHAK during the past 27 years of its activities have only been obtained due to the support of the ever-expanding family of MAHAK towards cancer-stricken children. We pay tribute to and appreciate all the benefactors and supporters who have the concern of providing the best treatment and welfare for the children with cancer and their families.