



Crossroads
Foundation
國際十字路會

**CONNECTING
PEOPLE IN A
WORLD
OF NEED**
聯繫世界回應需要

To Whom It May Concern,

**Crossroads Foundation's Communication on Engagement (COE) due October 25, 2019
Period reported on: Oct 2017-Sep 2019**

I am pleased to confirm that Crossroads Foundation 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 remain committed to supporting the Global Compact initiatives and upholding its principles through our work in the coming years.


Yours faithfully

CROSSROADS FOUNDATION
Malcolm Begbie
Director



Crossroads Village, 2 Castle Peak Road, Gold Coast, Tuen Mun, Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2984 9309 Fax: +852 2771 1715 Email: enquiries@crossroads.org.hk Web: www.crossroads.org.hk
香港新界屯門青山公路2號國際十字路會 電話: +852 2984 9309 傳真: +852 2771 1715 電郵: enquiries@crossroads.org.hk



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Communication on Engagement

due October 2019

Description of Actions

Supporting the Global Compact's work to engage businesses in sustainability efforts

Crossroads Foundation directly supports the work of the Global Compact by maintaining the business.un.org website

In 2010, Crossroads, through its Global Hand division, launched the UN-business partnerships website, business.un.org. The lead agency within the UN on this project was the Global Compact.

Over the years, Crossroads has made a number of changes to the business.un.org website in order to highlight Global Compact priorities and areas of focus and it is now called the UN-Business Action Hub. Between October 2017 and September 2019, Crossroads' main focus has been on maintaining the business.un.org website.

Growing business commitment to address global need

Crossroads Foundation directly increases businesses' commitment to their own sustainability efforts through our simulation programmes

Crossroads Foundation offers companies the chance to participate in simulation x-periences in conjunction with their Corporate Social Responsibility programmes. In response, companies are looking for ways to develop their policies with programmes meaningful to their industry sector, core competencies and employee interests. Our programmes place strong emphasis on debriefing after the x-periences:

- discussing ways they can use their expertise to engage with global need
- brainstorming re corporate social footprint
- exploring projects/partnership possibilities with which they may engage
- service opportunities at Crossroads

Each year since 2009, Crossroads has brought a simulation to the World Economic Forum (WEF) to help WEF delegates engage with poverty issues. In 2018 and 2019, we again ran our "Day in the Life of a Refugee" simulation, this time on the official WEF programme. Participants stepped into the shoes of refugees for just an hour. They listened to former refugees and humanitarian workers from the field share first-hand perspectives. They were then invited during the debrief to consider how they could each use who they are, their resources, their influence and core strengths, to make a difference to the refugee situation and the root problems that cause people to flee.

Enabling business action in response to global need

Crossroads Foundation provides opportunities for businesses to respond to global need through donations of Gifts-in-Kind to its warehouse in Hong Kong and globally through its web platform Global Hand, and by volunteering time and services to our operations.

Crossroads takes high-quality goods which Hong Kong no longer wants and redistributes them to people in need, locally and internationally. Many companies in Hong Kong donate goods as part of their actions for sustainability. Donations include computers and electrical items, new clothing and footwear, office furniture, hotel furniture and furnishings as well as many other goods types.

As well as our physical warehouse, Crossroads has a virtual one: Global Hand (www.globalhand.org).

Anywhere in the world, real time, any time, businesses with quality goods or services to donate can offer them through our Global Hand service. We then pass on the offer to our network of NGOs in Europe, Africa, SE Asia, Central Asia and the Americas seeking the right 'match.'

Some examples between October 2017 and September 2019 include major footwear and apparel companies making available new stock for donation in China, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines: giving back to the communities where their goods are manufactured.

As well as receiving and distributing corporate donations of gifts-in-kind, Crossroads is a popular option for companies arranging volunteering days for their staff, to engage them in issues to do with corporate sustainability. Furthermore, Crossroads' own operations are supported by pro bono services given by companies outworking their corporate sustainability goals by partnering with our organisation.

Promoting and modeling fair business practices

Crossroads Foundation supports the Global Compact principles of Human Rights and Labor through its Global Handicrafts division.

In many ways, ours is an unfair world. Across the planet, people in struggling economies may work hard to produce goods for which they receive little or no profit. Middlemen often buy at unfair prices that leave producers plagued with poor working conditions, health problems, lack of education and damage to the environment. All products of Crossroads' Global Handicrafts Marketplace are purchased on fair trade principles, with appropriate payment given to those who grew or produced them.

The income generated benefits not only the individuals with the gift of dignified work and fair conditions, but also helps the broader community with benefits such as better education opportunities, improved roads, supply of water and more. We also run the Silk Road Café, where refreshments are purchased on a fair trade basis to help provide a fair income for suppliers in struggling economies.

What are Crossroads' fair trade principles?

- Fair price: Trading in ways that support sustainable answers to poverty.
- Fair share: Agreeing to appropriate profit share through dialogue and participation.
- Fair chance: Developing producers' skill sets and access to new markets, local and global.
- Fair work: Ensuring no abuse of child labour, gender equity and safe conditions.

- Fair growth: Investing in community improvement, with producer cooperatives setting priorities.
- Fair deal: Ensuring transparency and accountability at each level of trade.
- Fair care: Applying environmentally responsible methods of production.
- Fair mind: Encouraging shoppers to buy Fair Trade.

Promoting and modeling commitment to environmental best practice

Crossroads Foundation supports the Global Compact principles of Environment by engaging businesses in environmental sustainability actions and also through its core operations

At Crossroads we target a range of strategies locally and globally that advocate for environmental sustainability. We support companies by facilitating their actions to implement environmental sustainability policies by receiving their donated goods which we reuse rather than having the company send them to landfill. On our own property, we outwork the Global Compact principle number 8 by undertaking initiatives to support greater environmental responsibility such as using biodegradable plates at lunch, energy-efficient air-conditioners in our buildings, and focusing on recycling materials.

Supporting actions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Many of Crossroads Foundation's core activities are in support of the Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 1 - No poverty. Crossroads' core activities are built around the goal of poverty reduction in communities locally and internationally.

SDG 3 - Good health and well-being. Many of Crossroads' international shipments contain donated medical equipment for consignees to use in health and well-being initiatives.

SDG 4 - Quality education. Many of Crossroads' international shipment consignees are working towards this goal. Crossroads' shipments often contain many items needed to support education goals, such as school desks and chairs, computers, teaching materials, stationery.

SDG 5 - Gender equality. Many of Crossroads' international shipment consignees are working towards this goal.

SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy. Crossroads' shipments have contributed solar lamps for use in Uganda and Greece.

SDG 8 - Decent work and Economic growth. Crossroads contributes to decent work and economic growth through its international shipments of donated goods, providing tools for beneficiary use or for skills training. In addition, through its Global Handicrafts arm, Crossroads provides a market for handicrafts producers around the world, increasing their sales and ensuring their working conditions are fair.

SDG 10 - Reduced inequalities. Crossroads empowers the poor through its core activities.

SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities. Most of Crossroads' international shipments are donated goods of a capital nature, promoting self sufficiency in the communities where they are sent.

SDG 12 - Responsible production and consumption. Crossroads provides ways for businesses to ensure responsible consumption of their excess stock by facilitating donations-in-kind of such stock through its Global Distribution and Global Hand arms, where the goods can be given a new life in communities around the world.

SDG 17 - Partnerships for the goals. Crossroads' business.un.org website is one of the key links on the Global Compact's SDG page to direct businesses to actions for achieving SDG 17. In addition, many of Crossroads' core activities involve engaging businesses in partnerships for sustainable development, as outlined in this report.

Measurement of Outcomes

Through the **business.un.org website** in Oct 2017-Sep 2019:

- An average of 50 new users a month have joined the website to participate in the Global Compact's efforts on corporate sustainability
- 509 projects were registered by businesses looking to collaborate with other businesses and NGOs.
- 116 proposals were made in order to connect businesses with appropriate UN agencies.

In Oct 2017-Sept 2019, the total number of participants from the business world that have taken part in our **simulations** was more than 2,100. These came from 44 different companies, including:

AirBNB	DP World
Asia Pacific Adventure Ltd.	Ethos International
AustCham Hong Kong and Macau	Facebook Inc
BlackRock Inc	Fox Network Group Asia
C&A	GIC Private Ltd
Cathay Pacific Airways	Global Development Group
Chatteris Educational Foundation	Google Inc.
Citigroup	Harbour City
CLSA	Hasbro
Community Business Limited	Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE)
Cross Fields, Japan	HRnet One (Hong Kong) Ltd
Deckers Brands	HSBC Bank International

IDEAS Foundation	Silk Road Technical Development Corporation
Interface	Societe Generale (SocGen)
J.P. Morgan	Standard Chartered Bank
Linklaters	Sun Life Financial Asia
Manulife	The Body Shop
Modern Terminals Ltd.	UBS AG
Moody's Investors Service	Under Armour
MTR Corporation Ltd	Viking Global Investors LP
Oaktree Capital	Williams Sonoma
Ocean Park Corporation	

In addition to the above, in 2018 and 2019, Crossroads ran “**A Day in the Life of a Refugee**” at the **World Economic Forum** for more than 1000 participants, including nearly 400 from the business world (many of whom are Global Compact participants).

More than 220 companies **donated goods** to Crossroads’ warehouse between October 2017 and September 2019.

Through the **Global Hand website**, between October 2017 and September 2019, more than 90 offers were matched with 66 organisations working in areas such as refugees, education, medical clinics, orphanages, gender equality and poverty alleviation.

Between October 2017 and September 2019, we had at least 65 companies send staff to support our work by **volunteering** on our campus, engaging in our poverty alleviation and sustainability goals. In addition, Crossroads’ legal, audit and many other services are conducted **pro bono** by generous companies giving their time to support our sustainability goals.

The **Global Handicrafts division**, through its fair trade shop and café, contributes a surplus to the overall functioning of the philanthropic side of the work. In October 2017-September 2019, the overall revenue for the Marketplace and Café combined was HK\$1,856,637. This represents funds flowing to 63 different producers in 32 countries.

Through our operations, Crossroads **recycled** more than 48,600 kg of materials in October 2017-September 2019.

Crossroads Foundation, October 2019