

2019

UN Global Compact Initiative

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

2019

SEBC | 19 Shafei Street, Fursan Area, P.O. Box 36453, Tel +963116133865, Fax +963116133866, email:
sebc@sebcysria.com Website: www.sebcysria.com

CONTENTS

CONTENTS 1

STATEMENT: COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL COMPACT INITIATIVE..... 2

ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD 3

HUMAN RIGHTS 3

ECONOMIC VIOLENCE BOOKLET..... 3

LABOUR 3

SYRIAN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAMME (SVET)..... 3

THE ENVIRONMENT..... 4

SYRIAN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAMME (SVET)..... 4

UNDP’S YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME (YLP) 4

UNFPA YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAMME 4

MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOME..... 5

ANNEXES 6

LETTER PUBLISHED ON SEBC WEBSITE 6

STATEMENT: COMMITMENT TO THE GLOBAL COMPACT INITIATIVE

Syria is moving towards post-crisis development, early recovery, reconstruction initiatives and projects with mandates focusing on supporting the lives of the Syrian people in the aftermath of the crisis. Humanitarian assistance is giving way to humanitarian PLUS approaches with the focus now being on increasing the resilience of the Syrian people, bettering their livelihood prospects and helping them become more creative and ultimately more productive.

The Syrian Enterprise & Business Centre continues its resolve to contribute to developing the business community by empowering start-ups through entrepreneurial support actions including training, vocational training and incubation services. It is leveraging on this support to advocate the UN Global Compact Initiative, and is working to create increasing awareness on the side of young entrepreneurs as to its main principles and the practices relevant to consecrate them in terms of actual practice.

Given the above, I would like to take this opportunity to reassert SEBC's full support and utter commitment to the UN Global Compact Initiative, MDGs and SDGs, assuring that SEBC was and will continue to work efficiently and effectively in implementing its projects despite the difficult circumstances and political instability in the region.

Yours Sincerely,

Noha Chuck

CEO

ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD

The activities of SEBC during the reporting period were focused on labour and environment aspects through the delivery of an extensive vocational training programme. The Programme incorporates the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation and the increased attention to environmental considerations, dealing with a more precautionary approach to environmental challenges and promotion of greater environmental responsibility. Therefore, SEBC encouraged the development of environmentally friendly technologies.

HUMAN RIGHTS

ECONOMIC VIOLENCE BOOKLET

Within its endeavours to fight economic violence as a form of human rights abuse, SEBC and in cooperation with UNFPA, published a booklet entitled "Economic Violence: Concepts, Laws and International Conventions". The booklet dealt with a variety of related issues including gender based economic violence and economic violence targeting children, the elderly, women and workers. The booklet tackled economic violence from the Syrian law perspective and the international charters, and what are the protective measures that everyone should take to protect its rights.

The booklet was circulated to a number of businesses included in SEBC's database, in addition to chambers of commerce and industry in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Deir Ezzor, and Aleppo. Twenty-five NGOs located in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Misyaf, Al Qamishli and Homs received copies of the booklet.

LABOUR

SYRIAN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAMME (SVET)

Collaborating with the Syrian chambers of commerce and industry, SEBC is implementing an extensive vocational training programme since April 2018, targeting 270 young female and male Syrians aged between 18 and 35. The programme aims to bring its beneficiaries to a professional mastery level of one of four vocational competency areas dealing with:

1. Programmable logic controllers and micro controllers,
2. Residential and industrial electric installations,
3. Food Processing, and
4. Home Repair.

Each training course includes 600 hours of vocational training and 150 hours of soft skills, social cohesion and awareness raising topics, including, from a labour oriented prospect, the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

The programme itself has been fully committed to the elimination of all sorts of discrimination and has managed to take on board 270 young Syrians representing the full spectrum of the Syrian society,

including males, females and persons with disabilities, as well as, diverse political, religious, ethnic and sectarian backgrounds.

In their capacity as potential future businesses, participants were urged to fully respect principles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 of the UN Global Compact Initiative; with respect to the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour, and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation in addition to working against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

THE ENVIRONMENT

SYRIAN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAMME (SVET)

The development of the SVET curricula included sections devoted to occupational safety and protection of the environment, with the programme serving as an ideal platform to instil greater awareness on the part of the programme beneficiaries as to global warming, environmental challenges and the best industrial practices that can mitigate man's negative footprint on the environment.

A total of 35 projects made by groups of the SVET trainees will be incubated in SEBC Business-Incubator. Special attention has been paid to promoting environmental considerations by assigning special evaluation system that emphasizes special marks to those projects that are innovative and environmentally friendly and to power generation projects that resolve to solar energy alternatives.

UNDP'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME (YLP)

As part of its partnership with UNDP in delivering the UNDP's Youth Leadership Programme, SEBC implemented on 15 October 2019 a SDGs awareness raising session that targeted 33 young Syrian males and females. The session included an activity where the beneficiaries were divided into 5 groups with each group containing 6 to 7 persons. Each group was asked to choose a minimum of 3 goals from the 17 SDGs and come up with a project idea that corresponds with the goals selected, provided the goals are not duplicated within the groups.

One group had chosen three goals (goal 5: Gender Equality, goal 14: Life below Water, goal 15: Life on Land) and their project idea was a Nature Reserve, whereas another group selected (goal 4: Quality Education, goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, goal 13: Climate Action) and their project idea was an environmentally friendly school bus powered by solar energy.

UNFPA YOUTH SUPPORT PROGRAMME

In cooperation with UNFPA and as part of its Youth Support Programme, SEBC provided support to a local community initiative entitled "A Cleaner Environment for Better Health". Targeting 84 individuals in Homs, the initiative called for greater environment responsibility and was followed by field action where the participants planted trees in Al Waer area in Homs and contributed to recycling piles of plastic made material in their respective neighbourhoods.

MEASUREMENT OF OUTCOME

We can summarize the following outcomes:

- a) A number of businesses included in SEBC's database, in addition to chambers of commerce and industry in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Deir Ezzor, and Aleppo, and 25 NGOs located in Damascus, Rural Damascus, Misyaf, Al Qamishli and Homs gained increased awareness of economic violence as a form of human rights abuse.
- b) Over 270 people including entrepreneurs, trainers and partner staff gaining increased awareness with respect to principles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10 of the UN Global Compact Initiative; with respect to the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour, and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation in addition to working against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.
- c) Over 270 people including entrepreneurs, trainers and partner staff gained greater awareness with respect to global warming, environmental challenges and the best industrial practices that can mitigate man's negative footprint on the environment.
- d) Thirty-three young Syrian males and females received awareness on SDGs and came up with ideas reflecting their concern for the environment through the development of environmentally friendly technologies.
- e) 84 individuals participated in planting trees and recycling plastic materials.

ANNEXES

LETTER PUBLISHED ON SEBC WEBSITE

**10 principles of UN Global Compact Initiative**

The UN Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption.

SEBC would hereby like to take this opportunity to encourage all partners to contribute to the United Nations Global Compact Initiative by committing to its 10 principles as follows:

Human Rights

- Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour

- Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
- Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

- Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Anti-Corruption

- Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

For further information, guidance material, please visit the Global Compact website: www.unglobalcompact.org