

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Concern Worldwide



Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: 30th May 2018 to 30th May 2020

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

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H.E. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York, NY 10017
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

Statement of continued support:

Concern Worldwide (hereafter "Concern") in Ireland and its subsidiaries in the US and the UK; continue to support the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Concern recognises that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (CoE) that describes our organisation's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact.

Concern has been a member of the UN Global Compact since May 2016. Over the past 2 years, Concern has supported sustainable and socially responsible actions and engaged the private sector in supporting societal change. We support public accountability and transparency, and therefore have included a report on progress according to the Global Compact CoE policy.

Below is a description of our actions and measured progress to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact between May 2018 and May 2020. Concern welcomes any feedback from UNGC regarding our accountability.

Sincerely yours,



Dominic MacSorley
Chief Executive Officer, Concern Worldwide

Part II. Description of Actions

Through the following description and examples, Concern demonstrates its efforts of fostering relationships with the private sector and supporting the implementation of the Global Compact's ten principles that focus around human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

The *Concern Strategic Plan 2016-2020: Leaving no one behind*, sets ambitious targets to tackle extreme poverty both at local and at international levels through both life-saving humanitarian responses and making lasting improvements in extreme poor households through long term development programming. Our approach fully supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Concern believes strategies to achieve these goals in a sustainable way, requires collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including government, non-government, multilateral and private sector.

The principles to engage private sector donors in Concern's strategy are:

- A commitment to engaging with businesses with values and principles that resonate with our own.
- All funding opportunities should be assessed for their potential to grow the 'shared value' pipeline of opportunities.
- We aim to engage private sector actors in a deeper and more sustainable way and to increase their loyalty and longer-term interest in the work of Concern.
- The recognition that every corporation and company is different, and by engaging the right teams for the right opportunities, Concern can offer tailored partnerships of the highest standards, and be seen as an example of best practice in private sector engagement.

To engage private sector implementing partners, we have a number of key policies, which guide our work and engagement, including *How Concern Understands Extreme Poverty, Code of Conduct and Programme Participant Protection Policy and associated policies, Ethical Fundraising Relationships with the Corporate Sector*). Concern's partner organisations are expected to comply with the standards of behaviour outlined Concern's Code of Conduct and associated policies when partnering with Concern. In our partnerships with the private sector we are guided by the following principles:

1. **Human Rights** – the private sector organisation should respect universal human rights
2. **Labour standards** – the private sector organisation should show a commitment to core labour standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) particularly:
 - a. freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining,
 - b. evidence of non-discrimination in employment practices,
 - c. have policies and procedures to prevent child labour,
 - d. a commitment to prevention of all forms of sexual exploitation and harassment
3. **Environmental standards** – private sector partners should respect the environment and avoid environmental damage
4. **Anti-corruption standards** – private sector partners should work against corruption in all its forms including extortion and bribery.

Examples of Concern's work with the private sector:

Example from a Zurich Foundation-funded program entitled 'Zurich Floods Resilience Alliance phase 2':

In Bangladesh, Concern partners with Zurich Insurance Group (also a member of the UN Global Compact) through the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance, a multi-sectoral partnership focusing on finding practical ways to work with communities in developed and developing countries to strengthen their resilience to flooding risk.

The Zurich Foundation (funded by the Zurich Insurance Group) and the partners (NGOs and academic institutes) collaborate to combine a range of skills to achieve the best possible results to reduce the negative impact of floods on people's wellbeing. One of the main outputs of the Zurich Flood Resilience Alliance is the development of a Flood Resilience Measurement Tool. In the first phase of the programme, the Flood Resilience Management Tool (FRMT) was used in over 110 communities in 13 programmes in nine countries, generating over 1.1 million data points. It allows users to generate evidence about the ways in which a given area or community are already resilient to floods, as well as providing a guide to further develop this resilience. This is the first resilience measurement framework to systematically collect the data needed to generate the evidence base for decisions on the most effective pre-flood actions. Zurich brought Alliance partners including Concern together in 2018 to initiate Phase 2 of the Flood Resilience

Programme which involved applying the Flood Resilience Measurement Tool for Communities (FRMC) in additional communities. This tool, the first measurement of resilience to be applied on a large scale, is fully integrated into Concern's community programming in a flood prone area of Bangladesh and is generating data for empirical evidence on flood resilience.

Example from a UK government funded program entitled 'Building Disaster Resilience Programme (BDRP)' in Pakistan:

In Pakistan, Concern piloted a Public and Private Partnership (PPP) by linking farmers with the decentralised Punjab province government's Department of Agriculture (Government of Punjab) and Telenor (a telecommunications company) to provide Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) based information through a range of mobile applications. The information provided included weather forecasting, farmer advisory services customised for different crops, and access to relevant market information (such as sale/purchase unit rate and market trends).

Example from an Irish Aid funded program entitled 'Program for Attainment of Rights to Livelihoods 2012-2015' in Malawi:

In Malawi, Concern worked with Auction Holdings Commodity Exchange (AHCX), a marketplace commodity exchange company where buyers and sellers trade maize, soya beans, groundnuts, pigeon peas, rice and cotton. In this instance, farmers were supported to join the commodity exchange (Concern paid the initial membership fee for the groups), deposit their crops in AHCX and trade their commodity crops nationwide. They are also able to access credit by using warehouse receipts as collateral.

Example from multiple country programmes using mobile network operators for cash transfers:

Across several countries, Concern has worked with various mobile network operators for cash transfers in Somalia, Burundi, Kenya Niger and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Concern actively works with the private sector to utilise technology to find innovative ways of providing safe cash-based assistance to respond to humanitarian needs and support extreme poor households in longer-term development programmes to move out of poverty.

In Malawi, the mobile telecommunications company Airtel was more engaged in developing the product than other collaborations with service providers. For instance, in a program entitled 'INGO Consortium Emergency Cash Transfer Response to the 2015-2016 Food Crisis in Malawi' Concern was a sub-grantee to Save the Children (funded primarily by the UK government) where cash was delivered through Airtel Money e-transfers to individuals' Airtel Money accounts. Participating households were provided with mobile phones and SIM cards to facilitate the e-transfer. The use of phones to convey accurate information reduces risks to beneficiaries who are travelling to a distribution site. In one district, Airtel also organised training for recipients on

the use of mobile phones. As well as in Malawi, Airtel is a UNGC member in the DRC and in Kenya.

Example from an EU funded consortium led by People in Need (PIN) entitled ‘Job creation for potential migrants in Addis Ababa’ in Ethiopia:

In Ethiopia, as part of an EU funded consortium led by People in Need (PIN) entitled ‘Job creation for potential migrants in Addis Ababa’, Concern engages with a sectoral platform for three industrial sectors. The aim of the collaboration was to improve coordination among private sector, technical and vocational education and training entities and the public employment service in the areas of skills development, apprenticeships with the aim of increasing broader employment opportunities. The programme aims to improve the capacity of three selected industrial clusters, leather, construction and metalwork to create more appropriate job opportunities. The project is part of the EU’s broader programme ‘Stemming Irregular Migration from Northern and Central Ethiopia’. Programme participants are potential vulnerable migrants, returnees or Eritrean refugees with a particular focus on vulnerable youths and women.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Establishing and active collaboration with the private sector: Concern has worked with UNGC business participants to support the values of UNGC and the SDGs. Some corporate examples include Archer Daniels Midland, Zurich Insurance Group, Microsoft Corporation, Accenture, Aid:Tech, Philips.

Development, Dissemination and Implementation of Concern Policies aligned with the Global Compact’s principles: Concern’s engagement with the private sector is guided by its organisational strategic plan, Concern’s policy on ethical fundraising relationships with the private sector, private sector strategy, its Code of Conduct and associated policies and other Concern sectoral policies (such as Livelihoods, Partnerships, Nutrition, Health, and Education). Our private sector partners are required to adhere to Concern’s Code of Conduct and associated policies. Concern is also an accredited member of the Core Humanitarian Standard. Concern upholds humanitarian principles, international human rights and labour standards, environmental standards, anti-corruption standards in line with UNGC principles.

Beneficiaries: Concern reached 92,191 beneficiaries through our private sector engagement in 2019.

Expertise: Concern contributes expertise to UNGC and to other UNGC members by carrying out work in human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Some examples include our work in livelihoods, emergency response, health, gender equality and education in developing countries.

Participation in business networks: Concern engages in networks that bring humanitarian organisations and private sector actors together to address global development issues and the advancement of the SDGs. For example, as a member of Nethope, Concern supports the effort to enable cross-sector collaboration between non-profits and innovative companies to develop better programmes, mitigate risks, and scale benefits for greater impact in the communities in which we work. In addition, Concern engages with international Irish business networks in table discussions and webinars to draw attention to Concern's work within the humanitarian and development space in that region and mobilise Irish business to support us. This support takes the form of traditional fundraising, provision of technical expertise, gifts in kind or logistical support. Finally, Concern hosts local engagement events and talks for existing and prospective corporate partners to attend. Themes are centred around our programmatic work such as gender equality and provides an informal space for private sector actors to learn more about how Concern works on these themes and the theory behind it. This approach is designed to give attendees a theoretical basis of knowledge to transfer into their own work environments.

Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): we support our private sector partners in line with growing commitment to the SDG framework among the business community (especially SDG Goal 17 - strengthen global partnerships to support and achieve the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda). Concern actively engages in programmes on the following SDGs: 1 No Poverty, 2 Zero Hunger, 3 Good Health and Well-being, 4 Quality Education, 5 Gender Equality, 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 8 Decent work and Economic Growth, 10 Reducing Inequality. In addition, Concern advocates for increased awareness of the SDGs through our Active Citizenship program.

In 2018/19, Concern was active in all 32 counties across the island of Ireland and sought to deepen the understanding and awareness of young people regarding issues of global poverty and underdevelopment, using the SDG framework. Active Citizenship inputs include school talks, the Concern Debates programme, World Day Workshops, Transition Year Academy and school talks that directly engaged 13,947 students. Beyond formal education, Concern also runs a grassroots initiative called Project Us to engage the public with the SDGs, during 2019, Concern ran 31 world café conversations around the country with 1,111 people in attendance. Concern ran café conversations this year in partnership with community groups as well as in secondary schools and third level institutions. Project Us also has a strong digital presence with membership of the Facebook page growing and social posts reaching an audience of over 292,000 in 2019.