



Communication on Engagement (COE) CSR Centre

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

20th July, 2020

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The CSR Centre is pleased to continue its support and engagement with the UN Global Compact and uphold the ten principles on human rights, labour standards, environment and anticorruption. Through the eleven years of collaboration with the UN Global Compact we have continuously based our work on the UNGC Principles and in the last five years with the SDGs. We have been a full-fledged member of the UNGC Local Network from April 2010.

We have since aligned all our implementation work in accordance to the ten principles of the Compact. Through research, capacity building and policy dialogues on various thematic issues and projects we have been able to introduce and disseminate the global agenda of UNGC into the local framework and actively engaged with not only businesses in Bangladesh but also the development sector, civil society and the Government in supporting the UNGC Principles in Bangladesh. We have been successfully advocating and engaging with private sector to implement the SDGs.

We hereby submit the COE for the CSR Centre to further contribute to the global agenda on sustainable development in Bangladesh and globally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Farooq Sobhan'.

Farooq Sobhan
Chairman, CSR Centre Board of Trustees



About the CSR Centre

The CSR Centre is an organization dedicated to raise awareness about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and encourage responsible business practices in Bangladesh to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The CSR Centre was established in 2007 initiated by the private sector of Bangladesh to encourage and expand on strategic CSR practices in Bangladesh and globally.

The primary objective of the Centre is to become the prime source of information, resources, and advisory services on CSR in Bangladesh, and the operational principal is to contribute to achieving the development targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through private sector led growth.

CSR Centre provides capacity building initiatives on CSR and other social compliance issues, private sector engagement and multi-stakeholder dialogue for development partners, national and international companies and works closely with relevant Government Ministries.

The CSR Centre launched the UN Global Compact in Bangladesh in 2009 which is the largest official platform for corporate engagement and CSR in the globe led by UN Secretary General. The Centre is the hosting organization for GCLN Bangladesh and works along the UN initiatives nationally, regionally and globally.

Mission

To be the innovators of change through CSR.

Vision

The CSR Centre's vision is to be the catalyst for better society by encouraging public, private and development sectors towards promoting responsible business.

Key Activities and Services

- Facilitate stakeholders to become CSR Champions.
- Provide training on GRI and specific CSR topics to enhance private sector capacity.
- Develop strategies for CSR practices & sustainability.
- Disseminate & share CSR best practices in Bangladesh.
- Facilitate forums, seminars, workshop to engage stakeholders in advocating responsible business practices.



The CSR Centre has been actively engaged in upholding and implementing the 10 Principles of the UN Global Compact in the past 2 years. What follows is an overview of the projects and activities of the CSR Centre from August 2018 to July 2020.

The CSR Centre translated the “amfori BSCI System Manual 2.0” from English to Bangla. The manual was based on the amfori BSCI Code of Conduct (COC) which is based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights, Labor Standards and Environmental Compliance. The Project timeline was from September 2018 - January 2019.

The CSR Centre conducted CSR assessment and remediation plan for environmental and social compliance for the RMG sector. The Project also focused on environmental and anti-corruption issues and upholding the labour standards. The Project timeline was from October 2019 - February 2020.

The CSR Centre is working on an ongoing Project (January 2019 - present) of amfori titled “Shobola-Empowerment for Better Business”. Objective of the Project is to highlight the business and operational benefits of empowering women based on the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) of the UNGC and SDG-5 and 8 for amfori members and producers who are sourcing from the RMG sectors in Bangladesh. 80% of the labour force in the Ready-Made Apparel industry in Bangladesh is female. The project aims to create gender sensitivities amongst the front-line workers on anti-sexual harassment and gender issues to reduce disparity between male and female workers in the sourcing factories. This project also gives opportunities and encourages through capacity building and leadership training for female front-line workers to go up their career paths. This will provide employment and income generation for women to become decision makers and be empowered in their families.

CSR Centre in partnership with Danish Fashion Institute, Danish Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has developed a project entitled “Step up - Responsible Production as a Business Driver”. The purpose of this project was to improve the social compliance condition by embedding the UNGC Principles as well as developing the production skill of 8 Bangladeshi RMG factories. The project duration was from August 2017 to November 2018. This project took into consideration 3 geographical townships of Bangladesh, located in Savar, Dhaka and Gazipu.

In order to contribute to SDG-8 and 12 and provide practical knowledge and “know – how” to create robust business practices for sustainable management in the garments sector of Myanmar, the CSR Centre team in partnership with Myanmar Garments Manufacturing Association (MGMA) and Foreign Trade Association of German Retailers (AVE) conducted 2-day long workshop to MGMA member companies in July 3-5, 2018 in Yangon, Myanmar. The CSR Centre team developed training modules and conducted advanced CSR workshops on Social Management System & Remediation Plan for 50 RMG factories.

The CSR Centre in partnership with VSO engaged in a project titled “Growing Together” to deliver training to the Farmers’ Centre Entrepreneurs (FCE) and Agri-entrepreneurs (AE) effectively contributing to SDG-1, 5, 8, 12 and 17. It also connects to supply chain sustainability in the food industry as well as



The training programs were facilitated in two geographical locations in Bangladesh: Rangpur and Dinajpur districts. The purpose of this project was to establish a smart agent banking channel for rural Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), using technology coupled with a robust business support system that builds the capacity of the participating enterprises to ensure maximum economic success. The CSR Centre facilitated total 72 training on 8 training modules - Entrepreneurial Competencies, Business Acumen, Financial Acumen, Customer Service Skills, Operations Management, Negotiation Skills, Digital Skills & Leadership & People Skills to 660 farmers & Agri entrepreneurs from October 2018 – November 2019. The CSR Centre also involved 2 UNGC signatory companies Green Delta Insurance Company Ltd & Ispahani Agro Ltd as a voluntary trainer in this project.

The CSR Centre provided guidance on crafting an SDG Sustainability Report to a UNGC Signatory Green Delta Insurance Company Limited from April to October 2019. In order to uphold the 10 Principles of the UNGC and responsible business conduct for companies to become transparent in the ways they operate, the CSR Centre conducted a series of meetings with all the senior management of the Green Delta Insurance Company Limited to raise awareness on the 17 SDGs into the Sustainability Reporting. This SDG Sustainability Report was the first of its kind in Bangladesh, documenting the programmes and activities done by a major UNGC member company in the country to advance the SDGs.