

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT REPORT 2018-2020

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Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC) is proud to continue its engagement and full support of the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and its ten principles. As an incubator supporting ecopreneurs, KCIC is committed to supporting the advancement of these principles which address human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. We endeavor to convey information and support our clients, partners, community stakeholders through our events, initiatives, and operations. The year that just ended proved to be challenging to a majority of the world's population and as a company we chose to be resilient and re-strategize to keep our focus.

This report aims to summarize our progress and efforts in advancing sustainability in Kenya and beyond. It also touches on how we wavered the storms of Covid-19. Our ambition around the Global Goals is only set to increase with the recently launched Agribiz program supporting 8 counties and focusing on empowering the youth and women.

Our work goes beyond supporting climate entrepreneurship to the core of what makes a sustainable Kenyan economy. We also address key fundamentals that influence corporate sustainability practices and stakeholder behavior on a wide array of sustainability issues — such as governance, capacity building, integration, networking and research. We made significant progress in these areas — from the release of a groundbreaking report on Environmental Management Practices in Kenyan Firms, to enhancing youth engagement on sustainability issues, catalyzing small and medium-sized enterprises role in sustainability, boosting awareness of SDGs and driving proactive collaboration with partners to advance the sustainable development agenda in 8 counties.

KCIC continues to participate in activities and initiatives of the UNGC where feasible through the local Global Compact Kenya Network, to improve our professional and community awareness outreach. In line with our own principles, we still believe the Sustainable Development Goals promise significant economic rewards for companies that invest in delivering innovative solutions and transformative change in this era of accelerated demand for sustainable products and services. Looking ahead, we are confident that we are headed in the right direction not only in the achievement of sustainable goals but in making sustainability a lifestyle from the grassroots. We are indeed inspired to work harder to inspire the young and the old generation in emulating our actions as we work towards supporting sustainable development.

Yours Sincerely,

8.

Dr. Edward Mungai - Chief Executive Officer, Kenya Climate Innovation Center



Kenya Climate Innovation Center (KCIC) is an incubator that supports clean-technology entrepreneurs to commercialize and scale innovative and locally relevant climate solutions to address the effects of climate change.

KCIC 's overall objective is to support green growth through strengthened domestic capacity and financing for the transfer, development, and deployment of innovative climate solutions.

KCIC provides incubation, acceleration and financing services to Kenyan entrepreneurs and new ventures that are developing innovative solutions in energy, water, and agribusiness to address climate change challenges



Our Vision: - "Transitioning towards becoming a market leader in Sustainable Development"

Through this vision, KCIC aspires to be a lead actor in the inspiration, development, and actualization of climate change solutions in Kenya.

We aspire to attain this status by providing change-oriented interventions to the private sector for the adoption of climate-smart technologies and solutions.



Our Mission: To provide incubation, financing, and awareness that empowers the private sector to deliver innovative climate change solutions

This mission summarizes the interventions we intend to undertake to achieve the vision above. The mission statement is inspired by some of our institutional strengths which are quality service provision to the private sector in Kenya.

# **Our Values**

Our values are the foundation of a positive culture that support the attainment of our vision and mission to deliver on our strategy and beyond and are reflected in the following ideals.

- Professionalism
- Innovation 0
- Client Satisfaction
- Teamwork 0
- Dynamism

# **Our Management**

The UNGC's principles are at the core of our management practices and consider them as the True North.

# **Regulation compliances**

KCIC complies to all the relevant regulations covered by Global Compact principles.

We operate from Kenya and as an organization comply to the national and local authorities' regulations.

These legislations relate to occupational health and safety, human rights, labor rights, environmental rights and anti-corruption issues. We have the relevant certifications from the authorities covering the above and policies in place to guide our compliance.

We as a company have compliance monitoring systems especially for our clients, whose business models are embedded on sustainable development. This helps not only to identify gaps but also ensure that they are following the human rights and environmental laws.

### **Assessments**

KCIC has systems in place for monitoring and evaluation and risk assessment. The team comprises of experts in business analysis and monitoring and evaluation. Due to the nature of our business model, we focus on identifying the risks, opportunities and impact to our clients as a priority.

We communicate to the relevant parties on the effect of the potential risks, opportunities and impact considering: human rights; labor rights; occupational health and safety and anti-corruption issues.

To ensure our compliance is on track an annual audit both by an internal auditor and an external auditor is conducted to also verify that our organization's governance, risk assessment and control processes are effective.



# **Policy**

Our Company has a policy statement approved by the board of management.

The policy covers human rights, labor rights, occupational health and safety, environmental and anti-corruption issues and includes a commitment to obeying the local legal requirements and meeting the international standards.

We have introduced Gender Policy that is being mainstreamed within our governance structures, HR policy and also with clients. We believe in continual skyrocket growth and innovation that impacts the local community positively consequently, changing livelihoods.

Continual improvement in our working culture is part of our policy and has improved the productivity of the employees. Internal anonymous assessments or surveys have helped us change the strategy of the company and birth new policies. As a result, transparency has improved, trust between the employer and employee has improved tremendously.

# **Suppliers and Business Partners**

KCIC has a transparent and efficient procurement system for itself and clients. In accordance to the nature of our business model, we support clients focusing on the following thematic areas: agri-business, renewable energy, water management, waste management and commercial forestry.

We encourage our clients especially those in export-based farming to have short-term contracts with their small holder farmers covered by Global Compact principles. We create a sustainable procurement system for our clients to enable them run their businesses proficiently. This has been proven by our client service team. The procurement structure incorporates internal incentives for both our workers and their workers. The products prices and quotations for suppliers are a win-win situation for both parties (the supplier and us).

# **Community Development**

Our vision encompasses sustainable development. We cannot achieve this without starting from an individual, to a family unit, a community then a country at large We have various partnerships (included in the partnership section) with a number of stakeholders, that has enabled us change lives not only by providing sustainable goods and services but also inculcating a culture of appreciating the UN Global Compact Principles and the SDG goals.

Our reach has been seen in Universities where we have an outreach program called WeSustain for the youth (www.wesustainafrica.com). We also participate in symposiums as partners and offer trainings on the UN goals at no cost. We have helped lower carbon emissions in communities through the transformation of use of charcoal-based jikos to briquettes based jikos. Briquettes have a lower carbon emission as compared to charcoal.

We also offer Master class to companies at no cost and information on sustainable development. Every month we release an issue called Green Issue that focuses on sustainable farming and individuals helping combat climate change by use of renewable energy. The issue also informs people of all ages how they can indulge in supporting the UN Goals.

# Communication

KCIC upholds communication and considers it one of our critical values. Due to this we have systems in place to ensure transparency at all levels. This includes a written procedure within the human resource policy on how concerns are received, processed and settled without interfering with the company's activities and reputation.

The procedure is clear to all employees and they are able to present their grievances without fear of retaliation by management. It is strictly 100% on an anonymous basis. Those who submitted their grievances are later informed of the resolutions in respect to the concerns in private if the issue is affecting only the issue is addressed publicly if it affects every individual within the company.

We communicate through our annual report how issues covered by the Global Compact Principles have impacted us and how we manage challenges and lessons gained from our successes and failure. In addition, we have two publications; e-Alert and Live Green Magazine where lessons and case studies as well as good practices are shared.



# **Policy**

At Kenya Climate Innovation Center, we believe that productivity is directly connected to wellness of mind and body. We therefore have health and safety procedures that comply with the local and international standards to ensure that our office space has favorable working conditions. We are guided by the policy check on the pillars.

The facility is cleaned regularly, has suitable temperature, ventilation and lighting, suitable washing and sanitary areas appropriate for both genders. Clean water and facilities for clean and sanitary food storage have been provided. Moreover, we have a designated area where our staff can eat and relax.

In addition, we have first aid kits and fire extinguishers in place in case of a fire incident. Selected staff have been trained on how to use the first aid kit and fire extinguishers in case of an emergency.

# **Our Clients**

We ensure our clients provide health and safety gear for their employees during operations. They also train their employees on the safety and use of the protective gear. Fire combating equipment as well as First aid-kit are also mandatory accompanied by training on how to use the equipment. In addition, we have a health and safety committee manned by selected office representatives. The representatives were offered training last year.

We involve our staff in health and safety issues, for instance last year we did an internal survey to help us broaden our scope and cover loopholes when it comes to health and safety. We also hold meetings with health professionals on board to enlighten on matters concerning health.

# **Our Employees**

We esteem our employees without them we would not have accomplished much. We have therefore had a written section under our human resource policy that addresses matters concerning wages, working days, leave days, health insurance and allowances.

Our employee's working hours are limited to 48hours a week and overtime hours are infrequent and do not exceed 36hrs per month. Currently, our employees are enjoying flexible working hours while working from home due to Covid-19. They can be able to work within the stipulated working hours without worrying about their safety.

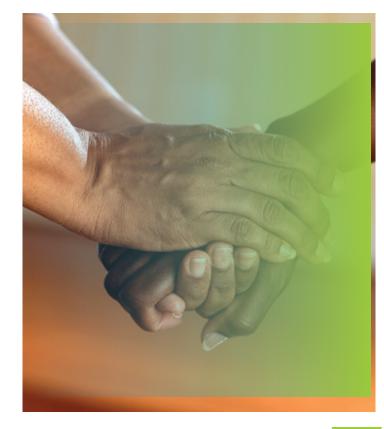
We provide wages that enable our employees to meet their basic needs. In addition, we provide a health insurance cover. Last year we increased the amount under the maternity section in the case of arising complications. Our employees enjoy paid holiday leave, sick leave and parental leave according to international minimum standards.

# **Employment Status**

We ensure that all our employees have signed employment contracts before they commence their engagement with us. The contracts have detailed information on job description, salary systems with reference to company handbooks or relevant documentation to employment terms.

# **Fair Treatment**

We recently developed an office relationship policy to address matters concerning sexual harassment, physical, verbal, psychological harassment as well as threat and abuse. Our managers and staff have undergone training on how to identify and deal with harassment. The training has been very beneficial in bringing the team as a family and looking out for others.



# LABOR RIGHTS ...

# Age

We comply with age standards and do not offer employment to persons under the age of 18 years. This is also a requirement by the Constitution of Kenya. We verify this by checking the necessary documents required for employment like the identification card. We also ensure that participants in our apprentice programs are above the age of 18 years and that we do not in any way whatsoever interfere with the school program.

We ensure that employment-related decisions made in the company are based on a particular objective and are relevant to the Company's vision. Employment decisions concerning wages, trainings, discipline, or termination is not based on gender, tribe, nationality or any other form of discrimination. To counter this, each job category has a stated job description with the necessary job requirements and salary description.

Our recruitment advertisements do not reference discrimination criteria. In addition, we do not ask details pertaining marital status, number of children or any other personal information to lead to discriminatory hiring decisions. To counter discrimination, we have policies in place and a criterion that an employee can use to safely report such incidences.

# **Environment**

KCIC is passionate about the environment. We have measures to ensure that we do not pollute the environment. To reduce greenhouse emissions, we rely 100% on solar energy. This is done with the help of solar panels installed on our roofs. Moreover, our offices exhibit sustainable architecture which has helped us conserve electricity.

We provide business support to individuals focusing on renewable energy. In our dealings we have formed synergies with the government and civil society to create policies that will help foster an enabling environment.

In terms of water consumption, our employees drink treated water provided by the premise managers. The disposal of the water does not negatively affect the natural resources in the surrounding. In an attempt to reduce wastage, we have sensor taps and flushes within our premises.

We relate with national, regional and local authorities to discuss matters concerning water sanitation and policies that can pave the way for people within this niche. We continue to support our clients within this sector to enable them to make available this resource to the public.

KCIC has measures regarding waste management. We train our employees on waste disposal and this has ensured reduction of waste by 90%. We mostly share documents electronically and only print during events and when necessary.

We also encourage double sided printing to save on paper. We have also discouraged the use of plastic bottles and opt for use of glasses and water dispensers.

We are proud supporters of our clients who deal in waste management and ensuring we live in a clean environment. For more information on this visit our website at **www.kenyacic.org** concerning our clients combatting waste management.

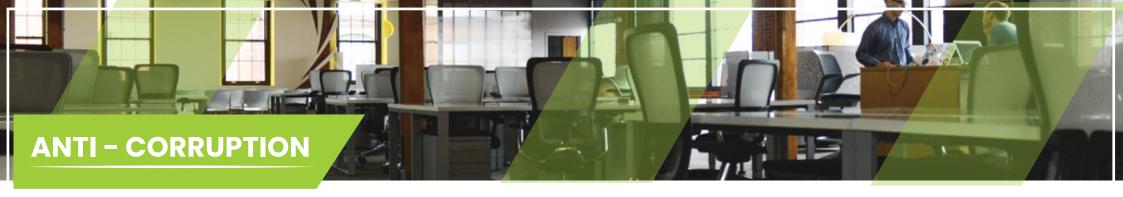
We ensure that our clients minimize air emissions during production and that the employees have the relevant garments like dust masks, overall, safety shades with wrap-around frames, gloves and boots to do the job efficiently. The office is cleaning regularly to minimize dust settlement on floors and surfaces.

We encourage innovation and use of environmental information especially to businesses who wish to receive advisory support from us. Our key goal is to ensure sustainability transpires within each sector.

In our response to addressing biodiversity. We ensure that our clients have the necessary legal requirements to operate in the natural environment.

Our clients, more so, within food production have the necessary certificates like the GAP, HACCP pertaining to food. In addition, they have health certificates that are mandatory. We encourage them to indicate allergy information and also whether or not they have GMO components.





KCIC has a clear stand to not engage in corruption. We have a company policy stating how we should handle requests, payments, engaging in sponsorship.

It is a requirement by all team members to have high ethical standards. It is also in line with our Kenyan Constitution that we do not engage in corruption which has detrimental effects. We therefore, as a company, take time to train all our employees on how to maintain a high level of integrity.

Furthermore, initiatives tackling anti-corruption have been devised and implemented and the initiatives are monitored by appointed individuals under the oversight of senior leadership. We also have a channel of safely reporting incidences or suspicions.

Our internal processes emulate our commitment against corruption. We have selected individuals and departments to handle contracts, place orders, receive goods, make payments and process invoices.

We perform internal audits annually in which the auditing personnel has permission to identify alarms and report them to management for follow up-counter measures. Irregularities identified by external auditors are raised to the management in a systematic manner for handling.

Our company's anti-corruption initiative covers third party including agents, consultants and clients. We ensure all our agreements are well documented in written form and signed and that the contracts include a section of anti-corruption which they must comply with We ensure the selection and terms

of reference of agents and consultants are approved by the management and their payment ids facilitated via bank transfer or cheque never by cash and deductions within the standards of payment as required by national law.

We encourage the local business community and business partners to engage in fighting against corruption to promote a fair business environment. One of the ways we do this is by participating in policy dialogues. Our advisory services offered to our clients have helped bridge this gap.

# Actions to Promote the UN Global Compact Agenda

# 1) Catalyst for sustainable entrepreneurship.

KCIC is a catalyst in promoting entrepreneurs to embrace clean technology for sustainable development. To achieve this KCIC provides incubation services, proof of concept, grants and seed funding with the purpose of scaling up innovations and supporting climate mitigation.

We have witnessed the adaptation of these innovations to grassroot level as solutions to environmental, economic and social issues through job creation, reduction of carbon emissions, profit generation by the businesses and improved health and nutrition among households.

Incubation Program

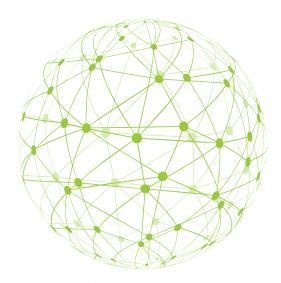
# **Incubation Program**

KCIC runs a 12-month Incubator program targeted at start-ups and early-stage enterprises that have, as a minimum, a prototype. The program begins February of every year to February of the following year. The enterprises receive intensive practical training and business coaching to enable them prove their concepts in the market and progress towards commercialization. Clients who successfully complete this program graduate to the KCIC Green-Tech Accelerator Program.

# **Green-Tech Accelerator Program**

The 6-month accelerator program targets clients graduating from the KCIC Incubator Program. The program is geared to having more businesses have their products in the market.

The businesses under the accelerator program receive business advisory support which includes; refinement of business models, creation of structures and systems as well as support to access technical facilities. The program runs from to February of every year with typically about 25 clients. At this stage the business is equipped with necessary skills to support commercialization.



# KEY MILESTONES TO DATE



Number of IPS registered - 32



USD 46 Million Amount of public and private sector finance mobilized for climate change purposes (USD)



494 SMEs Incubated 64 businesses successfully gone through the Acceleration program



33 staff members SME's



USD 2,820,845.71 million invested in 6 growth stage enterprises under KCV



USD 2.3 Million POC investments to 34 SME's



USD 30 million Amount of revenue realized/generate by KCIC Clients



Number of Active Partnerships - 42



USD 848,588 Invested in 13 SME'S under ESFM



15,493 Applications Received





No. of customers reached by supported enterprises



202,658 Number of people Using low carbon sources.



9,600 Green direct and indirect jobs created



165 Number of businesses established, ventured the market and realizing revenue



10,000 Youth drawn from tertiary institutions of learning in Kenya engaged in the We Sustain program



37% Percentage increase in agricultural production



48,687 No. of people accessing clean water



237,665 Tones of CO2 mitigated

# PROMOTING THE MAINSTREAMING OF SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA IN ORGANIZATIONS' STRATEGIES IN KENYA

# Kenya Climate Ventures (KCV)

The investment management company was launched in 2016 as a subsidiary of Kenya Climate Innovation Center seeking to accelerate the development of the clean-tech industry as a whole by providing much needed tailored and targeted financial and managerial assistance support to innovative early-stage businesses.

KCV seeks to invest in businesses that have relevant products or services, sustainable competitive advantage, good management teams and ethical business practices.

# Involvement in the drafting of the National Climate Change Learning Strategy

KCIC was part of two Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) which focused on obtaining feedback from the private sector, youth, women and vulnerable groups as part of input into the draft National Climate Change Learning Strategy.

Our submission focused on inclusivity and the "challenge to opportunity" perspective of climate change to enhance learning on innovation and the building of resilience for decent and productive employment.

# Ensuring Gender Parity in Climate Entrepreneurship

KCIC pursues its strategic objective while embracing an inclusive and gender- balanced strategy, with an increased focus on climate adaptation and mitigation.

KCIC has an active policy targeting over 50% of all its engaged clients are from either gender.

# Promoting the Mainstreaming of Sustainability Agenda in organizations' Strategies in Kenya

The sustainability initiative at KCIC aims at awareness creation and help in mainstreaming of Sustainable Development Goals in Kenya.

The capacity building initiative exists to equip decision makers, policy makers and managers with the relevant skills to deliver institutional value through sustainable strategies.

The sustainability initiative implements projects along five pillars: Awareness creation, capacity building, and community of practice, think tank and project management.

Mainstreaming the UN human rights approach at work place KCIC embarked on the development of performance indicators to track implementation of human rights at the various clients' work places.

The program will involve capacity building of clients supported on refinement of human resource manuals and policies to safeguard employees' rights, facilitation of clients to enhance safe working environments for supported clients and periodic monitoring and reporting on progress.



# PROMOTING THE MAINSTREAMING OF SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA IN ORGANIZATIONS' STRATEGIES IN KENYA

Below are some of the projects that have supported KCIC's sustainability initiative mandate:

# **Partnerships & Events**

# a) CLIMATE LAUNCH PAD COMPETITION

Irish Aid and Climate-KIC partnered with KCIC last year in the Climate Launchpad Nationals. The Climate Launchpad, which is a platform born in the Netherlands, seeks individuals with innovative ideas geared towards mitigating climate change. It is the world's largest green business idea.

The competition brought together local and international scholars to present and discuss innovative solutions to climate change adaptation. In 2019, a team of young brilliant minds from Kenya won the finals held in Amsterdam.

This young team of 3 is in the process of scaling up their innovation that focuses on providing clean technology from used diapers.

This is indeed a remarkable way of ensuring a clean environment, offering livelihood through employment while producing clean energy containing no carbon monoxide and has low emissions of Co2. The regional and national competition attracted up to 700 guests to witness the remarkable competition.

# b) GNI PLUS.

KCIC has partnered with GNI Plus in a project to do climate mapping in order to generate valuable information to assist in decision making at national level with policy makers.

## c) KENYA MINI-WIND

KCIC is one of the partners in the Kenya Mini project, an initiative that seeks to integrate smaller wind turbines in mini grids in Kenya. Vestas, Sustainable energy, Technical University of Denmark and Rural Electrification Authority have also partnered in establishing the project which is geared towards rural electrification and providing power to the rural environs at a subsidized rate.

The solar-mini grids have been implemented in 14 counties. A total of 121 mini grids sites have been identified.

The project has since then supported 29 renewable energy clients who have since then supported 35,000 people in using low carbon energy sources.

# d) KENYA VISION 2030 SECRETARIAT

KCIC is engaged in mainstreaming SDGs and climate change in Kenya Vision 2030 Medium Term Plan III (2018-2022). KCIC was recognized as one of the institutions that have been supporting innovations in cleantech.

Moreover, we were recognized as the official implementing agency of the initiative Promote Climate Technologies and Innovation under the programs and projects for MTP III.

## e) THE URBAN BRIQUETTING PROJECT

The Urban Briquetting Project is a co-creation between Hivos EA, Greening Kenya Initiative Trust (GKIT) and Kenya Climate Innovation Center.

The project also incorporates the National Treasury. This is a pilot for sustainable and quality production of biomass briquette programme for Nairobi County with an aim of transforming the biomass energy sub-sector, creating jobs for both women and youth in the county while contributing to universal access to clean energy at the household level.

## f) YOUTH ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FUND.

KCIC recently collaborated with the Youth Development Enterprise Fund. The fund will among other things be geared towards rolling out the 47 Champions Award which will target youth-driven sustainable initiatives across all counties in Kenya.

This is one of the initiatives that seeks to encourage the youth to indulge in sustainable initiatives that overall seek to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The groundwork has begun but has been slowed down by the **Covid19 pandemic**.

# g) TRADE FOR SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT HUB.

In 2019, KCIC was privileged in conjunction with Strathmore University, to host the Trade for Sustainable Development (T4SD) Hub, Kenya chapter, by International Trade Center is a joint agency of the World Trade Organization and the United Nations.

The T4SD-hub now hosted at Strathmore Business School, seeks to strengthen the SMEs in an effort to boost income and create emerging economies while integrating sustainable practices within the business.

We had a total of 70 applicants into the program last year. In 2020, 5 of KCIC clients were among 16 beneficiaries of the Climate Resilience training offered by the Hub. The program coached the ecopreneurs on how to design climate change adaptation strategies towards sustainable business.

# PROMOTING THE MAINSTREAMING OF SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA IN ORGANIZATIONS' STRATEGIES IN KENYA

# h) TECH-EXPO AT JOMO KENYATTA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY.

KCIC recently supported students from the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in the 9th edition of Tech-Expo.

The expo which takes place each year showcases extraordinary innovations by students that support the Global Goals. This is part of KCIC's initiative in supporting the youth to embrace sustainable solutions to social, economic and environmental issues. The expo featured one of our clients Majik water.

The Expo attracted over 200 students with over 20 initiatives geared towards achieving the SDG goals. We have since had about 10 innovative students applying for our incubation program this year.

# i)THE THIRD SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN AFRICA.

KCIC engaged in a Climate change Adaptation Symposium held at the University of Nairobi grounds geared towards fostering exchange of information, ideas and experiences necessary for implementation of Climate adaptations initiatives across the African Continent.

The symposium which took place on January 23rd,2020, was organized based on the 2030 UN agenda and the African Union 2036 agenda mobilized African and Non-African scholars undertaking research and executing climate change projects in the African continent.

The Symposium brought together over 100 participants passionate about transforming livelihoods through climate-based initiatives. Kenya Climate Innovation Center made a presentation on the initiatives it has towards Climate change.

# j) YOUNG CLIMATE LEADERS

The Young Climate Leaders came to hold a symposium at Strathmore University. The MIT Climate Co-lab winners had been hosted by Kenya Climate among other collaborators. The team consists of young climate enthusiasts.

The Young Climate Leaders visit created a rapport with the young climate enthusiasts giving them a gist of what is happening on the ground in Kenya. We always look forward to building capacity. The group consisted of about 20 members.





# THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 AND MITIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN

### **Cancellation of events**

Like any other company ,Kenya Climate Innovation center was at the impact of Covid-19.A number of company programs geared towards sensitization of sustainable development goals had to be cancelled.

# Lack of revenue/no sales for our clients

Some of our clients were adversely affected as the demand of their products stooped low leaving them with no market thus zero revenue. This made it hard for some to meet their operational costs. We offered some of them money to cushion them from the impact while our analysts continued to offer them alternative sources of funds.

### Effect on administrative processes

Normally the application and review procedure involve the team meeting and reviewing the applications frequently so as to arrive at a decision and where due diligence is required the team splits themselves and conducts physical due diligence. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was a challenge for the team to conduct due diligence activity and the review process would take a longer time.

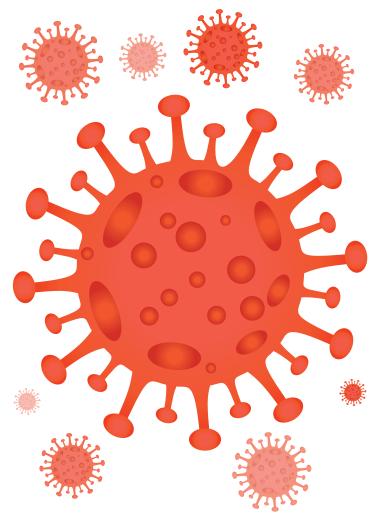
### **Mental Health**

In the midst of uncertainty anxiety is set to rise, a major reason why we decided to provide counselling services to our staff and clients just to make sure that they keep up well.

# **Opportunities**

Going digital is the new norm. KCIC has since adopted going digital like most companies by leveraging on virtual exhibitions for clients to support clients with access to market support.

There is certainly the need to invest in digital technologies that ensure business continuity of our organization and of the businesses that KCIC supports.







KCIC- COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT REPORT 2018-2020

**END OF REPORT** 



Kenya Climate Innovation Center
Strathmore Business School
P.O. Box 49162 - 00100
Tel: +254 703034701, +253 703 034 000
www.kenyacic.org
info@kenyacic.org