

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

The Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 2018

To: 2020

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

25 March 2021

To our stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that the Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact and we welcome feedback on its content.

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 also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Yusr Sabra
President

Part II. Description of Actions

Please use the box below to describe the actions your organization has taken in support of the Global Compact. It is strongly recommended that the actions taken are related to one or more of the specific activities suggested. Please refer to the complete list of activities for your type of organization.

- **Engage with Global Compact Local Networks.** The Lebanese League for Women in Business has been a member of the Global Compact Network Lebanon over the past two years between 2018-2020.
- **Join and propose partnership projects on corporate sustainability.** Over the past two years, LLWB implemented activities in partnership with members of the Global Compact Network Lebanon. These activities revolved around:
 - **Skills Development Workshops.** training workshops targeting over 150 women in business and women entrepreneurs in Beirut, North Lebanon and Beqaa.
Topics tackled include: Legalities of setting-up a business, Banking Awareness, Public Speaking and Communication, Digital Marketing, NSSF Law for Entrepreneurs and Design Thinking.

Mental Health during Confinement

The session addressed:

- The psychological stages that we are going through.
- How to manage our thoughts, feelings and reactions?
- How to invest this time in a healthy way at all levels?

Emotional Intelligence during Times of Uncertainty - An EQ Interactive Virtual Café

Upcoming interactive, powerful "EQ Café" to practice emotional intelligence together and explore answers to these important questions about uncertainty. EQ Cafés are insightful, fun sessions for people curious about emotional intelligence to connect and learn together-

These workshops contribute to SDG 3

Facing Disruptions - Innovation and Crisis

The session aims to introduce the concept of disruption in business as consequence of either innovation or crisis and discusses how organizations respond to disruptions and tackles the leadership skills essential to lead a business through times of crisis, focusing on the crises we are currently facing.

This project contributes to SDGs 8 and 9

- **Networking Events.** In 2019 & 2020 LLWB held networking events targeting over 50 women entrepreneurs and women in business in Beirut and Beqaa.

- **Members gathering**

The purpose of the event was to meet our new registered members, introduce them to LLWB activities and discuss with them how to be more involved in our new projects.

These gatherings and networking events contribute to SDGs 17

- **Join & Grow Event – Ardi Ardak Presentation**

In partnership with the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU) at AUB, the Food Heritage Foundation and Zico House LLWB hosted an event that included a presentation on the Ardi Ardak initiative which was launched in December 2019 with the aim of promoting food security in Lebanon.

An overview on the work conducted under this initiative to date, and the ways through which members can get involved was provided during the event.

This initiative contributes to SDGs 2,8, and 15.

- **Pilot Gender Diagnostic.** LLWB, in partnership with the International Labor Organization (ILO) implemented a pilot gender diagnostic in three private sector companies. The gender diagnostic was implemented as part of LLWB’s women on board initiative, which advocates for 30% women on boards by 2025. Libanpost was among the three private sector companies that implemented the pilot audit. Pilot gender diagnostic completed in 3 private sector companies: Technica International, Libanpost and Khalil Fattal et Fils.

The pilot gender diagnostic contributes to SDGs 5, 10 and 17.

- **Engage companies in Global Compact-related issues.**

- **Women on Boards Initiative.**

- An awareness campaign was launched on March 8, 2019 on women on boards.
- Corporate Women Directors Certification (CWD) program launched for LLWB members in partnership with IFC/ EIGL.
- 11 LLWB members enrolled in the CWD program training facilitated by IFC/ Tamayyaz EIGL.
- LLWB is partnering with organizations across the private and public sectors as well as with international organizations in the process of lobbying for 30% women on boards by 2025.

The women on board initiative activities contribute to SDGs 5, 10 and 17.

- **Women in the Public Sector**

- 1 report developed around the context surrounding women’s employment in the public sector.

- 5 private roundtable discussions held between women in senior level positions in the public and private sectors to discuss barriers related to women's promotion within both sectors.
- 8 networking events held in Beirut, North Lebanon and Beqaa for the dissemination of knowledge gathered.
- The project aims to support women's employment in and promotion in the public sector and creating dialogue between the public and the private sectors within this process.

The work conducted under Women in the Public Sector contributes to SDGs 5 and 10.

- **Join and/or support special initiatives and work streams.**

- **Women Entrepreneurs Program (WEP): Qadirat – قادات**

The objective is to help the women led startups and women led businesses to develop their business ideas further and scale up their existing businesses.

- Three-year program launched in North Lebanon and Beqaa for supporting women entrepreneurs.
- 100 women-led start-ups and 20 women-led SMEs are targeted through the program.
- The program involves a training program, mentorship and access to funding opportunities for women entrepreneurs.
- The project is funded by Drosos Foundation.

The work conducted under WEP Sector contributes to SDGs 5,8,9,10, and 17.

- **Crisis Management Program:**

The project aims to provide women business owners with the needed understanding of the crisis mechanism and the required tools and frameworks to understand the crisis impact on their business, and to help them develop adequate mitigation plans to navigate the repercussions of the current crises and ensure sustained operations. This will be achieved through the design and implementation of "Crisis Management" training workshops and coaching sessions for selected business advisors and women-led SMEs.

- Target: 160 SME + 80 Business Advisors
- Collaboration with Berytech and the World Bank.

The work conducted under the Crisis Management Program Sector contributes to SDGs 5,8,10, and 17.

- **Reducing the Direct Economic Downturn on Vulnerable Communities in Lebanon:**

- a. **The objectives of the project:**

- i. Establish AgriFood /Start Up Hub.
 - ii. Support short-term labor force for 420 beneficiaries for expanding production and sustaining self-sufficiency through Trainings.
 - iii. Safety and Sustainable Agriculture:
 - iv. Soft skills and Business Development
 - v. Support for expanding production and sustaining self-sufficiency to 50 entities including farmers, cooperatives/SMEs/start-ups; (AUB)
 - vi. Create linkage with new markets (LLWB)

- b. **Target:**

- i. 420 Farmers

- ii. 50 SMEs/Coops

The work conducted under this project contributes to SDGs 8,10,12, 15, and 17.

- **Enhancing the Livelihoods of Vulnerable Lebanese Host Communities and Syrian Refugees through Food Assistance for Training (FFT) Activities - ISNAD Project:**

- a. **The objectives are:**

- i. Delivering the capacity building on business development and building market linkages with the private sector.
 - ii. Offers holistic training: technical, soft skills and linkages to job market.
 - iii. Access to knowledge, market and finance.

- b. **Target:**

- i. 500 Farmers
 - ii. 30 Coops

The work conducted under this project contributes to SDGs 8,10,12, 15, and 17.

- **Participate in Global Compact global, and local events.** LLWB participated in the events organized by GCNL including focus groups around the SDGs and power breakfasts, among other activities. LLWB also participated in the SDGs Forum organized by GCNL on a yearly basis, through being present during the event, promoting the event and taking part of the panels.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes.

Please use the box below to include the most relevant qualitative and/ or quantitative indicators to measure the outcome of the activities described above.

Measurement outcomes:

- **Partners Steering Committees:** LLWB is on the steering committee of the Global Compact Network Lebanon
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):**
 - **LLWB & 3QA:** LLWB signed an MOU with **3QA** The Third Sector Quality Assurance on providing Contingency Fund for Women-Owned Businesses Impacted by the Beirut Blast
 - **LLWB & LBCK:** The Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB) and the Lebanese Business Council in Kuwait (LBCK) signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This joint effort has a prominent role in supporting the local economy and aims to address the rising needs and defiance during the current economic situation, by promoting both parties' activities and initiatives.
- **Collaboration:**
 - LLWB signed a collaboration agreement with Palladium Group (Lebanon) - LEEP-Component 2-Hiring Subsidies
The DFID-funded Lebanon Enterprise and Employment Programme (LEEP) supports small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to grow their business and create jobs, implemented by Palladium in Lebanon.
- **Partnership:**
LLWB partnered with over 20 organizations in the process of implementing its project activities in Beirut and the Lebanese regions.

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