

Communication on Engagement (CoE)

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Period covered

January 2020-April 2021

Part I: Statement of Support by the Chief Executive

10 May 2021

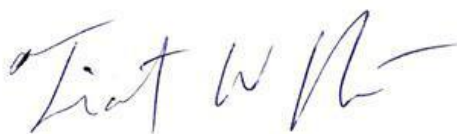
Dear Mr. Secretary General,

The Hunger Project, on behalf of its offices in 23 countries worldwide, confirms its support of the United Nations Global Compact and a commitment to advancing its Ten Principles in the areas of human rights, labor and environment. This report is our first Communication on Engagement with the UN Global Compact.

This report includes our related practical actions and measurement of outcomes, with special focus on COVID-19 response.

We will share this information with our stakeholders through our primary channels of communication.

In partnership,



Tim Prewitt

President and CEO
The Hunger Project

Part II: Description of Actions

- We challenge ourselves to ensure that each of our strategies builds on ten principles that we consider fundamental to ending hunger: human dignity, gender equality, empowerment, leverage, interconnectedness, sustainability, social transformation, holistic approach, and decentralization.
- We implement human rights-based approaches in all of our 12 Program Countries' operations, in partnership with approximately 16 million local stakeholders annually.
- We provide women's empowerment and gender equality trainings to eliminate discrimination, especially in employment, education and community-based decision making.
- We promote climate smart agriculture and environmental responsibility as precautionary approaches to environmental challenges.
- We assist local community leaders and citizens to build capacity and social accountability mechanisms for the achievement of sustainable development.

Part III: Measurement of Outcomes

The Hunger Project conducts participatory monitoring and evaluation that starts at the grassroots through community-led engagement. This creates a 'feedback loop' connecting our program performance with community expectations and goals. We ensure transparency and accountability in all stages of our data collection with the overall goal to recognize what works and what does not work (and why) within project implementation.

Activities and output indicators are tracked on a quarterly basis. We collect reliable primary data for outputs and outcomes (both qualitative and quantitative) from household surveys, focus group discussion guides and key informant questionnaires, as well as existing data from secondary sources. This allows us to critically analyze how our program communities compare to regional and national averages on human rights issues such as food security and access to healthcare.

Additionally, we use our Women's Empowerment Index to measure multidimensional aspects of women's empowerment and decreases in discrimination in program communities.

We are committed to learning from outcomes to continuously improve programs for the benefit of our community partners. In 2019, we commissioned an external evaluation for two of our epicenter sites, three years after they had declared "self-reliance," i.e. graduated from our programs. This was the first study of its kind for THP since the first communities formally declared self-reliance in 2016. It was an opportunity to better understand the sustainability features of our methodology and identify areas of growth and improvement. The study found that a focus on skills development, mindset shifts and capacity development are the greatest leverage points for sustainable change. The communities evaluated demonstrated increased access to education and girls' empowerment. The study provided insights to support ongoing and future success and also identified new initiatives we can examine.

PROGRAM STATISTICS PER COUNTRY

Africa

We implement an integrated, gender-focused, holistic programming called “The Epicenter Strategy”. It achieves synergy among programs in health (including HIV/AIDS prevention), education, adult literacy, nutrition, improved farming and food security, microfinance, water and sanitation, and building community spirit with a momentum of accomplishment involving the entire population through community-led development.

Benin

- 16 active and self-reliant “epicenters” (clusters of rural villages)
- 132 villages
- 284,740 people participating at active and self-reliant epicenters
- COVID response included 2,420 hand washing stations, 6,500 masks, 19,650 leaflets

Burkina Faso

- 10 active and self-reliant epicenters
- 197 villages
- 223,590 people participating at active and self-reliant epicenters
- COVID response included radio broadcasts to 3,625,000 citizens, 1,015 masks, 185 hand washing stations

Ethiopia

- 4 self-reliant epicenters
- 129 villages
- 80,446 people participating at active and self-reliant epicenters
- COVID response included 19 hand washing stations, 180 masks, 3,350 leaflets.

Ghana

- 45 active and self-reliant epicenters
- 483 villages
- 321,183 people participating at active and self-reliant epicenters
- COVID response included 3,054 hand washing stations, 12,618 masks, 2,798 leaflet, 52 radio broadcasts to 22,320 citizens. **Vaccinations have begun at rural epicenters.**

Malawi

- 14 active and self-reliant epicenters
- 360 villages
- 188,587 people participating at active and self-reliant epicenters
- COVID response included 457 hand washing stations, 9,810 masks, 6,996 leaflet, 44 radio broadcasts to 300,000 citizens. **Vaccinations have begun at rural epicenters.**

Mozambique

- 2 self-reliant epicenters
- 8 villages

- 29,037 people participating at active and self-reliant epicenters
- COVID response included 222 hand washing stations, 1,639 masks

Senegal

- 7 active and self-reliant epicenters
- 207 villages
- 93,736 people participating at active and self-reliant epicenters
- COVID response included 720 hand washing stations, 23,909 masks, 389 radio broadcasts to 382,000 citizens.

Uganda

- 10 active and self-reliant epicenters
- 509 villages
- 290,374 people participating at active and self-reliant epicenters
- COVID response included 477 hand washing stations, 41,761 masks, 9,037 leaflet, 53,952 radio broadcasts to 503,234 citizens..

Zambia

- 1 active epicenter
- 42 villages
- 16,504 people participating at active epicenter
- COVID response included 127 hand washing stations, 3,017 masks, 10,530 leaflet, 15 radio broadcasts.

South Asia

Bangladesh

- The country's largest volunteer-based organization
- SDG Union Strategy empowers the local electorate and the elected Union Parishad
- Grassroots training of more than 30,547 volunteer animators, 60% of whom are women, who organize mass action campaigns in their areas
- Activities: reducing gender inequality; promoting youth leadership; strengthen local democracy; volunteer mobilization
- COVID response included 177,912 masks, 178,673 leaflet, 194,807 kg soap distributed.

India

- Intensive pre-election SWEEP (Strengthening Women's Empowerment through Electoral Processes) programming during the fifth and final year of a state's panchayat election cycle
- Increase visibility of women throughout the electoral process as citizens, voters, candidates and electoral officers and agents
- 1,597 active panchayats
- 206,658 elected women representatives have been part of federation strengthening meetings since 2008.
- 6,087 volunteers trained in 2020
- COVID response included reaching 8,000 women leaders 500,000 citizens reached by phone chains with local language information.

Latin America

Mexico

- 4 states
- Comprehensive, bottom-up, women-centered strategies
- Actions include opportunities to learn how to plan, implement and evaluate small-scale projects that will affect sustainable development within their families or villages

Peru

- In partnership with Chirapaq (Center for Indigenous Peoples' Cultures of Peru)
- Indigenous Women's Program to strengthen and empower networks of indigenous women's organizations
- Food security and sovereignty
- Ñoqanchiq ("From Ourselves") focuses on reaffirmation of cultural identity in indigenous girls, boys and young people
- Cultural and political advocacy

Conclusion

These activities represent our two-fold mission: to end hunger and poverty by pioneering sustainable, grassroots, women-centered strategies; and advocating for their widespread adoption in countries throughout the world. A core component in our work is the influence carried out by our founding and serving as the secretariat of the Movement for Community-led Development. We see that approaches to global issues - aligned with SDG 16's call to "build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels" - must start at the community level. This movement now comprises 58 INGOs with total revenues of US\$6 billion - working together with national governments to take these approaches to national scale.