

# COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

ChildHope UK



## Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019

To: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Executive Director

*20<sup>th</sup> May 2021*

To whom it may concern

I am pleased to confirm that ChildHope UK reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents. In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken over the past two years.

We believe that the actions of ChildHope – tackling the injustice and abuse faced by some of the world’s most marginalised children, particularly those forced into the worst forms of child labour and those who live and work on the streets or who are at high risk of early forced marriage - support the aims of the UN Global Compact and its Principles.

This CoE is drawn from: our annual reporting, covering the CoE period; our strategic plan 2021-2025, which was developed during the same period; and an overview of our actions and progress during the 24-month period.

We commit to sharing this information in relevant formats to those with a stake and an interest in ChildHope’s work, to whom we remain accountable.

Yours sincerely



Executive Director  
ChildHope UK

## Part II. Description of Actions

### Overview

ChildHope works in Africa and Asia. For a fuller understanding of our work, please refer to ChildHope's annual reports 2019 and 2020 and our Strategic Framework 2021-2025, all of which can be found on our website [www.childhope.org.uk](http://www.childhope.org.uk).

We are recognised for strength in child protection and safeguarding and, in recent years, have established a training and consultancy network with six of our partner organisations in Africa and Asia. The South2South safeguarding network offers contextually relevant support to organisations wanting to make their operations safer. Find out more here: [Home | South2South Network](#).

ChildHope works with local partner organisations, experts in the lives and contexts that the children live in. In Africa we have partners in Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. In Asia we have partners in Nepal, Bangladesh and India. We focus on the protection, safeguarding, education, training, livelihoods and well-being of highly marginalised children.

The information below gives a flavour of our actions that relate most closely to UNGC, specifically our actions related to child labour, particularly the worst forms of child labour.

**We would be happy to make connections with those businesses and other agencies, members of UNGC, who share our commitment to improve the lives of children in these areas.**

### A selection of our programmes in Asia, tackling the worst forms of child labour

#### 1. CLARISSA

#### Child Labour Action Research Innovation in South and South East Asia

CLARISSA is a consortium tackling child labour and modern slavery in **Bangladesh, Nepal** and **Myanmar**, focusing on the research, development and testing of innovative solutions to the ongoing problem of exploitation of children and young people. The programme will run for four years, and implementation started in 2020, in spite of the challenges of COVID-19. ChildHope and partners Voice of Children (VoC) and Grambangla Unnyan Committee (GUC) are playing an instrumental role in the creation and development of the project and its implementation.

**Funder:** UK Aid/FCDO

**Consortium Lead:** Institute for Development Studies (IDS)

**Consortium Partners:** ChildHope and partners Voice of Children (Nepal) and Grambangla (Bangladesh), Terre des Hommes, Consortium for Street Children

During 2020 we ran intensive induction and training workshops on-line, deepening our understanding of working children's lives. When COVID-19 allowed we were able to learn more about the lives of the children themselves by listening to their stories. The children's stories have been collected and will be analysed with and by the children. During 2021 the children will form groups and identify and test ways to overcome the challenges and injustices they face in their lives and workplaces.

## 2. Bangladesh – Healthy Futures for Children of Waste-Pickers and Garment Workers

**Funder:** Global Brands Group  
**Partner:** Grambangla Unnyan Committee (Grambangla)

Our work in **Bangladesh** supports extremely marginalised children and parents, forced by poverty to migrate and work in hazardous conditions on the Matuail Dumpsite in Dhaka, where daily life forces even very young children to face the danger of toxic fumes, sharp and contaminated waste (bones, glass, needles) and heavy machinery. Grambangla’s day care and education programme offers an alternative to mothers and children; instead of being locked indoors, left on the streets, or taken to the dumpsite with their mothers, the children are now educated and cared for in a safe, nurturing environment. When they are old enough, they are supported to access local mainstream schools.

### Project Impact

**Girls and Boys:** Prior to lockdown in March, 243 children benefited from day care and primary education through the project. Immediate loss of daily wages resulted in hunger amongst the families, so Grambangla rapidly adjusted their approach to focus on food aid.

**LEARNING POINT:** Grambangla carried out a rapid community assessment to work out what the community needed the most during lockdown. It was essential to act fast and listen to the people.

**Family:** The impact of COVID-19 resulted in hunger and the most basic needs – food and hygiene – for families. Grambangla provided cooked food, basic staples and some cash, as well as face masks, gloves and winter clothing for children.

**Community:** Students of the vocational training groups made 1000 face masks for the community, while members of the Grambangla team raised awareness within the community about COVID-19 and prevention.

## 3. Bangladesh – Access to Education and Protection for Children of Garment Industry Workers

**Funder:** TR Aid  
**Partner:** Nagorik Uddyog

A grant from TR Aid enables ChildHope and our partner, Nagorik Uddyog, to develop educational and child rights programmes with the children of garment industry workers in Dhaka.

Although the garment industry in Bangladesh has provided opportunities for women to earn a living, it has also had a seriously negative impact on their children. Most textile workers are single mothers, who have very low education levels and are unskilled. Working long hours for extremely low pay and without access to childcare facilities in their place of work, single working mothers are unable to adequately care for their children. Often, they are forced to leave their young children (2-5 years) alone or in the care of older siblings, exposing them to accidents, trafficking and sexual abuse.

Poverty forces older children (6-16 years) to supplement their mothers' meagre income by entering illegal activities (notably drug trafficking) or informal sector jobs, depriving them of education and exposing them to extremely hazardous working conditions, irregular pay and violence.

The project aims to protect and improve the lives of 200 children aged 2-16 years. It works closely with parents whilst raising awareness amongst textile factory employers, community leaders and government policy makers of the need to better respect the rights and improve the working conditions of garment workers and expand access to education and skills training opportunities for their children.

## Project Impact

**Girls and Boys:** For seven months of the year, 74 children aged 2-5 received quality care from trained teachers and caregivers and enjoyed freedom to play and learn in a comfortable, safe and fun environment at the project's day care centres. Children had access to early childhood education, nutritious meals and facilities where they were bathed, fed and entertained.

131 older children aged 6-16, many of whom live and work closely connected to the streets, were able to attend drop-in centres. Participating in the centres enables children to catch up with their education, engage in vocational training, re-enrol in mainstream schools, register for birth certificates (essential for access to all main services) and receive basic primary health care. They are also able to participate in peer group sessions where they discuss issues that affect them – adolescence, forced marriage, drug use and trafficking, for example – and then participate in awareness raising with others in their community.

**Family:** the project supports parents to better understand their own issues and those of their children, through group meetings. An average of 24 parents attended each of the eight meetings held during 2020.

**Community:** The community is incredibly supportive of the centres. They can see the positive impact they have on their most marginalised young participants. Landlords maintaining low rents for the centres has been particularly helpful.

The centres were closed for around five months due to COVID-19 lockdowns. The disruption added pressure on the children and their parents, many of whom had no access to money or food. TRAIID enabled the project to repurpose some of their grant to provide emergency support, mainly in the form of food parcels, to families.

*"I am extremely happy that the centres have supported us as a friend. This pack will help us feed for more than a month. My child will not fall sick. And we will be able to celebrate Eid as well. Thank you so much"*

Most of the children have now returned to the centres, although some stayed in the rural areas, where they had moved to at the beginning of the pandemic.

## Other Initiatives and Engagement

In the reporting period, ChildHope has also

- Engaged in UNGC events, face to face (in Portugal) and on-line
- Kept up to date via the regular newsletter
- Featured in the Communication on Progress of Global Brands Group in 2018 and 2019
- Revised our environmental policy and included a review in our annual report
- Reviewed our strategic direction and developed a new strategic framework 2021-2025
- Completed a significant eight-year education programme in Ethiopia (Girls' Education Challenge Fund), reaching over 16,000 girls. The project impact report can be found on the ChildHope website.

## Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

### 2020 in Numbers

We collate quantitative and qualitative data on our work annually, taken from the reports produced for each of our programmes and projects.

ChildHope's work aims to achieve positive change for children in six children's development (CD) dimensions, which assess improvements in:

- CD1 Children's participation in decision-making and inclusion.
- CD2 Protection from violence and abuse.
- CD3 Context (changes in laws and policy that impact on children's lives).
- CD4 Health and well-being.
- CD5 Access to quality education.
- CD6 Livelihoods options (increases in income and improved working conditions that lead to change in the lives of children and young people).

The information in the table below shows numbers of children and adults receiving direct support from our partner organisations through projects supported by ChildHope. While we are increasingly collecting and disaggregating data to include information around disability, it remains insufficient to add to our quantitative reporting tables. This capacity will increase as we build disability inclusion into new grants, with monitoring systems to match, and ongoing use of the Washington Group of questions.

When we refer to children, we use the United Nations (UN) definition of people under 18 years of age. However, in some contexts, when young people are in high-risk situations, we may continue to support them up to 25 years old. The adults in the tables below are parents, teachers, community leaders and other people over 18 years old who benefit directly from the work of our projects and contribute to the improvements in the lives of children and young people.

Table 1: Children Reached, by Dimension

Dimension	Africa Girls	Africa Boys	Asia Girls	Asia Boys	Total Girls	Total Boys	Total
CD1. Changes in children's participation in decision making and inclusion	5,793	3,386	1,359	1,426	7,152	4,812	11,610
CD2. Changes in levels of protection from violence and abuse experienced by children	6,668	4,261	362	197	7,030	4,458	11,488
CD3. Changes in context	0	0	144	47	144	47	191
CD4. Changes in children's health and well-being	7,278	28	455	460	7,733	488	8,221
CD5. Changes in access to quality education	15,048	0	1,421	1,364	16,469	1,364	17,833
CD6. Changes in livelihoods options	217	182	136	100	353	282	635

Table 2: Children We Work With, by Continent

	Girls	Boys	Total
Africa	15,960	4,261	20,221
Asia	2,991	2,885	5,876
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,951</b>	<b>7,146</b>	<b>26,097</b>

Table 3: Adults We Work With, by Dimension

It is important to note that the numbers below refer to the number of adults we work with, but the changes refer to *the impact of their participation in our programmes upon children and young people*, who are the main focus of our work. The adults in our programmes are encouraged to become more inclusive and supportive of the children in their lives – as parents, teachers and leaders in their communities. Everything we do with adults is focused upon improving the lives of children and young people.

Dimension	Women	Men	Total
CD1. Changes in children's participation in decision making and inclusion	4,963	2,160	7,123
CD2. Changes in levels of protection from violence and abuse experienced by children	2,330	2,174	4,504
CD3. Changes in context	0	0	0
CD4. Changes in health and well-being	61	0	61
CD5. Changes in access to quality education	258	427	685
CD6. Changes in livelihoods options	579	371	950

Table 4: Adults We Work With, by Continent

	Women	Men	Total
Africa	5,200	2,618	7,818
Asia	3,023	2,544	5,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,223</b>	<b>5,162</b>	<b>13,385</b>