

Communication on Engagement

Symphonia for South Africa



Reporting Period: 24 September 2018 – 24 June 2021

18 June 2021

Statement of Continued Support to the United Nations Global Compact

Dear stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that Symphonia for South Africa 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 document contains our Communication on Engagement, which describes the steps that our organisation has taken to support the Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

As part of our commitment, we will share this information with our stakeholders through our primary channels of communication.

With appreciation,
Komala Pillay
Programme Director



Description of Activities

Partners for Possibility

The flagship programme of Symphonia for South Africa is Partners for Possibility, a leadership development and principal support programme that enables improved learning environments in primary and secondary schools through cross-sector collaboration. This programme speaks directly to the implementation of partnerships with business to support corporate sustainability.

Our programme partners business leaders with school principals in a 12-month co-learning and co-action journey during which time they enhance their leadership and community building skills, and implement change initiatives within the school to improve the learning environment and ultimately improve learning outcomes.

The Partners for Possibility programme speaks directly to three of the UN Sustainability Goals:

Goal 4 – Quality Education: The school principal is supported to become a change agent in the school and in the community and, together with her business partner, drives initiatives to improve the environment for learning.

Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities: Education is the ultimate leveller and is key to reducing inequality. Too many children in South Africa have limited future opportunities as they do not have access to quality education. Further, the cross-sectoral partnerships increase access to social capital that many impoverished communities would otherwise not have access to.

Goal 17 - Partnerships for the Goals: The Partners for Possibility programme has been carefully designed utilising established practices such as Theory-U and the 70:20:10 methodology to create an environment where strong partnerships can develop. The key to this success is the adult-to-adult relationship that is cultivated between the business leader and school principal.



Participation in Global Compact Events

Three members of our Leadership Team participated in the UN Global Compact 20th Anniversary Leaders Summit in June 2020.

Collaboration with Local Global Compact Participants

We have worked with three local businesses on our Partners for Possibility programme who are also participants to the UN Global Compact namely Sasol, Old Mutual and SouthSouthNorth.

Measurement of Outcomes

Over the period that this feedback covers, we are pleased to report that we have launched 772 Partners for Possibility partnerships, thereby impacting 772 schools, approximately 23,000 educators and over 770,000 learners.

This impact has been achieved in partnership with 87 businesses from across the country.

We have enabled 772 business leaders to actively participate in enhancing sustainability for their businesses and surrounding communities.

We have collaborated with three local Global Compact participants on our Partners for Possibility programme.