



SAARC Business Association of Home Based Workers (SABAH Nepal),  
Naya Nagar, Kusunti,  
Lalitpur, Bagmati, Nepal.  
+977-1-5193809, +977-1-5193217

August 24, 2021; Tuesday.

The Global Compact,  
United Nations,  
New York, NY 10017,  
USA.

**RE: Statement of Continued Support for the Global Compact**

Dear Sir/Madam:

I hereby confirm our continued participation and support to the Global Compact initiatives, as SAARC Business Association of Home Based Workers (SABAH Nepal) continues to adopt Global Compact principles deeply intertwined with its daily operations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Sristi Joshi Malla* ..

Sristi Joshi Malla  
Chairperson



# **SAARC Business Association of Home Based Workers (SABAH Nepal)**

UNGC ID 132200  
Member since July 5, 2018

## **Communication on Engagement (COE)**

**August 24, 2021**

SABAH Nepal is pleased to confirm its support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption. We have strict guidelines as well as measurement of outcomes in place. In our 2020/21 Corporate Sustainability Report below, we describe our actions to continually improve the integration of the Global Compact and its principles into our business, strategy, culture, and daily operations. We also commit to share this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

# 2020/21 Corporate Sustainability Report

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## 1. Distribution of Emergency Relief Material to 650 Home based workers

One time relief package consisting of essentials such as- food, soaps, cooking oil, hygiene materials, vegetables and table salt were distributed to 650 HBWs in 5 districts - Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Kavre and Sankhuwasabha.



## 2. Alternative livelihood support to provide community members with employment opportunity

- Facilitated for providing job orders to the beneficiaries to make Reusable Masks, Coveralls and other personal protective items from their homes.
- Support in procurement of necessary raw materials including fabrics and accessories from the market. Due to strict measures in practice of social distancing, beneficiaries will be encouraged to work from home or their workplace which will demand for logistical support in delivering fabrics, cut pieces and accessories to individual homes.
- Wages are provided in advance to the producers for required production.
- Due to the surge in the number of people infected by Corona Virus, the demand and sales of face masks, soaps, sanitizers and PPEs/coveralls has drastically increased in the past few months. To keep up with the growing demand of such safety gears; since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, SABAH Nepal has been proactively facilitating the community members' efforts to manufacture and sell masks, PPEs/coveralls, soaps and hand sanitizers from their homes, by providing necessary training, raw materials, accessories and forward market linkages.



Community members participating in livelihood support program



Community members participating in livelihood support program

### 3. Online marketing and promotional activities

Number of market oriented products ranging from vegetables, trendy fashion wear to exotic dairy products have been produced by the participants under various interventions. SABAH Nepal has been continually involved in marketing and promotional activities so that these products can find a viable marketplace. SABAH Nepal has adapted both pull (approaching business houses for bulk sales, supplying goods to other shops) and push strategies (branding, internal marketing, advertisements and relationship marketing) for promotion. In addition, a significant amount of time and effort has been put into the design and development of digital promotional materials like brochures and pamphlets.



#### Brochures/Online Flyers

Furthermore, SABAH Nepal has successfully initiated tie-ups with other organizations for improved access to the marketplace. These newly formed alliances with digital platforms like Kathmandu Organics, Daraz, Chitto Mitho, Lenden Sewa, Food Dole, KtmFashion and Khalti Digital Wallet have streamlined the overall operations, reduced delivery time and most importantly has provided the project participants' goods an access to a larger market. Besides, these organizations have also contributed to overall brand awareness and brand equity of SABAH Nepal. Thus, this has in fact created a mutually advantageous situation for all the parties involved. Online marketing through various platforms have immensely benefited the home based workers to find a viable market for their fashion wear and farm products through the use of the internet.

STAY-AT-HOME and order Curated, Authentic and Natural by Sabah Nepal

Frozen Garlic Paste - Rs.375 for 500gms

Frozen Ginger Paste - Rs.340 for 500gms... See More



Kathmandu Organics

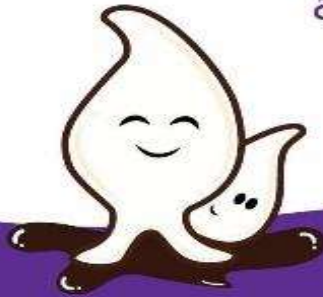
Health Food Store

Send Message



“योमरी खुवाउने हैन?”

मन्न साथी मएन?



हामी छौं नि ।

बिरोष छुटको  
प्रतिक्षा गर्नुहोला ।

Sillage

#### **4. Working Capital Support to Communities**

Covid-19 pandemic has created a major threat for informal sector workers for their sustainability. Many of the piece rate/daily wage workers were left no means of income. While their own account workers were left with no other options, then to close their business as it was impossible for them to cover the overheads. During the need assessment and psychosocial counselling session such issues were strongly voiced by the members. An immediate action was realized to support these community members which can help them gain resilience.

SABAH with the support of Home Net South Asia (HNSA), provided working capital to three of the communities / business units to mitigate the economic effects of COVID-19 on business functions. This provided a strong support to the community members to regain the strength and overcome the challenges.



## **5. Online business and psychosocial counselling sessions**

During the lockdown, the need to hold such sessions have been prompted as many beneficiaries have lost their means of income and have found themselves feeling vulnerable, stuck inside the four walls of their homes. SABAH has initiated to provide business and psychosocial counselling to its community members to overcome the ongoing pandemic situation.

In such a time of need, such virtual counselling sessions have become a medium of inspiration and information for these participants where they are feeling the moral boost while also learning about how to gear back into their businesses gradually. The sessions were held as a way out from the situation, aiming to provide them with alternative solutions] to break the barriers and help them plan for post COVID.

## 6. Capacity Building Activities

- **Mask, PPE and Hospital Linen Training:**  
SABAH provided training to over 700 homebased workers to produce emergency items. This helped them to be equipped with new skill set and supported in income generation during the time of crisis.
- **Training on Soap and Sanitizer making**  
153 members were trained on soap and sanitizer making during the period of first phase of lockdown.





**Training on sanitizer making**

## **7. Trained homebased workers on OHS (adding on safety measures related to COVID):**

SABAH Nepal conducted training on Occupational Health and Safety in its various clusters and community groups providing in depth sessions on adopting safety measures for the workplace abiding by WHO guidelines. Members were trained on the process of how to maintain hygienic measures including handwashing, applying sanitizer, wearing masks, and maintaining social distance.

During the training participants were also briefed on the various procedure and components for managing risk and creating a safer work environment. It includes but not limited to followings;

- Proper uses of equipment
- Uses of safety equipment
- know the places and uses of emergency exists
- Importance of maintaining correct posture
- Take breaks
- Reduce stress
- Health and hygiene

## 8. Training on Digital Literacy

SABAH has conducted classes on digital literacy to equip homeworkers on new technology. During this pandemic situation, importance of digital literacy was highly realized. During the closure, digital platform were only the means to be connected with the mainstreaming market. Since many of the homebased are not literate and they are not educated on digital literacy, it seemed to be beneficial to take this initiation.

