

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

NGO Name: Lebanese Autism Society-LAS

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement [Ideally the two years prior to this report]

From: 01/1/2019

To: 31/8/2021

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

14/09/2021

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Lebanese Autism Society-LAS 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. We welcome feedback on its contents.

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,

Mrs. Arwa El Amine Halawi,

President of the LAS

Part II. Description of Actions

The Lebanese Autism Society –LAS is a non-governmental organization (registered by official decree No.19/AD dated March 10, 1999). The LAS was founded by parents of children with Autism and some professionals. To this date, more than 400 members joined the Association. LAS is a founding member and the coordinator of the Arab Network for Autism (ANA) and of the National Committee for Autism in Lebanon. LAS is also a member of different national and international organizations including Union Nationale des Associations de Parents et d'Institutions pour Enfants Inadaptés (UNAPIEI), World Autism Organization (WAO), AUTISM EUROPE, Association pour la Recherche sur l'Autisme et le Prévention des Inadaptations (ARAPI).

SDG3: Good Health and Well being

The LAS mission is to advocate for the rights of individuals with Autism and to provide them and their families support and services, from early childhood to adulthood.

SD4: Quality Education

One of LAS goal is to provide the best quality educational service for individuals with Autism and to escort them throughout all the stages of their life. The LAS targeted the following areas since 1999:

- Early Diagnosis and Intervention emphasizing the development of highly structured, specialized educational programs tailored to the individual needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other disabilities
- The promotion and support of the social integration of children and teenagers with Autism
- Building capacities of professionals and institutions providing services to children with Autism in Lebanon

SD10: Reduced inequality within and among countries

The LAS strongly believes that individuals with Autism should be included in the least restrictive environment, from childhood to adulthood.

Individuals with Autism have the right to be integrated in the society in all the stages of their growth, from schooling to job opportunities.

One of the most important mean to reach that goal is to spread awareness among the Lebanese Society in regards to Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders.

SD17: Partnership for the goals.

In order to implement all its' goals, the LAS established partnership with different organizations, locally and internationally.

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 in Part II above.

The LAS was able to achieve the following outcomes related its' different SDGs during the past years:

SD3: Good Health and well being

- Awareness Campaigns: Every year the LAS organizes awareness campaigns and specifically during the month of Autism, however, the awareness campaigns stopped after the revolution and the COVID pandemic to remain present in the different social media platforms. Awareness campaigns include:
 1. Lectures in schools and universities about Autism
 2. Presence in the media through TV interviews, articles in the newspapers
 3. On-going updates in the different social media targeting different age groups
 4. World Autism Awareness Day campaign; celebration of the World Autism Day on the 2nd of April through different activities such as Light it up in blue Campaign.
- Parent support: Focusing on the families of individuals with Autism is very important for their well-being
 1. "Your day away" is a yearly campaign which aims in appreciating all the efforts of the families of individual with Autism through offering them a day away from their daily troubles and worries; this activity was not done in 2020 nor in 2021 due to security and health reasons.

SD4: Quality Education

a- Educational and intervention department:

- CDIP: In April 2005, the Lebanese Autism Society (LAS) founded the Centre Early Diagnosis and Intervention Center (CDIP) , with the help of funds granted by Al Waleed Bin Talal foundation. The C.D.I.P was established to meet the growing need of an evaluation and intervention center for children with special needs. The CDIP offers the following therapies: Speech Therapy, Psychomotor Therapy, Special Education. A team of Special Educator, 2 Psychomotor Therapists, 2 Speech Therapists, 1 Clinical Psychologist and a team-coordinator are available at the center to ensure the best intervention. The CDIP closed its' doors after the explosion of the 4th of August at its' premises got completely destroyed, even though it was refurbished, the LAS decided to stop the activities of the CDIP due to the financial crisis and inability of securing individuals needing intervention.
- CCA French Section: The Lebanese Autism Society (LAS) initiated in 2000 at the Lycee Abdel Kader Hariri-foundation, a pioneer project ensuring the integration of Children with Autism in a general education setting. In the year 2007, the project was relocated at Collège du Sacré-Coeur, Gemmayzeh. Eventhough the year 2019-2020 was difficult in terms of security and health

reasons, the LAS was still providing students on-line sessions throughout the school year. 21 students are registered for the school year 2021-2022 catered by 25 professionals .

- CCA English Section: Following the success of the Classes for Children with Autism (CCA-FR) initiated in 2000, the LAS launched another integration project in 2009 in an English speaking general education setting(CCA-En). The project initially started in Attaya High school and was then relocated in September 2010 to ADDUHA High School – Chamseddine campus, Chatila roundabout. This section was closed in September 2019, and the students enrolled joined the special education department of the Adduha School. However, one student was integrated in the English section of Sacre Coeur Gemmayse School.
- LASCAIR: The Center for Autism Research and Intervention- LASCAIR opened its' door on the 17th of October 2014. This school year 2021-2022, A total of 45 students are registered in this program catered by 34 professionals. This center offers appropriate services for 3 age-groups:
 - Early Intervention Section: students aged between 2 and a half and 5 years old, needing intensive intervention to prepare them for a possible integration in one of our integration projects.
 - Specialized Classes: students aged between 6 and 12 years old, requiring a specialized intervention; these students are not able to enroll any of our integration program.
 - Pre-vocational and vocational Section: Teenagers and adults benefiting from a full pre-vocational and vocational program suiting their different capacities and skills. 27 teenagers/adults enrolled the pre-vocational and vocational program this school year 2021-2022
- Summer camp: Every summer the LAS organizes a summer camp for children and teenagers with Autism for a period of 6 weeks. In summer 2018, 43 children and teenagers were registered catered by 26 professionals. In summer 2019, 24 children and teenagers were registered catered by 14 professionals. Outdoor activities are planned 3 times a week during the summer camp such as swimming, fieldtrips etc... The summer camp was closed for the two consecutive years 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.

SD10: Reduced inequality

1. Through its' integration projects CCA-En and CCA-Fr, the LAS is providing the opportunities to children with Autism to be integrated in the least restrictive environment.
2. Through its' vocational program, the LAS is training adults with Autism to be independent and provide them with skills that would contribute in finding a future job opportunity. Students are being trained in different field such as carpentry, cooking etc. One of our Success story is Ali Tlais our talented painter that has been participating since 2011 in the BIEL Exhibition. During

those two years, this program was developed and the adults were being trained to integrate the least restrictive working environment such as a car station (filling gas and washing cars). The program will be developed even more to benefit all students through an assessment of their skills and the availabilities of least restrictive working environment in the area.

Currently the vocational section is being developed thanks to funds received by the polish embassy; the adults will be able to produce items and sell those items on a specific platform.

SD17: Partnership for the goals

In order to reach its' different goals, LAS has established different partnership locally and globally; some of the partnerships are mentioned below:

- LAS is a founding member and the coordinator of the Arab Network for Autism (ANA) and of the National Committee for Autism in Lebanon. LAS is also a member of different national and international organizations including Union Nationale des Associations de Parents et d'Institutions pour Enfants Inadaptés (UNAPIEI), World Autism Organization (WAO), AUTISM EUROPE, Association pour la Recherche sur l'Autisme et le Prévention des Inadaptations(ARAPI).