



**Bridge-Innovation and Development (BRIDGE)
COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)**

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: 01.01.2020 To: 01.01.2022

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

7 February 2022

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Bridge-Innovation and Development reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights and Environment. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nino Kareli".

Nino Kareli

Founder and chair of the Board



Part II. Description of Actions

- We are engaged in the UN Global Compact Local Network (UN Global Compact Network in Georgia), attended online meetings and events. These meetings offered excellent opportunities to engage with other UN Global Compact signatories and explore ways of working more closely with, especially, private sector organisations, to further our mutual efforts to support the principles.
- BRIDGE's main direction is to support Rural Development, for effective work, in village Alaverdi, Akhmeta Municipality, BRIDGE team established social enterprise, which aims to promote economic empowerment of local socially vulnerable groups through employment and capacity building. Currently it has fully equipped, modern training and conference facility for 30 people, where meetings, trainings are organized by bridge and invited experts; it has also three bedrooms with 9 beds, used and already hosting both training participants and other visitors; Fully equipped kitchen, meeting food safety standards, is also in place, which serves visitors as well as is used for delivery service. Degustation/gifts shop, where local products such as jams, honey, cheese, handmade souvenirs, etc. will be exhibited and sold shortly. BRIDGE facilitated establishment of local women's group called "Alaverdi Blue", which is involved in the management of all above listed activities. In social enterprise BRIDGE employed 5 local persons, thus contributes to SDG 8 Decent work and economic growth
- During past two years BRIDGE team implemented several environmental and economic justice projects funded by Japanese Embassy and contributing to SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13. The aim of both projects were/are to support resilience building and rural development of two municipalities, Tsalka and Akhmeta. As a part of Tsalka municipality project, BRIDGE team have set up 2 bio-briquetting workshops in two target villages and provided capacity building for local communities in applying new technologies contributing to local resilience and rural development. AS a result of the project local communities started understanding and practising in sustainable use of forest and agricultural residues. Locally produced bio-briquettes serve as alternative to conventional wood heating for low income households. Briquette consumption contributes to reducing non-sanctioned forest utilization on the territories surrounding target villages. Lastly, it is perceived that as a result of briquette consumption resilience of local households will be raised and environmental situation improved; As part of Akhmeta municipality project, BRIDGE team has constructed cheese cold storage, where local "Guda" cheese will be stored long term basis, packaged, branded etc. By strengthening the knowledge on the new food safety regulations, the practices and skills of over 100 local farmer HHs will be improved, the project will enable them to produce high-quality healthy and competitive cheese for the local and European market thus to increase the income of their families, and in a wider perspective contribute to strengthening the local economy in Akhmeta.

- BRIDGE team is currently implementing Polish Aid funded project that aims to bring together local family entrepreneurs in the Akhmeta Municipality through a joint cheese value chain network and business model development, facilitation of linkages between markets, creation of selling and marketing opportunities, and promotion of the Akhmeta's variety of cheese to tourists and customers. As a result of the project until now close partnership has been established between ethnically minorities of Akhmeta (Pankisi) and Tusheti villages cheese maker farmers, who participated at joint meetings and sold their produce at New Year Market Faire and Cheese Festival that was established in the area in the framework of the project and will be held annually. 20 Cheese maker farmers have been identified, assessed, and pre-selected for inclusive Cheese Cultural Route, which is unique in its nature, since it doesn't have analog in Georgia. The Concept will be presented to Ministry of Culture for getting certification. Project purchased 3 portable milk laboratories that will be distributed in 3 locations, Alaverdi, Tusheti, Pankisi. Together with Demo model of barn, currently in construction, It will support the quality development of a cheese value chain in the Akhmeta municipality. In the framework of the project DRR activities will be conducted as well, based on identified hazards and risks. The project contributes to SDGs 1,2,5,6,9,11;
- BRIDGE does have consulting package, including high professional experts and trainers base and training modules for wide range of diversified themes, such as: DRR, advocacy, marketing, communication, Business Plan Development, TOT, Gender, Community Mobilization, DCFTA, HACCP, Food safety etc. e.g. In 2020 BRIDGE has conducted on-line training for Georgian Farmer's Association target beneficiary farmers (up to 80), from 3 regions, on DRR impact on agriculture sector.
- We support the UN Global Compact's Principles: in the work that we deliver; in the way that we Work and, in the partnerships we forge.

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