

Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) Communication on Engagement (COE) 2022
Period: June 14, 2020 until June 10, 2022

Part I: Statement of continued support

Secretary General to the United Nations,
Mr. Antonio Guterres,
Secretary of United Nation Global Compact
Ms. Sanda Ojiambo,

Dear Stakeholders,

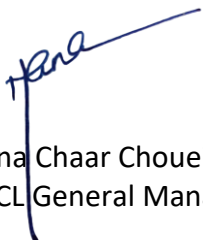
The Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) is proud to reaffirm its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and its 10 principles in order to make our world a better place for the future generations, end poverty, protect the planet and its people, and ensure prosperity and peace for all, CCCL will continue providing its contribution to the national and international community to help achieve the targets set in agenda 2030 and beyond.

I am, also, aware that urgent actions are necessary to improve progress on all the global goals, hence I think that the CCCL's contribution will ultimately improve the outcomes of all the 5 SDGs it is adopting on the local and regional communities and our planet if achieved.

In this Communication on Engagement, we include the actions that CCCL has taken to support the UN Global Compact local and international Network and its Principles.

The CCCL commits to share this information with our stakeholders using all channels of communication available to us and we welcome any comments and feedback on its content.

Sincerely yours,



Hana Chaar Choueib
CCCL General Manager

Part II. Description of Actions

The Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the treatment and care of pediatric cancer patients at no cost to parents.



CCCL was established in Lebanon 2000 under Notice no.138AD and operates under the applicable Lebanese laws of the Ministry of Interior.

CCCL is governed by a Board of Trustees and has no affiliation with any political party. It is an NGO affiliated with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN, USA and operates in association with the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC).

CCCL covers the treatment of all children without any discrimination whether gender, religion, culture, race or nationality.



While for the last 2 years, since our first Communication on Engagement report submitted on June 2020, a vast number of people and organizations showed their willingness to prove their urgency for adopting a different approach, strategically shifted the resources available to sustainable ones, and intentionally or unintentionally took actions despite all obstacles hindering all efforts. CCCL seized, for the past 2 years, many moments to aim higher and continued its implementation and commitment to the sustainable development goals, by preserving the health of people and the planet through its report and contribution to health and wellbeing for all, gender equality , environment , economic, partnerships for the goals and eradicating poverty.



CCCL works on a selection of projects, which contribute and impact a number of SDGs including:

SDG3 – Health and wellbeing of all

CCCL works towards Universal Health Coverage and reaching goal 3.4 of the agenda 2030 by ensuring access to quality childhood cancer treatments for patients aged between 1 day and 18 years. It provides and compliment the care during and beyond treatment through its comprehensive and continuous psychosocial and wellbeing program to patients and survivors that include sports, educational, mindfulness and entertainment sessions. The CCCL programs are designed to assist and improve in the treatment outcome, to help them cope with their physical, mental and psychosocial situation, and to ease their integration back to their community.



CCCL acts beyond its mission of saving lives of children with cancer. It embarked on prevention health programs to mitigate, protect and eliminate Cervical and HPV related cancers and reduce mortality by a third by applying the recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO) strategies.

CCCL, also, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and vaccine centers the delivery of Covid-19 vaccines during the spread of the virus in the past 2 years.



Post Beirut explosion and with the spread of Covid-19, CCCL supported with its international partners the distribution of medical supplies, hygiene products and basic medicine to partner hospitals and public health dispensaries. It safeguarded the health of Lebanese and covered the shortages in ensuring patients access to painkillers, sanitizers and supplies of disinfection materials to those hospitals located in the South, North, Mount Lebanon and Beirut.

CCCL continued to deliver quality educational and childhood cancer awareness sessions in collaboration with medical workers, community leaders and multi-sectorial partnerships.

SDG 5 – Gender equality

CCCL is reaffirming the gender and status equality policies and guaranteeing the implementation of the equal opportunity practice since its establishment throughout the operation, recruitment, advertisement, capacity building and training. Moreover, CCCL introduced the protection and sexual exploitation abuse (PSEA) policy with the aim of further raising gender equality among the employees and beneficiaries. The PSEA policy ensured the application of a reporting mechanism, human rights and cultural protection and actions and psychological help, disciplinary processes for cases reported, if any.



SDG 8 – Decent work place for all and economic growth

In addition to assessing, planning, training, advising and building smaller NGOs' capacity (internally and externally) by providing necessary tools to ensure high level of services, sustainability and international standardization, CCCL continued its growth in all aspects of providing a decent work place and healthy environment to its employees through a set of projects, employees' retention measures and trainings.

In addition, CCCL managed in expanding the team for the past 2 years to cope with the rising needs to fulfill its mission. It ensured the employees psychological stability and satisfaction throughout the past 2 years and their employment at the center through a set of actions and communication methods.



SDG 13 - Environment and climate change

CCCL continues the development and progression of the environmentally friendly culture in the offices and individually through introducing tips and awareness actions internally and in coordination with UN entities. It continued its recycling program, and during the past 2 years, has reduced its business travels and in-person meetings cutting down on releasing the carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Furthermore, CCCL is planning to launch its 1st green policy in 2023 and it will report on its progress and effect on its operation and practice individually in the next due COE in 2024.

SDG 17 – Partnership for the Goals

CCCL followed up on previous report by continuing and strengthening the partnerships relation with World Health institutes related to the support and management of the Pediatric National Cancer control, strategies and policies and built new multi-sectorial Lebanese and international civil societies and private ones.

Moreover, through its team's participation in global, regional, and local events, CCCL emphasized the importance of collaboration and networking in support of childhood cancer control.

This had allowed CCCL to expand pediatric cancer awareness to rural areas of Lebanon and the region. Moreover, it permitted the CCCL access to policies and of which it had a say and input in discussing and reshaping them.

CCCL management supported the promotion of the Global Compact's 10 principles and the SDGs through the participation in events and UN GCN online webinars. It activated a list of international commemoration days and months related to the SDGs and the United Nation agendas for sustainability on CCCL social media channels' while using the relevant hashtags and tagging the concerned parties.

CCCL promotes the sustainable development in Lebanon by continuing close relation with GCNL and collaborated together on delivering related events.

Initiating a network of hospitals throughout Lebanon to help provide treatment to more children in the country, CCCL expanded its services to an approximate distance from all the governorates of Lebanon through establishing multi-partnerships, which saw the organization offering its services to 50% of children with cancer in the country.



Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Implementing its mission of supporting the treatment of kids with cancer, and in line with the universal health coverage plans and agenda 2030 3.4 target, the Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) supports today almost 50% of total childhood cancer patients in Lebanon regardless of any backgrounds and with zero tolerance to any sort of discrimination.

Since 2002, CCCL provided over 6,000 medical consultations and post treatment follow up examinations. Since our last report on engagement in June 2020, CCCL treated 419 children with cancer; an increase of 30% on similar period of 2018-2020.

Year	Patients treated
2018 – 2020	285
2020 - 2022	419

A total of 30% is of non-Lebanese origin.

Bearing in mind that the number reflects only cases who completed their treatments an increase by 30% of medical coverages by CCCL, on previous similar reporting period in COE 2020.

In collaboration with UNICEF and sponsored by the private sector, CCCL developed further its Patients' Wellness Program at both inpatient and outpatient facilities, where almost all children at the center and in partner hospitals received this service. A total of 350 of them continue to benefit from over 600 sessions of expressive art, yoga, musical therapy, art craft, basic pedagogic learning program, and will launch its home palliative care in quarter 3 of 2022 of which we will report on its KPIs in the next COE of 2024. The session totals were as follows:

- Yoga: 115
- Art and Craft: 163
- Expressive Art: 124
- Piano: 83
- Expressive Music: 107
- Basic pedagogic sessions 10

Since its establishment in 2018, CCCL offered the cancer survivors, members of the Champions' Circle club, a comprehensive calendar of skill building, psychosocial, and peer-to-peer support program among many others. That said, with the spread of Covid-19, the support turned into virtual and a regular meeting and educational and awareness sessions were delivered. The program benefited over 100 survivors and membership numbers continue to grow. The psychosocial support program tailored

for the survivors included, positive thinking and peer-to-peer support, organized for them reproductive awareness sessions and Human Papillomavirus (HPV), and offered them the vaccine free of charge, whereby 10% of the members are now vaccinated and protected from cervical and HPV related cancers. As a result, the number of the Champions' Circle members, since the last communication on engagement in 2020, grew by 10% to reach 264 members today.



The care beyond treatment have prompted CCCL to use resources for securing healthy lives for patients families and survivors by offering them and the general public a vaccination program as follows:

Vaccine name	Number of beneficiaries
Covid-19 Sputnik	150
Covid – 19 Pfizer	750
HPV vaccine 3 dozes	53
HPV Vaccine 2 doze	58

Beneficiaries included patients, survivors, family members, NGOs partners, CCCL employees and their relatives. Nevertheless, the CCCL gender neutral HPV Vaccines were delivered to childhood cancer survivors and members of the public aged between 9 and 15 unless he or she is a childhood cancer survivor with an age up to 24.

Although CCCL always had a fair gender representation throughout the years of operation, in 2020 and 2021 until date, the staff gender including the board members is divided as follows:

46.2% male and 53.8% females.

The satisfaction measured is highlighted in the turnover and retention percentages illustrated in the table below:

	Period from June 2020 – 2022 average
Turnover staff	7.5%
Retention of staff	95.7%

Although averages were within the recommendation of LinkedIn platform, the largest professional recruitment and job search resource, 10.9% turnover level is still healthy for an organization like ours specially that global levels is within the 12% margin. Staff left the organization due to change in their marital status or subject to moving abroad as they were directly affected by the country situation and the ongoing economic and social crisis.

CCCL continued developing its workforce through building capacities for all as shown in the table below regardless of their position, grading, gender, or length of employment:

Gender	Percentage
Female	61%
Male	39%

The training included soft skills trainings in collaboration with global educational e-platform taking in consideration the needs, employee's choices, and based on equal opportunity for all. Around 50 trainings were done during 2020 and 2021.

Protecting the human rights for all, beneficiaries and staff, and in line of SDG5 and SDG8, CCCL introduced for the first time the protection against sexual exploitation and policy to CCCL. It has amended its employment agreement and suppliers contract committing stakeholders and staff to the policy, its reporting mechanism, investigation and retaliation if needed. A clause is inserted in any agreement between CCCL and third-party provider of services and staff that reads:

"The First Party has included in its internal policy what is known as protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and it respects its content and applies all its paragraphs in the event that any employee, beneficiary, contractor or third person as service providers commits these heinous acts inside or outside working hours.

The second party also undertakes to attend any training on this subject, which will be organized by the first team in the form of seminars and trainings on this subject”.

Moreover, CCCL continued enforcing its commitment to the gender equality policies introduced in July 2019 throughout its recruitment, promotion, advertising vacancies, and staff appraisals policies to date.

Although hindered by the multi-crises in Lebanon in all its sectors including all civil societies and corporates in the past 2 years starting with the revolution, the Beirut port explosion and the spread of Covid-19, as we reported in 2020 on the result of the satisfaction survey, the Human Resources started to implement the concerns and comments given by 17% of staff as part of promoting the decent work place. In reference to the above employees’ recommendations extracted from the survey, CCCL conducted an employees’ Emotional Intelligence training for all its full and part-time employees to strengthen areas of improvement for all and use their strength for better relations among its different members and managements and to increase productivity. The Human Resources followed up on this training by one-on-one meetings to draw individual plans for improvement for all and the result should be included in the next COE in 2024.

In addition to organizing 2 Yoga group sessions, individual optional breathing and sophrology sessions totaling 21 to help ease tensions and relax moods were offered to 100 % of CCCL team members to ensure their mental health and reduce their stress.

In 2022, and in line with the green policy that will be launched in 2023, CCCL aimed to offset its carbon footprint and deliver on paperless offices reducing at least the usages of papers when the Lebanese legal requirements permit organization not to have hard copies.

The policy aims to raise awareness about the necessity of acting on the climate change and the green houses’ effect on the Lebanese and global environment, which we hope to save more than 138 metric tons of the usage of electricity (combined) and 52 metric tons from transport reported on in the 2020 COE; thus, contributing to lessening the various dangerous pollutants that may remain in the atmosphere for decades and affect the health, water and air resources.

Since reporting on the CCCL’s engagement of the SDGs, the organization has comprehensively recycled, through its environmentally friendly program for PET and paper, over 350 kg of PET and managed to recycle over 200 kg of papers saving 380 meters of trees. The humble numbers reflected above were hindered due to the political, economic and social instability and lockdown imposed by

government in Lebanon over the last 24 months prior to this report, which have forced staff to work from home saving on pollution created by the transport to and from work. Unfortunately, accurate measures are not available for this report but an estimate of 10,000 km of distance between locations, saving fuel consumption, hence cutting on individual footprint on environment by around 1,219 tons of CO released in our atmosphere. CCCL will pledge to increase the numbers of saving trees by introducing electronic and innovative solutions such as the flow of tasks for purchasing orders and delivery processes by embedding the procedure into the data system currently used in the organization. In addition, staff took initiatives to highlight the importance of environmental actions by celebrating anniversaries and distributing gifts produced from recycling materials and green awareness messages.

In 2021, CCCL expanded its “National Program”: a special funded program for treating patients in a variety of hospitals as per the below, reaching 95% of the Lebanese territories (an increase of 50%).

Beirut:

- American University of Beirut Medical Center
- Rafik Hariri University Hospital
- Makassed General Hospital
- Quarantina Public Hospital
- Zahraa Hospital

South:

- Hammoud Hospital University Medical Center
- Nabatieh Governmental Hospital

North:

- Centre Hospitalier du Nord

Mount Lebanon:

- Ain Wazein Hospital
- Bahman Hospital

In 2021, CCCL continued its international affiliation with global cancer control institutions and has joined 2 new international groups namely the UK Global Cancer Network (UKGCN) and the World Patients Alliance (WPA).

Moreover, CCCL pursued other local and international health sector partnerships by attending local World Health Organization (WHO) office meetings and their partners on monthly basis to discuss the country health sectors and means of improvement. CCCL on 2 occasions presented the childhood cancer cases situation in Lebanon and how CCCL is protecting children's future adult lives from cervical cancer through its HPV vaccination program.

Below are only few of the events attended as an advocate for cancer, active partner and member as a sample for partnership for the goals and in line with the targets set in the UN SDGs Agenda 2030:

- UICC October 2020 General Assembly, succeeding in electing the CCCL's General manager to sit on the UICC board of members for the next 2 years, representing Lebanon and the region to advocate for better cancer control in the region and to be part of the international discussion for better health for all.
- UICC World Cancer Congress 2022, preparing for presenting after the CCCL team submitted 8 abstracts, chairing 1 session, 1 film submission and 2 awards for best CEO and best awareness campaign, giving the opportunity and flexibility of the management to the CCCL staff engagement in the global community and positively contributing to the world discussion.
- UICC World Cancer Leaders Summit Virtual 2021, attended and participated in global discussion through the speech of the CCCL General Manager to the attendees in 2021.
- Global SIOP/CCI Virtual2021, presented 2 abstracts.

Moreover, CCCL staff attended and participated actively in conferences and webinars such as:

- The Economist's Impact War on Cancer Asia and Europe
- DIHAD webinar the role of charities in accelerating the SDGs
- Vital strategy webinar good health doesn't just happen
- UICC special dialog for the region and globally tackling issues related to cancer control.
- Non-communicable disease child youth leader in action advancing youth participation
- World Patients Alliance (WPA) regional webinar including EMRO
- General Assembly UN Global Compact 2021 and 2022 and managed to succeed in nominating the CCCL to the Board of directors in 2022
- UN Global Compact leaders' summit in 2020 and virtually in 2021
- More importantly, CCCL organized a session at the UK Global Cancer week in 2021 inviting prominent figures from the civil societies, international health institutions, UN Global Compact Network Lebanon, and social and communities' leaders, and initiated discussion to bridge the divide between continents and sharing experiences.

In total, 6 departments and 38 members around 100% of total employees benefited from those international and national engagements. After the outbreak of the pandemic, we focused our efforts and reach globally and locally through virtual meeting platforms and social media campaigns reaching to 100,000 followers with our awareness clips called “Bus of Hope” in collaboration with UNICEF and supported by Sanofi Espoir.

Around 800 adults in 2021/22 benefited from virtual and in-person cancer awareness and education sessions throughout Lebanon, involving partner NGOs and medical workers, as follows:

- 200 in Beirut with American University of Beirut and the Beirut fire brigades
- 50 in Mount Lebanon with St. John's church youth club
- 100 for the Rotaract sahel almatn district
- 100 in the North Zgharta district
- 100 in Saida
- 100 North Akkar
- 100 Beirut
- 100 globally with UK Global Cancer Network, WHO, SIOP, and the UNGCL end

12 partners from small charities in Lebanon attended the capacity building and training on Basic fundraising and marketing and communication basic and best practice.

Advocating for the 10 principles and SDGs, CCCL engaged its stakeholders, staff, patients and followers on social media by activating many related international days, such as Earth Day, Children and Human Rights days, Childhood Cancer days, World Health day, World Cancer day, Patients Safety day, and many more.

For more information on CCCL's outcomes, please contact Mr. Imad El Hajje on:

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