



COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development (HF)

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement:

From: *July 2020* To: *July 2022*

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive Officer

19 August 2022

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development reaffirms its support to the United Nations (UN) Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

This is our Communication on Engagement with the UN 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.

It is through our continued collaboration that we can achieve change.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Rubina Abu Zeinab

Executive Director, Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development

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Part II. Description of Actions

The Hariri Foundation for Sustainable Human Development is a Lebanese Non-Governmental Organization that was established in 1979 by the martyr HE Rafik Hariri. In its early days of inception, the foundation focused primarily on the educational sector, reaching out and providing financial support through educational scholarships for nearly 34,000 students: thus, rendering investing in people synonymous with investing in Lebanon's future.

Whilst such a focus constituted a direct response to the needs of the war-afflicted population, the foundation has since expanded its scope of coverage, shifting towards a more diversified portfolio of interventions aimed at attaining a sustainable state of human development. To-date, the foundation has implemented over 450 projects that are in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in partnership with more than 110 local, regional and international partners. The foundation currently works across four programs of intervention, including Education and Empowerment, Crisis Response, Socio-economic Development, and Governance & State Building.

Working within a Public-Private-Civil Society partnership framework, the foundation believes in the correlation between adopting a participatory approach to development and the sustainability of initiatives undertaken, as such a methodology is best suited for aggregating, reconciling and creating synergies amongst various interventions that tackle the challenges imposed by the rising trend of urbanization.

Over the past two years, Hariri Foundation has been an active member of the Global Compact Network Lebanon (GCNL). This has included participating in meetings and contributing to initiatives. In addition, our values "Citizenship, Solidarity, Sustainability, Social Justice and Equity, Diversity, Inclusivity, Trust, and Partnership" adding to it our Code of Conduct, policies and procedures that we apply internally and with our partners are in line with the principles of the UN Global Compact.

A. Education and Empowerment Program:

HF considers that education is the key to achieving sustainable solutions and socio-economic transformation. We aim to create better education opportunities, provide and promote quality education, as well as enhance educational equity and democracy of education. HF strives to build the capacities of academic institutions and to connect them through local and sustainable school networks that facilitate the integration of new academic models and technical advancements in academic curricula, as well as mainstream impactful extracurricular activities.

As part of our educational programs we can list the three school-networks: **School Network of Saida & Neighboring Towns** and the school-networks in Sour and Zahrani. The main objectives of these networks are:

- Enhancing continuous and effective communication and exchanging expertise between all member schools and amongst all school constituencies (parents, faculty, school staff, administration and students)
- Connecting and networking with other local, national and international educational institutions

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- Capacity building of teachers, coordinators, and students on civic engagement and soft skills; E-learning and COVID precautions; Sustainable Development goals and designing sustainable solutions to our short and long term challenges
- Mapping and enhancing the creative identity of students among all schools through common extracurricular programs
- Promote the sense of volunteerism and community service

Another educational program is **The Vocational and Technical Training Centre for youth in Saida and neighborhoods** established in partnership with Directorate General of Vocational and Technical training in Lebanon (MEHE) – UNDP. The center aims to hinder the impact of Syrian crisis on youth through contributing to improve the socio-economic conditions of Lebanese and youth refugees by vocational and personal trainings; through the divers training courses (IT, CISCO, Photography, Hospitality, English literacy, Beauty and nail care, Mobile phones maintenance, carpentry..) youth were able to:

- Build the personal capacities through employability skills to match the labor market needs
- Provide a complementary and optional accompaniment to ensure the access to the labor market
- Improve their employability technical skills through a certified training program
- Enhance their personal abilities towards employability

Through the center, we Networked with the labor market and private sector to help students secure job opportunities. We also supported youth entrepreneurs by securing funding opportunities for their projects.

B. Crisis Response Program:

For over 4 decades, HF has been undertaking exceptional missions in disasters and crises through providing humanitarian assistance and relief services to address the direct needs of vulnerable citizens, particularly women, children, and the underprivileged, regardless of their race, religion, political affiliation or nationality.

HF has restored hundreds of housing blocks and over 20 key cultural facilities, upgraded or renovated 30% of those into development centers operated by HF programs and partnerships. Inspired by the Hariri Choice, the basis on which the foundation was incepted, HF has adopted a multi-agency approach in building local resilience, empowering and integrating local actors in crisis response and recovery planning. Through constant coordination, HF was able to mainstream social reconciliation as a milestone to restore social cohesion.

In 2020, we established the **Disaster Risk Management Unit – Saida-Zahrani in partnership with** Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Federation of Municipalities of Saida-Zahrani and the Lebanese Red Cross. This legal unit bring municipal efforts together in managing disaster risks, link local pre-established sectoral networks with the local authorities to enhance preparedness for disasters, engage locals in community-based disaster risk management through outreach and joint

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planning, ensure availability of resources and first responding mechanisms at different fronts in vulnerable communities, adopting scientific indicators in disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management and promote partnerships and tools for data-driven decision-making across local authorities and sectoral networks.

In response to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Lebanon and to manage the outbreak of COVID-19 among the local community, the Hariri Foundation initiated the “**COVID-19 Crisis Management Committee**” in partnership with Ministry of Public Health, Disaster Risk Management Unit – Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Security Devices, Federation of Municipalities of Saida-Zahrani, Hospitals, Lebanese Red Cross and Representative Bodies. The committee reached unified and effective decisions to reduce the threat of COVID-19 on the progress of work of front-line and essential workers, ensured the readiness and functionality of local hospitals and availability of local resources for accepting hospitalized cases and ICU services and delivered free PCR testing for the vulnerable. In addition, it developed local policies and plans to mitigate the socio-economic risks of COVID-19 based on the local needs and aspirations.

C. Socio-Economic Development Program:

The socio-economic program aims to contribute to poverty reduction and social resilience through building the capacities of people and enhancing their living conditions to manage the emerging social and economic risks. HF implements and supports projects that foster **women’s empowerment and entrepreneurship** to engage them in the socio-economic growth and sustainable practices. HF always focused on empowering and engaging youth as a key partner in any developmental process. Thus, HF implements long-term projects that build the capacities of youth to act as local and national social agents that will be leading any aspired change.

Starting with **The Taamir Ain El Helweh Center**, established in 2021 in efforts to institutionalize Hariri Foundation’s constant contribution to the urban and human interventions in the region since the early 1980’s. The center resembles a hub for the local community of Taamir Ain El Helweh to convene, collaborate, plan and contribute to all ongoing local development activities. The center was open in a timely response to the collaboration with the Municipality of Saida and the National Institute for Housing, as well the partnership with universities in the mapping and extraction of property deeds in completion of executing the legislations HF has been advocating for over the course of 3 decades. The center is conducting a wide study of the urban and infrastructural reality and needs and identify multi-sectoral needs in efforts to develop and implement a holistic urban development strategy and action plan. Today, the center provides social services and provides local youth, women with literacy capacity building, socioeconomic empowerment opportunities as well as vocational and technical training.

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In 2017, the Hariri Foundation in partnership with Souk El Tayeb and UNDP established “**Tawlet Saida**”. This environmental friendly community kitchen contributed to improving socio-economic conditions for host community members, mainly women and poorest families, enhanced the competitiveness of the tourism sector through reviving the trading establishments and heritage sites in the surrounding area and introduced an environmental friendly concept to the hospitality industry in Saida and Surrounding areas.

To further promote greater environmental responsibility; and encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies, Hariri Foundation in partnership with the Municipality of Saida, and Local NGOs developed in 2018 “**Saida Sorting at Source**” project. This sustainable initiative raised awareness on the importance of sorting at source, created partnerships and synergies among the local community to hinder the environmental challenges and build the capacities of youth to implement environmental activities in the city and promoted environmentally responsible practices.

D. Governance and State Building Program:

Based on its firm belief in the importance of national balanced development and state building in Lebanon now more than ever, HF works collaboratively with state institutions to seek policy solutions. HF seeks to promote the roles of state institutions and sectoral stakeholders in national development in order to derive best practices in good governance and to capitalize on stakeholders’ roles for trust-building in national policy reform. Through its national endeavor for years, HF has developed and mainstreamed unprecedented models of community participation in policymaking, capitalizing on international approaches to public participation and evidence-based decision making. Accordingly, HF seeks to empower and engage institutions and individuals, particularly youth in national policy research and planning.

Our “**Outreach & Leadership Academy (OLA)**” is one of the partnership models between HF and a private academic institution: Lebanese American University (LAU). OLA objectives are: Educate, empower and engage local communities, Build human capacities and promote economic opportunities and Establish a culture of civic engagement, social awareness, leadership formation and citizenship reinforcement.

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Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

A. Education and Empowerment Program:

- 1. The School Network for Saida & Neighboring Towns:**
includes 110 Schools (Public, Semi-Private, Private, Vocational, and UNRWA Schools) in Saida and its neighboring towns, Universities
- 2. The School Network for Sour:**
includes 90 Public, Semi-Private, Private, Vocational, and UNRWA Schools
- 3. The School Network for Zahrani:**
includes 60 Public, Semi-Private, Private, Vocational, and UNRWA Schools
- 4. The Vocational and Technical Training Centre for youth in Saida and neighborhoods:**
700 youth with Gender consideration were able to develop their technical and educational skills, enhance their socio-economic status and secure a profession.

B. Crisis Response Program

- 1. Disaster Risk Management Unit – Saida-Zahrani:**
The unit included 16 municipalities, each network with its local community
- 2. COVID-19 Crisis Management Committee:**
the committee included 40 NGOs, 24 private and public hospitals, 37 health institutions, 20 laboratories and our volunteers.
- 3. COVID-19 Vaccination:**
We provided Sputnik V vaccine for 3050 persons (first, second and third doses), in addition to supporting all vaccination canters within the Saida-Zahrani Federation of municipalities with the human resources needed
- 4. COVID-19 free PCR Testing:**
We have performed more than 1,000 free PCR tests

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C. Socio-Economic Development Program

1. Tawlet Saida

by establishing this community kitchen we contributed to the rehabilitation of a historical building in the old city of Saida, trained 25 women from old city of Saida on Traditional food, life skills, and entrepreneurship, employed 10 staff from the old city of Saida and established a community kitchen and restaurant with a shop of traditional crafts that appealed thousands of tourists and Lebanese citizens.

D. Governance and State Building Program

1. Outreach & Leadership Academy (OLA):

More than 2000 certificates were so far provided for trainees

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