

## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) Save the Children UK

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: November 2020 To: November 2022

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

25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

On 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Save the Children UK pledged to participate in and engage with the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles. I am pleased to reaffirm our support in this Communication on Engagement which outlines some of the actions we have taken in support of the principles, and how we have measured the outcomes of these actions.

In 2012, Save the Children, UN Global Compact and UNICEF developed the Child's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP), providing comprehensive guidelines on what business can do in the workplace, marketplace and community to respect and support children's rights. Save the Children UK will continue to build on this and collaborate with our expert colleagues based in Sweden where we have established a global Centre for Child Rights and Business. This is a centre of excellence bringing together research, advocacy and training to work with business on their sustainability agenda and practices relating to children.

Save the Children's Theory of Change recognises that change comes from within and through true partnership. Our goal is to collaborate with the private sector and other partners to share knowledge, influence and build capacity to ensure children's rights are at the centre of everything we do. We will continue to advocate to business for better practices and policies, working to build companies' understanding of their core business effects on children's rights and to influence them to become actors for children's rights through maximising the positive effect they can have.

We take a collaborative approach, harnessing the skills and resources from business to create new, innovative solutions. Through this, we will continue to enhance business operations, sustainability and strengthen supply chains to create the greatest change for children. We will continue to strive to create a meaningful value exchange between Save the Children and our partners to influence business practice and create deeper, lasting impacts.

We pledge to engage with the UN Global Compact Network UK. We also commit to sharing this information publicly.

Yours sincerely,



Gwen Hines, Save the Children UK CEO

## Part II. Description of Actions

Save the Children UK has promoted the Global Compact and its principles through the following activities:

- **Joined the UN Global Compact UK Network:** Save the Children joined the UN Global Compact UK Network and has been engaging through webinars and events to raise awareness of business role in child's rights and how they can collaborate to improve their practices.
- **Children's Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) Blog series:** Together with the Global Compact Network UK and UNICEF, we launched a [blog series](#) to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CRBP.
- **Children's Rights and Business Principles webinar:** In June 2022, Save the Children UK co-hosted the webinar [Re-Focusing Business Attention on Children's Right](#) with the GC Network and UNICEF UK to reflect upon the next decade ahead. Attendees heard from experts about how companies can ensure they respect and support children's rights throughout their activities and business relationships.
- **Green Climate Fund:** We encouraged greater social and environmental responsibility by working together with UK companies such as GlaxoSmithKline, AMEX and Clifford Chance on the design of climate adaptation projects with the Green Climate Fund.
- **Climate high-level roundtable:** We convened major corporate partners and institutional donors at a high-level Climate Emergency and a Just Transition roundtable in June 2022.
- **Ethical Trade Initiative and EU Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence (HREDD) laws:** In August and September 2022, Save the Children engaged the Ethical Trade Initiative and other ETI members on the EU's human rights and environmental due diligence laws.
- **Delivering child protection and safeguarding training for Symrise employees located in Madagascar:** We worked with Symrise to improve the livelihoods of vanilla farming communities in the Sava region of Madagascar. The project aims to enhance community resilience to financial, social and economic shocks, youth empowerment and soft skills training. We trained Symrise employees to build capacity on child protection and safeguarding practices to ensure knowledge is passed down to farmers and producers. The training highlighted the importance of prevention of child labour and the child labour code of conduct.
- **Child labour training for Vanilla exporters with the Sustainable Vanilla Initiative (SVI):** To support SVI's work in addressing child labour in the vanilla sector, we designed a training manual to be shared with vanilla exporters, members of SVI and vanilla farming communities to provide information on child labour prevention in value chains.
- **Webinar on Partnering to Achieve Social Impact Along the Supply Chain:** In November 2020, we organised a webinar with over 18 international corporate partners on how transformational partnerships can achieve more for children along supply chains. The webinar included a panel discussion with representatives from Unilever, Symrise and Lavazza and breakout sessions with participants.

### Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

As a result of the above-mentioned activities, Save the Children UK promoted awareness and implementation of the UNGC Principles among UK companies, especially regarding human rights and children's rights. Outcomes include:

- Our webinar "[Re-Focusing Business Attention on Children's Right](#)" addressed the greatest challenges companies face on the ground as a result of new unprecedented risks to children and provided practical guidance to take concrete and meaningful action.
- Our corporate partners are providing critical early investment (more than USD\$1m committed to date since 2021) to design climate adaptation programme to increase children and communities' resilience to climate shocks around the world.
- Participants at the **climate high-level roundtable** came to a shared commitment to community-led climate action and ensuring meaningful youth participation in decision making. We also identified opportunities to explore multi-stakeholder collaboration amongst corporate and public donor.
- Save the Children signed a collective letter to the UK Government lobbying for the introduction of new laws to equal the EU HREDD laws.
- After our **child protection and safeguarding training for Symrise employees**, participants took part in a test and evaluation to confirm their learning and understanding. Symrise continue to advocate for children's rights and monitor their business practices.
- Our **training materials for tackling child labour** have been used to raise awareness within the vanilla industry and farming communities within the Sava region of Madagascar, where 80% of the world's vanilla is grown. The toolkit is free to use and can be found on IDH - The Sustainable Trade Initiative's [website](#).
- A summary document on our **Webinar on Partnering to Achieve Social Impact Along the Supply Chain** was produced for participants highlighting key considerations on how to build and improve trust, complementarity and accountability for NGO-corporate partnerships on child's right and supply chain. The summary also shows the challenges and opportunities for corporate partners and NGOs to create prosperous pathways for communities.

Save the Children UK is fully committed to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact. For further information on the practical activities we have undertaken in support of the UN Global Compact Principles, please see our latest [Annual Report](#). We welcome feedback on the contents of this document, as we aim to continually improve and grow our engagement with the UNGC.