



# ACTED



This is our **Communication on Progress** in implementing the principles of the **United Nations Global Compact** and supporting broader UN goals.

We welcome feedback on its contents.

## ACTED Communication on Engagement (COE)

Covering the period from January 2021 to December 2022

### **Part I. Statement of Continued Support**

To all stakeholders,

I am pleased to express ACTED's continued support to the UN Global Compact initiative and reaffirm the organisation's commitment to its ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption. ACTED recognizes the importance the private sector can play in supporting societal change and strongly believes that, for the Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved, civil society, public and private actors but also academics and the media should work together. To this end, ACTED welcomes the UN Global Compact initiative to catalyze collective action and revitalize the global partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this framework, you will find attached further details on the actions that ACTED has taken to champion the Sustainable Development Goals and supported the UN Global Compact principles over the period from January 2021 to December 2022. We welcome any feedback, and commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely,

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## Part II. Description of actions

Since 2015, ACTED has been a member of the UN Global Compact, fostering synergies and innovative partnerships with the private sector and undertaking strategic actions towards the promotion, deployment and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in Europe, as well as throughout its countries of operation in Africa, Asia, Middle-East and America.

Indeed, ACTED believes that a global and aligned mobilization of actors – citizens, local authorities, companies, public authorities, civil society, producers, consumers, the media, and researchers – is requisite to reduce poverty, combat exclusion and climate change. Each and everyone can contribute, individually and collectively, to build a world without exclusion, without carbon and without poverty.

Therefore, ACTED partners with the private sector across all its programming area and is often engaged with the private sector in its interventions, either through strategic partnerships with companies or private companies foundations, ongoing mobilization and reflection with private sector actors, or private sector development efforts in developing economies (with a focus on small businesses, micro entrepreneurs and small holder farmers). In 2021 and 2022, ACTED worked with a range of private sector partners to provide immediate relief and response in emergencies and projects for longer-term recovery and development.

**Throughout 2021**, ACTED increased its cooperation with French private partners in response to emergencies, in particular with regards to earthquake-affected households in the Grand 'Anse department of **Haiti** after the earthquake on the 14/08/2021. The donation and in-kind support from the French private partner allowed immediate support and more long-term rehabilitation efforts in the country.

**The year 2022** was particularly impacted by the **Ukraine crisis**. For the past 7 years, ACTED has been present in Ukraine to help the victims of the conflict in the Donbass. This long-term experience coupled with qualified teams on the ground and a strong network of civil society organizations as well as excellent relationships with the local authorities allowed us to quickly scale up our response in order to best address the rising needs. ACTED's presence expanded to other parts of the country, and regionally through 9 new offices in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova and Romania. With the help of local authorities, civil society actors and humanitarian organizations, our response strategy covered 3 main priorities:

- 1) Provide support to crisis affected populations in areas where the conflict is active
- 2) Provide a mobile and flexible response to displaced populations within Ukraine
- 3) Provide assistance to refugee populations in neighboring countries e.g. Moldova and Romania.

**With regards to the Ukraine crisis**, ACTED actions implemented in partnership with private sector actors covered a broad range of activities: distribution of hot meals, drinking water, hygiene kits, blankets, fuel, SIM cards, financial support to help people meet their most urgent needs. ACTED trained associations and local authorities in the management of IDP and refugee centers. ACTED also benefited from the support of private companies' experts in WASH and construction to rehabilitate refugees' centers and WASH facilities. Moreover, companies focusing on education supported ACTED's recreational activities for children in refugee centers in Moldova and internal displaced people centers in Ukraine.

Last but not least, with the support of private partners and a partnership with a logistics and transportation company, ACTED organized the operation "Humanitarian convoys for Ukraine". In the framework of this operation, ACTED's private partners organized collections of in-kind-items, sorted by type of products which



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were then transported to Eastern Europe. In total, 98 trucks with 2156 tons of goods were sent to ACTED's warehouse in Rzeszow/Poland and then distributed in Ukraine, Moldavia and Romania.

Throughout its interventions, ACTED also continued to promote entrepreneurship and supported Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to participate in the formal economy, including through provision of business advisory and financial services and advocating for an enabling business environment. While doing so, ACTED also promoted the UN global compact ten principles. Further, ACTED implemented interventions aiming at improving awareness on labour rights and encouraging labour law compliance amongst employers and employees. For example, between 2020 and 2022, ACTED implemented a project to enable and enhance civil society organizations' contribution to the protection and civil empowerment of 255,000 female garment workers and their communities in Sri Lanka.

Throughout all its actions, ACTED aims to support local communities and contribute to social and environmental sustainability, while preventing the risk of harm to local communities and upholding its fundamental responsibilities in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, in line with the UN Global Compact. To support this approach, ACTED has strong internal policies which aim to eliminate the risk of poor human rights practices, and require its partners to similarly uphold the highest standards of conduct. In 2021, all policies were updated including our environmental safeguarding policy, child protection policy, grievance, conflict of interest, anti-terrorism and money laundering, anti-fraud, and data protection policies. Finally in 2022, ACTED finalized and endorsed a new gender policy.

ACTED also recognizes that its activities may change the way people use and rely on the environment or may affect or be affected by environmental conditions. As such, as part of its global strategic program framework, ACTED recognizes the need to promote environmental sustainability and prevent environmental degradation, and thus promotes sustainable and eco-friendly growth within its programming. In 2020, ACTED launched a revised global programmatic strategy, built around the 3 key objectives of its "3Zero vision" (Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon and Zero Poverty), adapting its programming to better address the environmental crisis. In 2022, 14% of ACTED's activities are aimed at environmental protection and climate change adaptation. ACTED will continue to prioritize the upscaling its our green and environmental programming in 2023, with the aim for the portfolio to reach at least 25% of our programming by end 2025.

## Part II. Measurement of outcomes

- Projects towards SDGs implemented with the support of ca. 60 corporate partners.
- In 2021:
  - o More than 18 million people received assistance from ACTED
  - o 538 600 people increased their capacity to cope or recover from shocks.
  - o 1518 CSOs and government institutions have increased their capacities.
  - o 2500 micro small and medium enterprises were supported
- Participation in / support to Convergences annual forum (average of 5,000 participants) and integration of 3 Zero objectives into its global strategic programmatic framework, further supporting inclusive, cross sector partnerships to achieve SDGs
- Ca. 14% of programmatic activities including a "green" activity component in 2022