

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE) – UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

Organization: PharmAccess

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: 8th May 2021 to 1st August 2023

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by Chief Executive Officer

2nd August 2023

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that PharmAccess reaffirms its support to the United Nations 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 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. As an organization we are dedicated to implementing transformative solutions for global challenges and working with public and private partners to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

We also commit to sharing this information with our partners and stakeholders.

Sincerely yours,



Nicole Spieker, Chief Executive Officer

Part II. Description of Actions

The box below describes the actions PharmAccess has taken in support of the UN Global Compact, based on the list of [suggested activities](#) for our type of organization (civil society/ non-for-profit).

Over the last two years, PharmAccess has engaged in a range activities and actions in support of the UN Global Compact and the Sustainable Development Goals. Including activities at national level through our offices in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania, as well in the Netherlands through the UN Global Compact Netherlands Network and globally.

Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals

In partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, PharmAccess contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) by working towards inclusive health markets in sub-Saharan Africa. By capitalizing on digital innovations, and public-private partnerships, we help build stronger, sustainable health markets that ensure millions of people in Africa can get access to healthcare. Combining financial protection with quality of care prevents patients from falling into poverty when faced with healthcare needs. While our work focuses directly on accelerating progress towards SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and Universal Health Coverage (Target 3.8), the broader impact of our work can be felt in several of the other SDGs, including: 1 (No Poverty), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 10 (Reduced Inequality) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Partnerships for the Goals

Partnerships are at the heart of what we do and we work with about 150 partners in Africa and globally – including private sector companies, government, healthcare federations, non-governmental organizations, and academia. These collaborations have allowed us to innovate to strengthen healthcare systems and work towards a world where everyone has access to basic, affordable quality healthcare care services. We believe that private sector plays a key role into a public healthcare system as 50% of Africans go to private providers. Public-private collaboration and blended finance approaches are key to building sustainable health markets and other achieving the SDGs. Over the last two years we have continued to strengthen our partnerships with private and social impact companies, finance institutions and healthcare networks to drive collaboration for sustained impact, using the UN Global Compact as a guide for these engagements.

Events

Over the last two years, PharmAccess has participated in a range of conferences and events, as speakers or co-organizers through which we have advocated for private sector inclusion, public-public partnerships and digital transformation as a means for accelerating Universal Health coverage and SDG Progress.

UN Global Compact Network Netherlands

Over the last two years, we have engaged in a range of activities through our local UN Global Compact Network Netherlands. This includes attending and voting at board meetings, participating and co-organizing events, supporting our young leaders to participate in the Young Professionals Program, and participating in campaigns such as the Flag Campaign on SDG Action Day.

Internal Policy

Over the last two years PharmAccess has continued to increase our impact towards the SDGs, both through our interventions and our internal operations. For example, we have recently updated our Travel and Safety Policy to include a flight policy, aimed at reducing our organizations Carbon Footprint. Among others this new policy includes rules to reduce short and unnecessary air travel – while PharmAccess is now also paying for CO2 compensation on all flights. This policy adds to already existing internal policies around labor and human rights, such as: Code of Conduct, Anti-Bribery and Corruption, Child Safeguarding, Protection and Network Security and Data, and HR – all of which are in line with the advancement of the UN Global Compact.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

The box below includes some of the impact of the activities described in Part II above.

Advancing the SDGs

The overall impact of PharmAccess' activities in sustainably strengthening health markets in Africa and advancing progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the other Goals can be [found here in our 2022 Progress Report](#). Some of our impact is highlighted below:

We were the first to develop an accredited quality certification methodology ([SafeCare](#)) for healthcare facilities in lower and middle-income countries, so far providing quality improvement support to 7,000 healthcare providers – with 8 million monthly patient visits. Our [Medical Credit Fund](#), the only impact fund dedicated to supporting African health SMEs, has reached 2,000 private healthcare facilities with (digital) loans worth over USD150 million – ensuring that small business owners (many being women), have the funds and technical support needed to grow their businesses and improve their services. Together with tech company CarePay, we developed Africa's first digital platform ([M-TIBA](#)) for pooling and managing healthcare funding, connecting 4 million people. Our health financing initiatives have supported UHC efforts in countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania. And, together with our partners, are we using data and technology to develop value-based care models to drive better patient outcomes – with our MomCare initiative resulting in significant improvements in the access and quality of pregnancy care for over 58,000 women in Tanzania and Kenya.

Partnerships for the Goals

We have developed and strengthened a range of partnerships with private sector, government, donors and other stakeholders to advance the Global Compact and overall sustainable development. For example, we signed a partnership with Medtronic Labs to collaborate on innovative financing models in Kenya. While in Zanzibar we have strengthened private-private health sector collaboration by supporting the development of the Zanzibar Private Health Sector Association (ZAPHOA). At global level, we are collaborating with Philips (a member of the UN Global Compact) – together with whom we started the [Digital Connected Care Coalition](#) to leverage the private sector potential in accelerating digital transformation for Universal Health Coverage.

Events

Over the last two years, PharmAccess has participated in over 40 high profile events and conferences – to help advocate for private health sector development, public-private partnerships and digital transformation for sustainable development. For example, in April 2022 we partnered with the SDG Partnership Platform Kenya and the Dutch Embassy in Kenya to host an event called "Digitalizing Health to Scale – The Catalytic Role of Digital Innovations in Health Financing to Advance the UHC Agenda". We have also had speakers at the likes of International Finance Cooperation's (IFC) Global Private Health Conference, Global Impact Investors Network (GIIN) Conference and Africa Health Business Symposium. We have participated in the annual SDG Action Day (The Netherlands), as well as the SDG Leader's Summit (global) and several events hosted by the UN Global Compact Netherlands Network. This included co-organizing an event themed: "Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good health and well-being. Orchestrating system change and transition towards access to health" – during which we brought together speakers from the like so the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CarePay (technology company) and Ghana's National Health Insurance Authority.

UN Global Compact Netherlands Network

Over the last two years, we have voted in the board elections to try help ensure that the board remains diverse, inclusive and representative of the member organizations. We have also participated in the annual general meetings as well as the other networking events. Furthermore, we have supported two of our staff members to participate in the year-long Young Professionals Program (YPP) and participated annually in the 'SDG Flag Campaign' to publicly show our commitment towards the SDGs.

Recognition

The impact of our work has been recognized by global thought leaders such as the G20, IFC and the Financial Times – with 5 awards since 2021. We were the winners of the Finance for the Future award (2021) and were officially recognized by the World Economic Forum as an Innovation Hub for Value Based Healthcare (2022).

Internal Policy

Through our strong internal policies (see Part II) we have ensured that we hire diverse teams in terms of age, race, sex, nationality, professional experience and academic background. About 70% of our staff are based in our African offices, and 50% of our senior leadership are female. We have recently adopted new a flight policy to reduce our carbon footprint, however it is too early to measure the impact of this policy.