

**COMMUNICATION OF ENGAGEMENT (COE)
ACRA
2021-2022**

Milan, 12.12.2023

Statement of Continued Support

Dear Mr. Secretary General,
Dear Stakeholders,

I am pleased to communicate our renewed commitment toward the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

We join to the present letter our Communication on Engagement (COE) 2021-2022 that describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact.

Sincerely yours,



Nicola Morganti
President

COE**Description of Actions**

January 2021 –December 2022

Introduction

In December 2016 ACRA joined the United Nations Global Compact, the largest strategic corporate citizenship initiative in the world. The choice to join the Global Compact was driven by our objective to develop virtuous partnerships with the private sector in full compliance with the universal principles of human rights.

ACRA seeks cooperation with businesses and has joined the United Nations Global Compact to become part of a process where the profit and non-profit sectors increasingly join their efforts, while ensuring respect for human rights and the dignity of people.

ACRA offers as well to companies the opportunity to jointly design projects in the field and in a synergistic manner, providing companies with the skills acquired in fifty years of fieldwork in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Engagement with companies in Global Compact related issues 2021-2022

Activities on Education

SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

ACRA strongly believes that education is the fundamental lever for the empowerment of individuals and communities.

One of our main goals is to guarantee universal access to quality, equitable and inclusive education that leads to adequate and concrete learning outcomes, and that provides skills and capacities that help address the root causes of poverty and discrimination.

In all the Countries we adopt a participatory and integrated approach (Human Rights Based Approach) embracing the principles stated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Conscious of the digital divide also in Italy, as highlighted during the Covid -19 pandemic, and the negative repercussion on the education of children and young students, we have therefore prosecuted the partnership established in 2020 with the international Corporate Foundation STMicroelectronics.

The joint program planned for the school year 2021/2022 aimed at strengthening the digital skills of teachers and children of Italian Schools in the perspective of Active Global Citizenship (Agenda 2030).

The 2021/2022 project focused on:

- strengthening distance learning skills
- promoting new digital tools
- youth participation

Activities

- In-depth training modules and webinars with the support of **STMicroelectronics** volunteers;
- Online and/or offline teachers' training;
- Digital equipment for young people;
- Workshops in schools;
- Workshops in Youth Aggregation Centres

Outcomes

Direct beneficiaries equipped and trained:

- 60 teachers
- 300 students



For more information:

<https://www.acra.it/cosa-facciamo/aree-di-intervento/italia-ed-europa/siamo-tutti-collegati>

In 2022 the partnership with the STMicroelectronics Foundation was renovated for the school year 2022/2023 and improved in order to promote Sustainable Development

Goals, coding and STEM competences among teachers and students in Italy.

It's important to underline that the target beneficiaries have been expanded also to STMicroelectronics employees engaged in corporate volunteer program.

The 2022/2023 project focused on:

- promoting coding to strengthen problem solving skills among new generations
- promoting SDG awareness
- promoting STEM studies and related careers among students, especially girls
- engaging corporate volunteerism
- facilitating direct collaboration between corporate employees and ACRA educators

Activities

- Organisation of "Coding days" in schools to introduce male and female students to coding;
- Creation of an educational kit on coding and sustainable development;
- Realization of teacher courses on coding and sustainable development (online and live);
- Presentation of workshops to introduce digital professions in schools with a focus on the gender aspects.

Direct beneficiaries

- 60 teachers
- 320 students in primary and secondary junior schools
- 320 students in secondary high schools

For more information

<https://www.acra.it/cosa-facciamo/aree-di-intervento/italia-ed-europa/collegati-al-futuro-due>



Activities on social protection and maternal and child health

<i>SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</i>
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In several countries in Africa, ACRA is supporting access to basic services and social protection mechanisms for all populations (indigenous, returnees and refugees) and contribute to strengthen local consultation mechanisms between populations, local authorities, the private sector, technical services and stakeholders.

Specifically in Burkina Faso ACRA is committed to improve community services for social protection and maternal and child health through the "Population Programme" financed by EU and other stakeholders, such as the Corporate Foundation related to the Chiesi pharmaceutical Company.

The Chiesi Foundation has supervised the adaptation of ACRA tools (questionnaires for surveys in health centres and tools for needs analysis) in order to integrate the neonatology component in health centres.

The San Camillo Hospital in Ouagadougou is meant to be the reference point for the local perinatology network that carries out structured neonatology training for health centres' staff and awareness raising on maternal care and breastfeeding.

The project contribute also to the SDG 5 - *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls* as included specific training activities for young girls, women and local organizations focused on women empowerment and action against gender based violence.

Activities

- Data collection on neonatal and maternity care in 79 health centres.
- Improvement of the tools of the targeted health centres for the implementation of quality services in terms of neonatal care, social promotion, health and family planning (41 centres identified by ACRA).
- Promotion of initiatives to raise awareness and empower women in synergy with local actors. Specifically, the focus will be on gender equality, respect for women's rights and violence eradication.
- Development of a protection network for neonatal health through networking and support to hospitals and local health institutions, favoring the exchange of data, research and good practices.
- Training of women's organizations on women's and children's rights, women empowerment and combating gender-based violence, with related funding for awareness-raising and women empowerment initiatives promoted by local women's CSOs.

Outcomes

Direct beneficiaries:

- generally women of childbearing age and their children
- approximately 988 infants and mothers giving birth in the affected hospitals (per month)

Indirect beneficiaries:

- 218.000 women of childbearing age living in the central region who depend on these health centres for delivery, newborn care and family planning services.

For more information:

<https://www.acra.it/it/cosa-facciamo/aree-di-intervento/burkina-faso/una-rete-si-cura>

Chiesi
FOUNDATION

Activities on access to clean water

SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

ACRA is committed to guarantee universal and sustainable access to clean drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene, education on water proper use in several countries in Africa and Latin America.

In Ecuador, Senegal, Tanzania, Mozambique and El Salvador we build water networks in rural areas, improved latrines at family and school level.

In Ecuador, during 2021- 2022 ACRA has renovated the strategic multi – year collaboration with the **B-corp WAMI** (Water with a Mission) through the implementation of a project in the Province of Tungurahua and the set up of a new intervention in the Province of Cañar. The two projects aims at ensuring access to water in sufficient quality and quantity to meet the needs of local communities and preserve natural resources.

Both areas are characterized by a reduced availability of drinking water which, in rural areas, reaches only 35% of the population, leaving many families without enough water to meet their basic needs (Foro Nacional de Recursos Hídricos, 2013).

The already difficult living conditions of the local populations are exacerbated by the inequitable distribution of water resources, the high level of surface water pollution, the inadequate administration of the Andean Parámo ecosystem and the use of rudimentary technologies and infrastructures for the management of community aqueducts.

In order to create long-term sustainable systems in both Provinces ACRA supports the dialogue between the Municipalities and the local Institutions “Juntas de Agua” for the management and administration of water infrastructures and related consumption tariffs.

In the Province of Tunguraha we have reached the indigenous and peasant communities of Churumanga, Salasaca, Pillate and Chacauco.

Activities

- Supply of drinking water to more than 2,000 people in 4 communities by upgrading existing but damaged or inadequate infrastructure.

- Creation of 291 connections, of which 3 belong to local schools.



Beneficiaries:

- The 2,188 inhabitants belonging to the 4 communities of Churumanga, Salasaca, Pillate and Chacauco.

For more information

<https://www.acra.it/it/cosa-facciamo/aree-di-intervento/ecuador/acqua-sicura-a-tungurahua>

The project in the Province of Cañar aims to realize another water network in order to reach the 5 Communities of Chaglaban, Cuchucun, La Posta, Ayahuaico and Zhizho.

Activities

- Supply of drinking water to more than 1.796 people in 5 communities by upgrading existing but damaged or inadequate infrastructure.
- Creation of 450 connections.

Beneficiaries

- The 1.796 inhabitants belonging to the communities of Chaglaban, Cuchucun, La Posta, Ayahuaico and Zhizho.

The partnership with WAMI fulfill also *SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*.

Other Information about ACRA

Finally, ACRA is a member of *Sustainability Makers – the professional network*, an Italian association of professionals who plan and implement sustainability strategies and projects, in business enterprises and other organization.

It's a third-sector organization which role is to qualify and enhance the skills and specialisation of these professionals through training and networking activities, studies and research, conferences, workshops and webinars.