

## **COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)**

Hope for the Children Foundation (HFCF)

### **Period covered by this Communication on Engagement**

From: 31 January 2022

To: 31 January 2024

### **Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent**

21 January, 2024

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Hope for the Children Foundation (HFCF) 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. 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.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Caroline Audoir de Valter

**Founder & CEO**

## **Part II. Description of Actions**

Hope for the Children Foundation (HFCF) was founded in 2007 in Pune, India. Hope for the Children Foundation leverages its 17 years of grassroots experience and expertise with a team of experts to design in-house programs that actively focus on Community development, Education, and Child Protection, implementing projects that will ultimately contribute to their personal development as well as the broader development of the community through a Child Friendly approach.

Our primary focus is education, nutrition, health, and life skills education and career counselling for youth and children, as well as empowering women and young ladies through various vocational and livelihood training programmes, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship development programs. We also advocate for social justice and protection for children and women.

Hope for the Children Foundation addresses social problems such as: lack of access to education for girl child and quality education to marginalized children, child rights and protection, poverty, hunger and gender inequality & discrimination; environmental issues and awareness, rehabilitation of juvenile delinquency and psycho-social emotional issues of adolescents; school drop outs and reinsertion, child labour, early marriage, early and unsafe pregnancy, children committing crime, Counselling disturbed personal and social relationships, addictions, health and nutrition, financial literacy, low status and unemployment among women, illiteracy, low socio economic status, unequal rights and opportunities of women and violence against women and children on a daily basis through our learning centers and Community centers.

Children, youth, and women from our communities that we are working with are extremely vulnerable and in danger due to the surroundings in which they live. Most of the children and women that are part of our community are from slums of rural, urban, and street life. The foundation currently operates successfully in Pune, PCMC, and Rural part of Maharashtra.

Our program was designed focusing on the sustainable development goal. We are addressing 14 sustainable goals. Aligning the work according to sustainable development goals becomes pivotal as it provides a global blueprint for dignity, peace, and prosperity for people and the planet, now and in the future.

HFCF has been a strong member of the United Nations Global Compact program over the years on the SDG's theme of education and gender equality.

## Our programs support 14 SDGs

1. **Child Friendly:** Goal 1 - 9 - 10 - 16 - 17
2. **Shiksha ki Asha:** Goal 4
3. **Shiksha Plus program for youths:** Goal 3 - 4 - 5 - 8
4. **Atmanirbharata and Mauka for Women:** Goal 1 - 3 - 5 - 8 - 10
5. **Humanitarian Aid** - Goal 2
6. **Community Development** - Goal 2-8-5-6

**Child Friendly** - For the past 4 years, Hope for the Children Foundation has been a “pioneer” in bringing the Child Friendly program to Pune, and now throughout the state of Maharashtra. Strongly aligned with the “Juvenile Justice Act (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015,”

Hope for the Children Foundation is committed to the government’s vision to improve the lives of children that need care and protection and rehabilitate children who have been in conflict with the law. The Child Friendly Initiative is the result of our grassroots experience and work, which began in 2009 and has included a variety of advocacy campaigns and training sessions on several acts for various stakeholders. We also collaborated with numerous communities and raised public awareness through various events such as marathons and walkathons, media advocacy, signature campaigns, child labour mapping, and rescue.

It became critical for Hope for the Children Foundation to support and help develop an ecosystem that collaborates to protect children's rights through a comprehensive approach that is preventive, curative, and promotes child-friendly mechanisms with the Police Department in PMC, PCMC, Rural Police, and various government departments.

**Shiksha ki Asha:** Through our Shiksha ki Asha program, Child friendly centred approach, we also provide health awareness, nutrition, and a tailored curriculum for personality development, as well as counselling and remedial educational materials to children from the 3rd to the 8th grade.

The programme provides students with educational resources to support their learning, learning tools developed in-house, 12 years of hands-on experiences, and training suited to their specific needs, allowing them to reach their full potential and complete their formal education.

The programme implemented in Pune Child Care Homes has shown how life skills education, remedial education, and counselling sessions have a significant effect and impact on children. Children have changed their behaviour, made wise decisions, improved their personalities, and returned to school.

**Shiksha Plus-Yuva Programme:** It was created to give students and youth aged 17 and above the support they need to continue their schooling and/or pursue vocational training. The programme also provides learners with various tools for their personality development as well as basic digital and financial literacy, workplace competence, and professional ethics through the teaching of soft skills and life skills that enhance confidence, team management skills, and professionalism. They are also taught how to organize and manage their studies, as well as how to develop leadership skills.

**Atmanirbharata and Mauka for Women Empowerment:** The Atmanirbharata program, which started in 2012, was created to address issues of sustainability in the lives of single mothers, unskilled women, and youth (18 years and older) who want to improve their living standards through vocational and livelihood training programmes, entrepreneurship training, income and basic skill values and regular awareness sessions

We are also the implementing partner for the Sakhi One Stop Center at Mundhwa. The scheme provides integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence under one roof and facilitates immediate services, including medical, legal, psychological, and counseling support, under one roof to fight against any forms of violence against women. We also started a Digital room at the Mahila State home in Pune.

**Humanitarian Aid** - Providing life-saving assistance such as food security, medical assistance, and counselling services to people impacted and maybe displaced by the COVID 19 pandemic was a top priority during the pandemic. Every month, we distribute over 16,000 meals and groceries to childcare centers, orphans, and very poor and vulnerable families in the community. We also give daily meals to all of the children at the Shiksha ki Asha learning center, as well as supplementary nutrition to single mothers.

**Community Development** - It includes our different and innovative projects in interior remote villages. Rural development is important not only for the majority of the population residing in a rural area, but they also have fewer resources for survival and livelihood. Previously, the abuse of land-intensive natural resources like forestry and agriculture was at the heart of rural development. However, today, increasing urbanisation and shifting global manufacturing networks have changed the nature of rural areas.

Rural development still remains at the core of the overall development of the country. More than two-thirds of the country's people are dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, and one-third of rural India is still below the poverty line. Healthcare is the most negatively impacted in rural areas. People walk hours and hours to primary health care facilities.

We currently work in 33 villages in the tribal and rural areas of Maval. The villages are situated in hilly areas. Our first intervention was in the year 2020, during the pandemic. We supported some villages with ambulances. We expanded our scope after the need based and impact-based assessments. In collaboration with the panchayat and health department, we did many important interventions, like the mobile health unit, water treatment plant, solar plants, seed funding, etc. We are continuing our interventions on various issues of rural development through our innovative projects.

## **Alignment and Promotion of the 10 Principles**

### **Human Rights Principle**

***Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights.***

***Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.***

Our organization not only supports and respects human rights but also creates awareness among the community for the protection of children's and women's rights. Our multifaceted approach mainly focuses on providing education, protection, development and safe environment for the children, youth and women. Along with that, in collaboration with different stakeholders, we provided clinical support to LGBTQ communities. Our Child Rights Week celebration not only creates awareness, but it goes beyond the words, manifesting in tangible efforts to empower the next generation. Every year, we organize a purple ribbon campaign to raise awareness and prevent violence against women and girls. The campaign's goals were to make violence against women unacceptable - a topic that can be openly discussed, to promote understanding around the issue, and to encourage all members of the public to become involved in community-level efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls. The campaign began on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and continued until December 10, Human Rights Day.

### **Labour Principle**

***Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining.***

The staff of HFCF and beneficiaries of the organisation have every right to talk about their grievances. The management takes note of the issues in the board meetings and keeps on reviewing the policies and making sure that the rights of every staff member is secured and they have freedom to put up their views.

***Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour.***

HFCF is strictly against any kind of forced or compulsory labour. Every appointment is done based on the requirements of the organization, and it is made sure that each

and every staff member has a written contract with the details of their roles and responsibilities and the benefits that they will be receiving from the organization. The staff accepts the letter of offer before joining the organization and may opt to leave as per the mutually agreed upon terms and conditions based on the labour laws of India.

The organization at every level positively supports the staff for their development and makes sure that staff develop their skills in teamwork and leadership and perform at their fullest potential.

**Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour.**

Through our programs, we are not only against child labor, but we also work towards providing quality education, life skills, and holistic development to children in anganwadi, schools, and child care institutions. promote everyone to take a pledge against child labour and child marriage. We support them in our day-to-day lives, to the best of our abilities.

**Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.**

HFCE, while employing any staff in the NGO, makes sure that there is no discrimination based on any gender, sex, class, religion, caste, nationality, or region. The staff is employed purely based on their potential. Our NGO employees are 95% women.

**Environment Principle**

**Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.**

**Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.**

To ensure environmental sustainability and rural development, we have developed a gate and garden at the Takve entrance. On the theme of the environment, we have placed 15 direction boards on the roads.

Here are some messages for the boards:

**Save trees, Save a life**

**Save our Environment**

**Plant trees, save trees, and protect the environment**

**Plant trees If you want shade in summer**

The messages aimed to create awareness about the significance of the environment. Such initiatives will have an influential impact on people's minds in the long term regarding the environment. We also celebrated World Environment Day on June 5th

by conducting an awareness session in our Atmanirbharta center, situated at Talegaon and Chakan.

***Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.***

HFCF ensures that all the processes and systems of the organisation are environment friendly. There should be appropriate use of water, paper, electricity, and fuel. We believe in repairing, recycling, and reusing the maximum amount of resources.

As an NGO, HFCF promotes awareness about the promotion, protection, and conservation of the environment among all our beneficiaries. The children are taught different life skills sessions, different elements of nature and how and why we need to be in tune with them so that we make this planet a better place to live in.

**Anti-Corruption Principle**

***Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.***

Hope for the Children Foundation has a policy of “zero tolerance” for fraud and corruption, and we require staff and volunteers at all times to act honestly and with integrity to safeguard the assets for which they are responsible. A handbook has also been designed and integrated into the foundation principle guidelines.

Fraud and corruption may threaten the reputation and work of the foundation, and this must be the utmost concern of all staff and collaborators. We take seriously any actual or attempted act of fraud or corruption by staff, volunteers, contractors, their employees, partners, and agents acting with us or on our behalf.

Staff and volunteers involved in actual or attempted fraud or corruption of any kind will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal and will be reported to the law enforcement authorities for criminal prosecution.

We are committed to preventing fraud and corruption and to developing an anti-fraud and anti-corruption culture. To achieve this, we develop, maintain, and consistently apply effective controls to prevent fraud and corruption at all levels; ensure that if fraud or corruption occurs, a vigorous and prompt investigation takes place and that reports are shared with stakeholders as appropriate; take appropriate disciplinary and legal action in all cases, where justified; take all appropriate and reasonable steps to recover any financial losses; review systems and procedures to prevent similar frauds or acts of corruption; ensure fraud and corruption risks are taken into consideration in the program planning & accounting system; and report incidents to donors as required.

**Part II. Measurement of outcomes (i.e., qualitative or quantitative measurements of results).**

SN	Program	Qualitative outcome	Quantitative outcome
1.	<b>Child Friendly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating safe environments in which children can live and grow without fear.</li> <li>• Child Friendly Infrastructure &amp; Refurbishment. Providing digital set up, furniture, and needed equipment for counseling.</li> <li>• capacity building of Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) &amp; Child Welfare Police Officers (CWPO) through training.</li> <li>• Children in Conflict with Law (CCL) and Children in Need of Care &amp; Protection (CNCP) Children get Aware of Social Issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30,230 beneficiaries were benefited through a child friendly space in the last two years.</li> <li>• 8 Child Friendly Models <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Police Station</li> <li>- Child Care Institutions (CCIs)</li> <li>- Anganwadis</li> <li>- Schools</li> <li>- Railway Station</li> <li>- Task Force</li> <li>- Juvenile Court</li> <li>- Hospital</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 28 Child-Friendly Police Stations have been established in PMC and PCMC</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Shiksha Ki Asha</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrollment of the children in SKA classes to receive regular educational support.</li> <li>• Improvement in level of interest towards formal education.</li> <li>• Improved in Marathi, English and Mathematics subjects through remedial education.</li> <li>• Reduction in the drop out of children from the school to continue their education.</li> <li>• Assessment of academic status and abilities of the children.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11,020 Children benefited from the program in the last two years.</li> <li>• All teachers of selected anganwadi get trained about the teaching curriculum, child protection laws and regulation.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help the teachers in planning the lessons accordingly.</li> <li>• Assess the improvement in academic knowledge of the children</li> <li>• Development of children's collaboration, creativity, and invention skills.</li> <li>• Learning of new crafts.</li> <li>• Development of skills in the children</li> <li>• Children gain knowledge regarding social issues.</li> <li>• The improvement in the skill and knowledge of children</li> <li>• Positive personality change</li> <li>• Increase awareness levels among the Children, teachers and communities.</li> <li>• We work with Angawadis, Schools and Child Care institutes (CCIs)</li> </ul>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Shiksha Plus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth from low-income families who are dropouts, children of domestic workers, and aged 16 and above receive assistance and skills.</li> <li>• life skills enhancement and personality development of youths.</li> <li>• Youth receive guidance on career through counseling and professional psychometric.</li> <li>• Youth gets educational sponsorship to continue their education and/or undertake vocational training.</li> <li>• Parents and children receive support throughout rehabilitation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3206 youth were provided with life skills, career counseling, vocational training &amp; education sponsorship.</li> </ul>

4.	<b>Atmanirbharata</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The women receive Vocational Training and attain a new set of skills.</li> <li>• The financial condition of the women are enhanced as they acquire the skills necessary to start a small scale business.</li> <li>• The women are promoted to become successful entrepreneurs with the required set of skills, knowledge and financial assistance required.</li> <li>• Through Self Help Groups and Federation in a longer run the women manage to fulfill their personal and business related financial needs.</li> <li>• They are sensitized through various Awareness Programs on different social issues relating to their day to day life so that they have appropriate skills, attitude and practices required for managing every facet of life.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12,412 women participate in our in-house Atmanirbharata program.</li> <li>• We have 4 centers currently at different locations in Pune to support the Atmanirbharata program.</li> <li>• Our medical camp supported 1023 beneficiaries in the last two years.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Humanitarian Aid</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• childcare centres, orphans, and very poor and vulnerable families including single mothers and HIV infected receive food grains, supplementary nutrition to single mothers and HIV affected/infected.</li> <li>• Homeless people receive food</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every month, we distribute over 16,000 meals and groceries as humanitarian aid.</li> </ul>
6.	<b>Community development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remote communities get accessibility of health care facilities through mobile health clinics.</li> <li>• 8 villages were supported with water treatment plants due to water-borne diseases and ill health.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We reached out to 4654 beneficiaries through a Mobile Health Clinic</li> <li>• We currently work in 33 villages in the tribal and rural</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have installed solar lights on the Takve Gate and Mundwa to provide a convenient and cost-effective way to light the path at the entry of Takve at night.</li> <li>• Women farmer economically empowered through Seed funding Capacity building trainings</li> <li>• Medical support to 4 Villages through Ambulance in the village.</li> <li>• Capacity building of the Primary Health Centre by Generator</li> <li>• The digital smart learning kits were distributed to Sevadham trust - a tribal residential home that has been working for the last 41 years in a very remote area of Maval.</li> </ul>	<p>areas of Maval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Ambulance donated to 4 villages</li> <li>• 8 Water treatment plants installed at 8 villages</li> <li>• 16 Women received seed funding from 8 villages</li> <li>• One digital smart learning kit donated to tribal trust.</li> </ul>
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