



Stichting thaki

James Wattstraat 100-8
1097DM Amsterdam
Netherlands
www.thaki.org
info@thaki.org

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: March 2022

To: March 2024

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

Please use the box below to include the statement of continued support signed by your organization's Chief Executive or equivalent.

14 March 2024

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Thaki 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,

*Rudayna Abdo
Founder & CEO*

Part II. Description of Actions



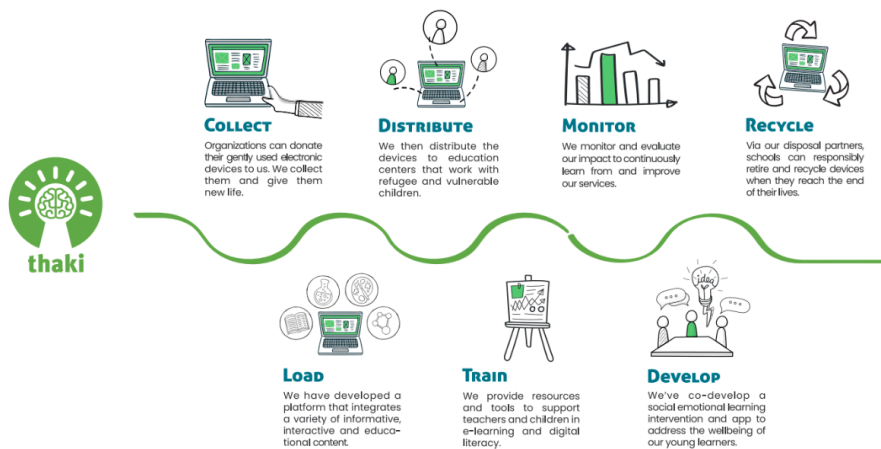
Thaki has been responding to the refugee crisis in Lebanon since 2015, providing refugee and vulnerable host community children with digital literacy and e-learning opportunities through an innovative approach that creates socially responsible public-private partnerships that work towards addressing the educational crisis in the region.

Thaki advances digital inclusion and bridges learning gaps by providing laptops with preloaded educational content for refugee and underserved communities in the Middle East. We leverage the circular economy to collect laptops no longer needed by corporates then repurpose them for refugee and vulnerable youth by adding multilingual interactive content that is available offline. We also build teachers' capacities to use digital tools effectively by equipping them and their students with the hardware and skills needed for meaningful participation in our increasingly digitized and globalized world.

Women and girls living in vulnerable communities typically have limited training and experience in the realm of digital education and Thaki is here to change this reality. In the past eight years, we have helped build the digital competence and skills of 30,000 vulnerable users, 50 percent of whom are female students. Additionally, 72 percent of our teachers are females.

We work hard every day to ensure that the girls and children we serve become digitally literate, empowered, and will have higher chances of employability and hence brighter futures.

How Thaki Works



The followin
Compact.

Global

Promotion of the UNGC Principles

Human Rights

In alignment with UN goals and issues, supporting human rights is at the core of Thaki's business activities.



Respect for human rights is integrated into our existing business processes and procedures in various ways, for example through:

- the pricing of our product (inclusive of hardware and software) that enables those on a low-income to gain access to high quality digital goods and services that they otherwise could not afford. Thaki therefore pays special attention to the rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children, and displaced and otherwise marginalized communities.
- the careful analysis of our relationships with all stakeholders including business partners, suppliers and other non-state actors to vet their track records and consider whether they might pose implicational risks by contributing to or being associated with abuses in human rights, labor, environment[al stewardship] and / or corruption.
- the fostering of opportunities for girls to be empowered through education, leading towards increased employability and/or entrepreneurship, with the long-term aim for improved lifetime outcomes.
- the provision of decent work for our staff, producing quality goods or services that improve lives, especially for the poor or other vulnerable groups, which is itself an important contribution to sustainable development, including human rights.
- the adoption of Compliance and Child Safeguarding policies as public commitments to fulfill our responsibility to respect human rights, approved by our board. Our policies delineate detailed guidance in specific functional areas in order to give those commitments practical meaning.

Environment

Environmental sustainability is a foundational aspect of Thaki's value system. We believe that technology should not come at the planet's expense.

This ethos is directly reflected in UN Global Compact's environmental principles, particularly Principle 9. To see how Thaki explicitly encourages the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies, look directly to our business model, which leverages the circular economy to collect gently-used devices and repurpose them for social good.

As defined in Agenda 21 of the Rio Declaration, environmentally sound technologies are "less polluting, use all resources in a more sustainable manner, recycle more of their wastes and products and handle residual wastes in a more acceptable manner than the technologies for which they were substitutes."

In line with this definition, Thaki also mitigates its environmental impacts through the provision of e-waste disposal partnerships where schools can responsibly retire and recycle devices at the end of their life cycles.



Our principles-based approach is also reflected in other aspects of our operations, for example through our use of:

- Assessment or audit tools; such as the auditing and risk assessment exercises undertaken during our strategic planning process with Ernst & Young via 'EY Ripples,' a program that connects EY staff to SDG-focused projects and organizations,
- Management tools; such as our use of Whyise, an impact analytics platform that allows us to track and measure our impact towards the Sustainable Development Goals, and
- Communication and reporting tools; such as the yearly environmental footprint indexing we do with Offsetgo. Thaki tracks carbon emissions arising from our core operational activities: working-from-home, business travel and logistics, and offsets our footprint by purchasing verifiable carbon credits, therefore operating a carbon neutral organization.

As a means of examining our performance and expanding our knowledge on sustainability issues, we hold team Lunch and Learn sessions covering topics including:

- Sustainability / SDG
- e-Waste Lunch and Learn

By upholding our basic responsibilities to people and the planet, we are also setting the stage for long-term success.

Engaging with the UN Global Compact Network

Engaging with the UN Global Compact community has been an effective means of expanding our network and deepening our impacts.

Through meetings and communication with the local network staff in Lebanon we have been able to effect bilateral benefits taking shape in various forms, namely:

- Proposing contacts within our network, namely Anera, non-governmental organization that provides humanitarian and development aid to the Middle East, specifically the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Jordan, and ME Green, an innovative effort to develop the Renewable Energy Sector in the Middle East for membership in the UN Global Compact Network, and
- Proposing partnership projects on corporate sustainability with other UN Global Compact Network member companies and organizations.

Thanks to an introduction to the Deloitte Middle East team fostered by the UNGC Lebanon office, a new partnership collaboration between Deloitte and Thaki began. As a result, ninety laptops previously used by Deloitte UAE were shipped to Lebanon for imaging and distribution in Q.1 2024. Forty laptops from Deloitte Lebanon were also donated and an additional 90 - 150 device donations are planned in the forthcoming months.



The UNGC Lebanon office further supported the endeavor by selecting the recipient schools and learning centers, including one school in the Ashrafieh neighborhood of Beirut, which had been heavily affected by the explosion at the nearby Port of Beirut in August 2020.

Another example evidencing the impactful outcomes brought about by engaging with the network is UNGC Lebanon's donation of five mother boards, monitors, and keyboards as well as two mice from their own offices in Beirut. These types of locally-sourced donations prove to be the most environmentally friendly due to the minimal emissions associated with their transport and distribution.

A UNGC Network partner, Holdal, offers us warehousing space at a very affordable rate where our team prepares all the laptops in Lebanon before we distribute them to our partner schools.

Lastly, our longstanding partnership with UN Global Compact Network members, Teach for Lebanon, was further deepened through a two-year initiative called the English Microscholarship, or Access Program, supported by the US Department of State. The program provided a foundation of English language skills to bright, economically disadvantaged students (ages 13-8) through after school classes and the provision of laptops and tech support to 500 teenagers (25 classes in public schools, each with 20 students in Grade 10) and their teachers, across five regions in Lebanon. The project concluded in August 2022.

Our interactions with the UN Global Compact Network, however, have not been limited to our Local Network and its members.

Our multi-year collaboration with members of the Dutch UNGC Network, TNO, saw the development of a digital learning product designed to increase the resilience of children living in hardship and bearing the heavy weight of their difficult circumstances in Lebanon and the region. Following pilots in 2022 and early 2023, the production of the digital self-guided package for teachers, children, and their parents was completed in late 2023. In 2024 efforts began to market it to countries in the MENA region. This project was backed by the Netherlands Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program.

Partnerships for Global Compact-related issues

Solar

In addition to affiliates of the UNGC Network, Thaki engages with myriad companies around Global Compact-related issues.

Due to the worsening economic crisis in Lebanon, severe power outages have hindered daily life. In response to this challenging situation we stepped into the clean energy space and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with [Sopowerful Foundation](#), a Dutch nonprofit, to bring offgrid and stable electricity to Tamkeen's Sawiri School in West Bekaa in



Lebanon. We installed a solar power system in the first quarter of 2022, powering the school day for all 1,100 children, including powering the Thaki-installed computer lab and laptops.

In coordination with [Tech for Refugees](#), an initiative out of Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), Thaki facilitated another solar power installation at Tuyoor al Amal, one of our partner schools in Tripoli, which serves 3000 displaced Syrian children in a densely populated urban setting.

These pilots are part of our long term commitment towards a more sustainable world in which renewable clean energy plays a key role.

Value chain

Very few education or humanitarian organizations offer education hardware to marginalized learners: it's logistically complex and margins are low. Thaki has brokered relationships to innovate along the entire supply chain to find, ship, store, test, image, and distribute laptops to schools and learning centers who need them most.

From shipping via sea freight versus air whenever possible, to imaging, testing and locally delivering our laptops to partner schools, we take care to embed sustainable practices into our logistical operations all the while holding the 2030 agenda at the heart of our daily work.

Events, Achievements & Awards

Events

Events serve as platforms to engage with diverse audiences on sustainability topics related to our work.

Through learning and dialogue events, speaking engagements, workshops, training programs and the like, the Thaki team was able to both share our own expertise as well as glean valuable insights from like-minded peers in the space.

Some highlights from the period 2022 - 2024 include:

- Alef Talks panelist at Expo in Dubai on [“How the Education Sector is Combating Non-Traditional Learning Adoption Challenges”](#) (Thaki Founder, Rudayna)
- [“Perspectives on Leadership”](#) - An Audience-Guided Discussion with MIT Alumnae Leaders (Thaki Founder, Rudayna)
- [Averroes Academy](#) policy conference presenter: “Technological Transformation in the Arab World” (Thaki Founder, Rudayna)



- [MIT ReACT Migration Summit 2022](#) on “Digital Literacy: Stories from the Field” (Thaki Founder, Rudayna)
- UN Global Compact Network Netherlands [“Young Professionals Program”](#): an action-based responsible leadership program bringing together a multidisciplinary cross-company team of young professionals for a year-long sustainability learning journey. (Thaki Program Manager, Kaitlin)
- Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs [“Management of Development Projects and Programmes”](#): via the MENA Scholarship Programme, which offers professional impact makers under the age of 45 training opportunities on how to plan, manage, monitor and evaluate development interventions in complex environments. (Thaki Operations Manager, Mariam)
- MIT ReACT Migration Summit 2023 [“Co-creating Pathways to Learning, Livelihood, and Dignity”](#) presentation on “Building Teachers’ Digital Literacy Skills to Equip Refugee Students for a Rapidly Changing World.” (Thaki Program Manager, Kaitlin)

Achievements

Over the past two years, we have:

- Served 21,018 end users
 - Of the student users, 50% are female
 - Of the teacher users, 72% are female
- Procured 3,145 used devices, bringing our total number of devices procured to date to over 4,700
- Equipped 78 new schools and learning centers with computers, bringing our total number of schools and centers to date to 136
- Distributed over \$6.7 million of \$13.8 total to date in-kind educational value, consisting of hardware, software and other educational content
- Developed over 130 bilingual (Arabic / English) instructional resources for educators via our [Teacher Digital Toolkit](#)
- Built our evidence base through an external evaluation conducted by the team of the Centre for Lebanese Studies (CLS), showing significant increases for both students and their teachers in skills, confidence, independence, engagement, motivation, and use-frequency of using a computer after engaging with Thaki.

Awards



In acknowledgment of Thaki's sustainability practice we have been honored to receive various awards and recognitions from the following:

- [Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship](#)
- [MIT Solve](#)
- [Equals in Tech. Equals Global Partnership](#)
- [HundrED Global Collection](#)
- General Motors
- [Andan Prize for Refugee Inclusion](#)



Finalists:



Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

To measure the outcomes of the activities described in Part II above, we can examine:

Promotion of UNGC Principles

- **Human Rights:** enabling the poor to gain access to high quality digital goods and services that they otherwise could not afford.
 - Number of beneficiaries reached
 - Number of female beneficiaries reached
 - Number of schools and education centers served
 - Number of devices distributed
 - Number of educational content providers
 - Number of instructional resources available
 - Number of educational value mobilized
 - Quantitative and qualitative analysis of intervention effectiveness
- **Environment:** encouraging the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies that are “less polluting, use all resources in a more



sustainable manner, recycle more of their wastes and products and handle residual wastes in a more acceptable manner than the technologies for which they were substitutes.”

- Number of second-hand devices procured
- Number of solar installations facilitated
- Number of kilowatt hours provided by solar installations
- Number of beneficiaries benefiting from solar installations
- Amount of staff-related emissions offset
- Amount of transport and distribution emissions

Engaging with the UN Global Compact Network

- Number of partnerships formalized with mutual aims to advance the UN Global Compact principles
- Number of new UN Global Compact business or non-business participants resulting from our organization’s promotional and referral efforts
- Impact of concrete actions taken by UN Global Compact business and non-business participants with whom our organization has engaged
- Expertise provided by our organization to further the aims of Global Compact Local Network in your country and internationally

Supporting the UN sustainable development goals

