

Communication on Engagement

Citizen Leader Lab

(formerly Symphonia for South Africa)



Reporting Period: 25 June 2021 – 1 April 2024

2 April 2024

Statement of Continued Support to the United Nations Global Compact

Dear stakeholders,

I am pleased to confirm that Citizen Leader Lab 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 document contains our Communication on Engagement, which describes the steps that our organisation has taken to support the Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

As part of our commitment, we will share this information with our stakeholders through our primary channels of communication.

With appreciation,
Komala Pillay
CEO



Description of Activities

Leaders for Education

The flagship programme of Citizen Leader Lab is *Leaders for Education* (formerly known as Partners for Possibility), a leadership development and principal support programme that enables improved learning environments in primary and secondary schools through cross-sector collaboration. This programme speaks to the implementation of partnerships with business to support corporate sustainability.

Our programme partners business leaders with school principals in a 12-month co-learning and co-action journey during which time the partners enhance their leadership and community building skills and implement change initiatives within the school to improve the learning environment and ultimately improve learning outcomes.

The *Leaders for Education* programme directly supports three of the UN Sustainability Goals:

Goal 4 – Quality Education: The school principal is supported to become a change agent in the school and in the community and, together with her business partner, drives initiatives to improve the environment for learning.

Goal 10 – Reduced Inequalities: Education is the ultimate leveller and is key to reducing inequality. Too many children in South Africa have limited future opportunities as they do not have access to quality education. Further, the cross-sectoral partnerships increase access to social capital that many impoverished communities would otherwise not have access to.

Goal 17 - Partnerships for the Goals: The *Leaders for Education* programme has been carefully designed utilising established practices such as Theory-U and the 70:20:10 methodology to create an environment where strong partnerships can develop. The key to this success is the adult-to-adult relationship that is cultivated between the business leader and school principal.

Leaders for Municipality

In 2024, we expanded our work to include the leadership development and support of local senior leaders in local municipalities. This is a critical area of concern in South Africa as per the last Auditor-General report released in October 2023 where only 38 out of a total of 257 municipalities in South Africa received clean audits. This means that local governments are unable to effectively deliver basic services to its people.

Leaders for Municipality builds upon our 14 years of experience with *Leaders for Education* and again, creates the opportunity for deep and meaningful private-public partnerships that has a beneficial impact on both parties.

The *Leaders for Municipality* programme contributes to:

Goal 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation: Effectively run municipalities mean that more citizens will receive access to this basic human right.

Goal 16 – Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions: No country can be successful without effective local governments delivering basic services. Strong local governments mean more prosperous communities.

Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals: As for the *Leaders for Education* programme, *Leaders for Municipality* enables public-private partnerships that are deep, meaningful, and hugely impactful.

Collaboration with Local Global Compact Participants

We have collaborated with the following organisations on our programmes who are also participants to the UN Global Compact:

- Old Mutual
- Woolworths Holdings
- Investec Group
- Tongaat Hulett
- Unisa
- Nedbank Group

Measurement of Outcomes

Over the period that this feedback covers, we are pleased to report that we have launched 447 *Leaders for Education* partnerships, thereby impacting 447 schools, approximately 12,000 educators and over 350,000 learners. We have also launched our first 10 partnerships to support Local Municipalities, starting with the City of Cape Town.

This impact has been achieved in partnership with 36 businesses and philanthropic organisations in South Africa and two from abroad.

We have enabled 457 business leaders to actively participate in enhancing sustainability for their businesses and surrounding communities.

We have collaborated with six local Global Compact participants on our various programmes.