

Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL)
Communication on engagement report 2022-2024

Part I:

Secretary General to the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres,

Assistant Secretary General, Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Ms. Sanda Ojiambo,

Dear Stakeholders,

The Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) is honored to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact. In light of the ongoing challenges faced by our country, CCCL remains steadfast in its dedication to fostering a better world for future generations, striving to eradicate poverty, protect our planet and its inhabitants, and promote prosperity and peace for all.

Recognizing the urgency of advancing progress on the SDGs, CCCL is deeply committed to amplifying its impact within local and international communities, thereby contributing significantly to the targets outlined in the 2030 Agenda and beyond. We firmly believe that our efforts will positively influence the outcomes of the five SDGs we have adopted, benefitting both our local and regional communities, the children's and future generations as well as our planet.

In this Communication on Engagement, we are pleased to highlight the specific actions undertaken by CCCL to support the objectives of the UN Global Compact and its Principles. We are committed to disseminating this information widely among our stakeholders through various communication channels and eagerly invite your valuable feedback and comments.

Together, let us continue to pursue these shared goals with determination and optimism, striving for a more sustainable and equitable future for all.

Sincerely,

Hana Char Choueib

CCCL General Manager

CMRC0018



Part II. Description of Actions

The Children's Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the treatment and care of pediatric cancer patients at no cost to parents and without any discrimination.

CCCL was inaugurated in 2002 in Lebanon under Notice no.138AD and operates under the applicable Lebanese laws of the Ministry of Interior.

CCCL is governed by a Board of Trustees and has no affiliation with any political party. It is an NGO in partnership with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN, USA and operates in close association with the American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC).

CCCL covers the standard cancer treatments of all children without any discrimination whether gender, religion, culture, race or nationality.

While for the last 2 years, since our second Communication on Engagement report submitted on June 2022, a vast number of people and organizations showed their willingness to prove their urgency for adopting a different approach, strategically shifted the resources available to sustainable ones, and intentionally or unintentionally took actions despite all obstacles hindering all efforts, CCCL did. It

continued trying to seize, for the past 2 years, many moments to increase its implementation and commitment to the sustainable development goals, by preserving the health of people and the planet through its contribution to health and wellbeing for all, gender equality, environment, economic, partnerships for the goals subsequently eradicating poverty.



CCCL works on a selection of projects, which contribute and impact a number of SDGs including:

a. SDG3 – Health and wellbeing of all

CCCL advocates for Universal Health Coverage and reaching goal 3.4 of the agenda 2030 by ensuring access to quality childhood cancer treatments for patients aged between few days old and 18 years. It provides and complements the care during and beyond treatment through its comprehensive and continuous psychosocial and wellbeing program to patients and survivors that include sports, educational, mindfulness and entertainment sessions. The CCCL programs are designed to assist and improve in the treatment outcome, to help patients cope with their physical, mental and psychosocial situation, and to ease their integration back to their community.

CCCL, in an effort to contribute globally to the SDG3 targets and the world health strategies, acts beyond its mission of saving the lives of children with cancer. It continued on prevention health programs to mitigate, protect and eliminate Cervical and HPV related cancers and reduce mortality by a third by applying the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and its childhood cancer awareness program.

Therefore, CCCL continued to deliver quality educational and childhood cancer awareness sessions in collaboration with medical workers, community leaders and multi-sectorial partnerships.



b. SDG 5 – Gender equality

CCCL is reaffirming the gender and status equality policies and guaranteeing the implementation of the equal opportunity practice since its establishment throughout its operation, recruitment, advertisement, capacity building and training. Moreover, after the launch of the Protection against Sexual Exploitation (PSE) policy, it ensured the application of a reporting mechanism, human rights and cultural protection and actions, psychological help, and disciplinary processes for cases reported, if any.



c. SDG 8 – Decent work place for all and economic growth

CCCL continued its growth in all aspects of providing a decent work place and healthy environment to its employees through a set of projects, employees' retention measures, and trainings.

In addition, CCCL managed in expanding the team for the past 2 years to cope with the rising needs to fulfill its mission. It ensured the employees psychological stability and satisfaction throughout the past two years and their employment at the center through a set of actions and communication methods.



Commented [GA1]: I believe the first photo is enough here

d. SDG 13 - Environment and climate change

CCCL continues the development and progression of the environmentally friendly culture in the offices and individually through introducing tips and awareness actions internally and in coordination with UN entities. It expanded its recycling program to include electronic waste, and during the past 2 years, has continued to reduce its business travels and in-person meetings, cutting down on releasing the carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Furthermore, CCCL, though delayed, launched its 1st green policy in 2024 and it will report on its progress and effect on its operations and practice individually in the next due COE in 2026, if data became available.



e. SDG 17 – Partnership for the Goals

CCCL followed up on previous reports by continuing and strengthening the partnerships' relation with World Health institutes related to the support and management of the Pediatric National Cancer Control, strategies and policies, and built new multi-sectorial Lebanese and international civil societies and the private sector too.

Moreover, through its team's participation in global, regional, and local events, CCCL emphasized the importance of collaboration and networking in support of childhood cancer control.

This had allowed CCCL to expand pediatric cancer awareness and community cancer related education program to rural areas of Lebanon and the region. Moreover, it permitted CCCL to access policies and of which it had a say and input in discussing and reshaping them with main and partner hospitals.

CCCL management supported the promotion of the Global Compact's 10 principles and the SDGs through the participation in events, meetings, and programs of United Nations Global Compact Network Lebanon (UNGCNL). It activated a list of international commemoration days and months related to the SDGs and the United Nations' agendas for sustainability on CCCL social media channels, while using the relevant hashtags and tagging the concerned parties. More than 39 related posts and tags were published during the past 2 years.

In addition, it was part of the Lebanese delegate, representing the health sector to the Conference on Parties (COP28) held in Dubai in 2023, recognizing the coalition between the climate change and its effect on the health of the community and more specifically children.

CCCL continued strengthening the network of partner hospitals and expanded its services to an approximate distance for patients' residences. Moreover, the network developed to include at least a

hospital per governorate, which saw the organization offering its services to over 50% of children with cancer in around 90% of the country territories.

Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Implementing its mission of supporting the treatment of kids with cancer, and in line with the Universal Health Coverage plans, the National Cancer Control Plans (NCP) and Agenda 2030 3.4 target, the Children’s Cancer Center of Lebanon (CCCL) supports today over 50% of total childhood cancer patients in Lebanon regardless of any backgrounds and with zero tolerance to any sort of discrimination.

Since 2002, CCCL offered support for over 4,995 children and adolescents suffering from cancer and surpassed 6,000 free medical consultations and post treatment follow up examinations. Since our last report on engagement in June 2022, CCCL covered the treatment cost of 586 children with cancer; an increase of 39% on similar period of 2020-2022.

Year	Patients Number
2020-2022	419
2022-2024	586

To note an approximate 25% is of non-Lebanese origins, living in Lebanon.

Bearing in mind that the number reflects only cases who completed their treatments, an increase by 39% on previous similar time frames for medical support by CCCL in 2022, and almost 100% on 2020 COE report.



Continuing the collaboration with UNICEF in the first part of this report and sponsored by the private sector, CCCL developed further its Patients’ Wellness Program at both inpatient and outpatient facilities, where almost all children at the center and in partner hospitals received this service. An approximate total of 500 of them continue to benefit from 1,278 sessions of expressive art, yoga, musical therapy, art and crafts, basic pedagogic learning program, and have launched its home palliative care in October 2022 supporting 15 patients through its pain relief program and psychological support. The session totals were as follows:

an increase of 100% on the same reported period of the CCCL COE between 2020 and 2022.

Activities	TOTAL
Expressive Music	115
Yoga	136
Expressive Art	143
Art and Craft	152
Drama	140
Story Telling	39
Pre-Math	167
Arabic	204
English or French	182
Total	1,278

Since its establishment in 2018, CCCL offered the cancer survivors, members of the Champions’ Circle club, a comprehensive calendar of skill building, psychosocial, and peer-to-peer support program among many others. That said, with the ongoing security and economic turmoil in Lebanon, the support including meeting and educational and awareness sessions were minimal. The program benefited over 100 survivors and membership numbers continue to grow.



In addition, CCCL continued to offer them the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine free of charge, whereby 11% of the club members are now vaccinated and protected from cervical and HPV related cancers; an addition of 1% on previous COE report. As a result, the number of the Champions' Circle members, since the last Communication on Engagement in 2022, grew by 15% to reach over 304 members today.

Although CCCL always had a fair gender representation throughout the years of operation, in 2024, the staff gender including the board members is divided as follows: 52.57% females and 47.43% male.

The satisfaction measured is highlighted in the turnover and retention percentages illustrated in the table below:

Period from June 2022 - June 2024	Average
Turnover	7.31%
Retention of staff	92.69%

Although it exists, the average is within those of the recommendations of the LinkedIn platform, the largest professional recruitment and job search resource: 7.31% turnover level is still healthy and acceptable for an organization the same size like ours, specially that global levels are within the 12% margin. That said, staff left the organization due to change in their marital status or subject to moving abroad as they were directly affected by the country situation and the ongoing economic and social crises.

CCCL continued developing its workforce through building capacities for all - as shown in the table below - regardless of their position, grading, gender, or length of employment:

a total of 57 training and capacity building sessions which included Human resources, Marketing, Fundraising, and others divided into the below beneficiaries.

Gender	Number of beneficiaries
Female	35
Male	24

The training included soft skills trainings in collaboration with a global educational e-platform taking in consideration the needs, employees' choices, and based on equal opportunity for all. Around 57 trainings were done between 2022 and 2024; an increase of 14% on previously reported period of 2020-2022.

Protecting the human rights for all, beneficiaries and staff, and in line of SDG5 and SDG8, and after the introduction of the protection against sexual exploitation policy, for the first time since its inauguration as a policy, and after embedding it within the employment agreement in 2022, no incident was reported, which demonstrates the mutual respect and the equality of rights among the CCCL staff and beneficiaries.

Moreover, CCCL continued enforcing its commitment to the gender equality policies introduced in July 2019 throughout its recruitment, promotion, advertising vacancies, and staff appraisals policies to date.

Although continued to be restrained by the ongoing multi-crises in Lebanon that struck all civil societies and corporates in the past 2 years, we continued to conduct the employees satisfaction survey as part of promoting the decent work place for all. As a result, the Human Resources reported no issues among 100% answers, or any suggestions for a change in the overall organizational practice.

Extracted from the survey, among the 57 trainings and suggestions sessions in the past 2 years, there was the situational leadership tackling best practices for leaders to lead during crisis or exceptional situations. Moreover, to strengthen areas of improvement for all and use their strength for better relations among its different members and departmental functions and to ease the workload and conflicts.

In 2024, and in line with the green policy that was supposed to be launched in 2023, but delayed for 6 months due to unforeseen factors, CCCL aimed to offset its carbon footprint and deliver on paperless offices if possible by reducing or eliminating the usages of papers.

Launched in 2024, the policy aims to raise awareness about the necessity of acting on reducing the effect of the climate change and the green houses on the Lebanese and global environment, by which we hope to save more than 138 metric tons of the usage of electricity (combined) and 52 metric tons from transport reported on in the 2020 COE; thus, contributing to lessening the various dangerous pollutants that may remain in the atmosphere for decades and affect the health, water and air resources.

Since reporting on the CCCL's engagement of the SDGs, the organization has comprehensively recycled, through its environmentally friendly program for PET and paper, over 500 kg of PET and managed to recycle over 200 kg of papers saving 450 meters of trees.

Unfortunately, accurate measures are not available for this report but an estimate of 10,000 km of distance between locations, saving fuel consumption, hence cutting on individual footprint on environment by around 1,219 tons of CO released in our atmosphere. CCCL have increased the numbers of saving trees by introducing electronic recycling for e-waste and innovative solutions for Fundraising and HR operations such as leave requests and others.

In addition, staff took initiatives to highlight the importance of environmental actions by celebrating anniversaries and distributing gifts produced from recycling materials and green awareness messages.

In 2024, CCCL continued its partnership with hospitals across the country, through the National Program - a special funded program for treating patients near their residences, saving on the stress of transport for children and on the environment. These partnerships allowed coverage of 90% of the Lebanese territories (a decrease of 5% as reported previously in 2022 COE). This decrease was caused by setting different criteria for these partnerships, selecting the most suitable hospitals with the capacity of providing quality services and having the ability to do.

Beirut:

- American University of Beirut Medical Center
- Rafik Harriri University Hospital
- Makassed General Hospital
- Karantina Public Hospital
- Zahraa Hospital

South:

- Hammoud Hospital University Medical Center

North:

- Centre Hospitalier du Nord
- Haykal

In 2023, CCCL continued its international affiliation with global institutions and has joined one new international group: the World Alliance of Non-governmental Organization (WANGO).

Moreover, contributing equally to both goals 3 and 17, CCCL organized an HPV conference, in collaboration with the American University of Beirut Medical Center, under the patronage of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), and sponsored by Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD), where it collaborated with multinational institutions such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC), and the Ministry of Public Health.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7188876876096954369>

<https://youtu.be/icZEOZNXv8E?si=c79La68kiALa3V6g>

Furthermore, CCCL being committed to SDG17 and SDG3, distributed for our partners hospitals medications for the value of approximately \$28,000 ensuring accessibility to medication for CCCL's patients and all children in Lebanon.

As part of the international community and being partners with few cancer related international institutions, we are including below only few of the events attended as advocates for cancer, active partners and members as a sample for partnership for the goals and in line with the targets set in the UN SDGs Agenda 2030:

- Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) October 2022 General Assembly, succeeding in electing CCCL's General Manager to serve on the UICC Board of Directors until 2024, representing Lebanon and the region, to advocate for better cancer control in the region and to be part of the international discussion for better health for all.
- UICC World Cancer Congress 2022, where the team presented two case studies, and chaired 1 session, 1 film submission, and 2 awards of which won one "The Best CEO" and the second ranked fourth in the Best World Cancer Day Campaign. This continued to demonstrate the flexibility of the management to the CCCL staff engagement in the global community and positively contributing to the world discussion.
- UICC World Cancer Leaders' Summit Virtual 2021, attended and participated in global discussion through the CCCL General Manager in 2023.
- Global and Asia SIOP/CCI, presented three abstracts and chaired one session.

Moreover, CCCL staff attended and participated actively in conferences and webinars through talks and presentations, such as:

- The Economist's Impact War on Cancer Europe
- The Economist Impact sustainability week
- World Patients Alliance (WPA) annual meeting in Dubai
- General Assembly UN Global Compact 2023 and 2024, and managed to succeed in nominating, again, CCCL to the Board of Directors in 2024
- The Conference of Parties (COP) 28 in Dubai
- More importantly, CCCL organized a session at the UK Global Cancer Week in 2021 inviting international cancer survivors who initiated discussion with their peers across the globe. The session was moderated, delivered, and managed by childhood cancer survivors.

In total, 5 departments and 38 members around 80% of total employees benefited from those international and national engagements.



Around 1000 adults in 2022, 2023 and 2024, benefited from virtual and in-person cancer awareness and education sessions throughout Lebanon, involving partner hospitals, donors, schools, corporates, NGOs, and medical workers.

- 200 in Beirut with University St. Joseph and the private companies
- 200 in Mount Lebanon with Notre Dame University and Lebanese American University
- 100 for the Lebanese League for Women in Business and Schools
- 100 in the North Zgharta district
- 100 in Saida
- 100 in North
- 100 in Beirut
- 100 globally with UK Global Cancer Network, WHO, SIOP, and the UNGCL end

Advocating for the 10 principles and SDGs, CCCL engaged its stakeholders, staff, patients and followers on social media by activating many related international days, such as Earth Day, Children and Human Rights Days, Childhood Cancer Days, World Health Day, World Cancer Day, Patients Safety Day, and many more, tagging SDG related subjects.

For more information on CCCL's outcomes, please contact Mr. Imad El Hajje on:

T: +961 1 351515 ext. 8024 or

email: ie20@cccl.org.lb

