

COMMUNICATION OF ENGAGEMENT

Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET)

Period covered by this communication: June 2023 to June 2024

Part 1. Statement of Continued Support

18 June 2024

I am pleased to confirm that the Tropical Health and Education Trust reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact. In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its workstreams. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders.

Yours Sincerely,



Ben Simms
CEO
Tropical Health and Education Trust



Part 2. Description of Actions

THET has supported the Global Compact by supporting the Sustainable Development workstream, specifically Sustainable Development Goal 3, “Good Health and Well-being”. THET’s vision is a world where everyone has access to healthcare, and we achieve this by training and educating health workers in Africa and Asia, working in partnership with organisations and volunteers from across the UK.

Ethiopia

- THET’s NCD diagnosis and treatment decentralisation programme has now been extended to include community outreach, ensuring that community members are aware of NCD risk factors and how to seek treatment. THET engages with health extension workers and the primary care facility employers, as well as community groups and leaders.

Myanmar

- THET has been convening monthly meetings for UK health workers interested in supporting Myanmar since the coup of 1st February 2021. There are four workstreams: education, advocacy, funding and communications.
- 4 grants awarded to support Myanmar health workers through telemedicine services, foundational and advanced nurse training, GP training, and support to develop and roll out a medical education curriculum.
- Ongoing capacity development in maternal and neonatal care for health workers.

Somaliland

- THET is liaising with the Ministry of Health and Development to improve postgraduate medical education. A survey of health institutions, academia and medical specialists has been held and validated by government, with THET currently supporting the Ministry to develop a roadmap.
- THET also supports the delivery of SAFE Operating Room and SAFE Obstetrics courses to health workers, as well as maternal and neonatal training at secondary and primary health care facilities.

North-West Syria

- THET is strengthening the leadership and governance within the health system, such as the Syrian Board of Medical Specialities. This includes: improved delivery of postgraduate medical education with a focus on shortage specialties; developing an improved understanding of and recommendations for the strengthening of undergraduate medical education; and improved understanding of health workforce capacity gaps and needs.

Zambia

- Under a Specialist Training Programme, THET has been placing Obstetrician & Gynaecologist specialists from the UK on long-term placements in Zambia to undertake supervision, mentorship and educational opportunities for Zambian trainees.

Grants Programmes

As well as directly carrying out projects, THET also funds grants to health partnerships to carry out health systems strengthening activities in low and lower-middle income countries.

- Grants management of 24 grants strengthening antimicrobial stewardship in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia. These grants involve UK health workers volunteering their time overseas to strengthen the capacity of the national health workforce and institutions to address antimicrobial resistance challenges.
- We are pleased to have awarded 44 health workforce capacity development grants in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia at the start of 2024, focussing on a range of cadres and health themes, based on priorities determined by the countries' Ministries of Health.

Improving capacity development

- THET has been running a capacity development webinars for organisations working in global health, on topics including Monitoring and Evaluation, online mentorship, gender equality and social inclusion, as well as technical areas such as point prevalence surveys.
- THET runs an online platform, <https://pulsepartnerships.org/>, which enables health professionals around the world to access support and share resources/experiences and opportunities
- THET has produced a safeguarding protocol template for global health partnerships to use to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities for reporting and responding to safeguarding concerns.

Part 3. Measurement of Outcomes

Ethiopia

In the last two years:

- 1,278 health workers trained in NCD diagnosis and treatment (including nurses, health officers, and health extension workers)
- 692,384 patients screened for NCDs across seven regions
- 37,578 patients enrolled

Myanmar

- 12,263 new patients received teleconsultation services, with 3,970 of them connecting from ethnic areas.
- A new [website](#) was launched, which allows patients to book appointments directly.
- 353 health education resources have been posted in seven ethnic languages.
- Three 5-day trainings in psychosocial support were held for 168 health workers in order to alleviate acute mental health crises in the health workforce, primarily from the Thai-Burma border areas. 98% of attendees stated that the training was effective, and enabled them to provide effective support and referrals for those experiencing mental health difficulties, and to enhance the mental health resilience of healthcare workers themselves.

Somaliland

- 68 midwives from 10 health facilities demonstrated improved knowledge and skills in basic emergency obstetric and neonatal care following THET training.
- 9,920 women and children in Somaliland were able to access the improved emergency obstetric and neonatal services made available through this training.

North-West Syria

- 55 resident doctors and 28 specialists were trained on obstetric ultrasound, obstetrics and gynaecology. 7 supervisors were also trained as trainers in obstetrics and gynaecology.

Zambia

- 24 doctors, nurses and clinical officers (6 male, 18 female) were trained in obstetric care at a provincial referral hospital in Luapula Province, Zambia through the Specialist Training Programme.

Grants programmes

Health partnerships carried out 31 in- and out-patient antimicrobial usage point prevalence surveys in hospitals across sub-Saharan Africa. These surveys collect baseline information on the prescribing practices of antibiotics, which complement surveillance of antimicrobial consumption and inform antimicrobial stewardship strategies for the rest of the programme. **884** healthcare staff were trained in Infection Prevention and Control, Antimicrobial resistance, AMS, PPS, One Health, quality improvement, and substandard and falsified medicines. The cadres involved included doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, technicians, health services managers, cleaning staff, drivers and community health workers. 30 pharmacist fellows received training and mentorship in leadership, behaviour change, project management and quality improvement.

