

**COMMUNICATION OF ENGAGEMENT (COE)
ACRA
2019-2020**

Milan, 10.12.2021

Statement of Continued Support

Dear Mr. Secretary General,
Dear Stakeholders,

I am pleased to communicate our renewed commitment toward the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption.

We join to the present letter our Communication on Engagement (COE) 2019-2020 that describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact.

Sincerely yours,



Nicola Morganti
President

COE

Description of Actions

January 2019 – NovemberDecember 2020

Introduction

In December 2016 ACRA joined the United Nations Global Compact, the largest strategic corporate citizenship initiative in the world. The choice to join the Global Compact was driven by our objective to develop virtuous partnerships with the private sector in full compliance with the universal principles of human rights.

ACRA seeks cooperation with businesses and has joined the United Nations Global Compact to become part of a process where the profit and non-profit sectors increasingly join their efforts, while ensuring respect for human rights and the dignity of people.

ACRA offers as well to companies the opportunity to jointly design projects in the field and in a synergistic manner, providing companies with the skills acquired in fifty years of fieldwork in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

Engagement with companies in Global Compact related issues 2019-2020

Activities on Education

SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Education is the fundamental lever for the empowerment of individuals and communities.

ACRA aims to promote quality, universal, equitable and inclusive education that leads to adequate and concrete learning outcomes, and that provides skills and capacities that help address the root causes of poverty and discrimination.

In Europe and in Africa we adopt a participatory and integrated approach (Human Rights Based Approach) embracing the principles stated in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had many repercussions in the field of school education. The school world was confronted with the need to rethink its educational activities overnight and adapt them to the needs of Distance Learning.

At the same time, the health emergency has brought to light imbalances in access to education among different population groups and major problems of digital divide among families. In Italy, in fact, one out of three families does not have a computer and two out of three children have low IT skills.

Starting from the educational needs identified in Lombardy in the post Covid-19 emergency, ACRA and the Foundation of the international firm **STMicroelectronics** have developed a program to strengthen the digital skills of teachers, aimed at supporting the new forms of teaching planned for the school year 2020/21. The initiative supports the acquisition of useful skills to continue distance learning and at the same time promote in children the conscious and appropriate use of digital tools in a perspective of Active Global Citizenship (Agenda 2030).

The project focused on

- strengthening distance learning skills
- promoting new digital tools
- youth participation



Activities

- In-depth training modules and webinars with the support of **STMicroelectronics** volunteers;
- Online and/or offline teachers' training;
- Digital equipment for young people;
- Workshops in schools;
- Workshops in Youth Aggregation Centres

Outcomes

Direct beneficiaries equipped and trained:

- 60 teachers
- 300 students

For more information:

<https://www.acra.it/it/cosa-facciamo/aree-di-intervento/italia-ed-europa/siamo-tutti-collegati>

Activities on social protection and maternal and child health

SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Sustainable development, and specifically economic growth and poverty reduction, cannot be achieved without effective consideration of population issues.

In several countries in Africa, ACRA is supporting access to basic services and social protection mechanisms for all populations (indigenous, returnees and refugees) and contribute to strengthen local consultation mechanisms between populations, local authorities, the private sector, technical services and stakeholders.

Specifically in Burkina Faso ACRA aims at improving community services for social protection and maternal and child health.

The activities are part of the Population Programme, funded by the European Union, benefiting from the complementary activities carried out and the shared resources and allowing the expansion and strengthening of the specific components of improving health services at community level and women's empowerment.

The intervention is the result of the collaboration between ACRA and the Foundation of pharmaceutical firm **Chiesi**, that supervise the adaptation of ACRA tools (questionnaires for surveys in health centres and tools for needs analysis) in order to integrate the neonatology component.

The San Camillo Hospital in Ouagadougou will be the reference point for the local perinatology network, which will also carry out structured neonatology training for health centres' staff and awareness raising on maternal care and breastfeeding.

Activities

- Data collection on neonatal and maternity care in 79 health centres.
- Improvement of the tools of the targeted health centres for the implementation of quality services in terms of neonatal care, social promotion, health and family planning (41 centres identified by ACRA).
- Promotion of initiatives to raise awareness and empower women in synergy with local actors. Specifically, the focus will be on gender equality, respect for women's rights and violence eradication.
- Development of a protection network for neonatal health through networking and support to hospitals and local health institutions, favoring the exchange of data, research and good practices.
- Training of women's organizations on women's and children's rights, women empowerment and combating gender-based violence, with related funding for awareness-raising and women empowerment initiatives promoted by local women's CSOs.

Outcomes

Direct beneficiaries:

- Generally women of childbearing age and their children.
- The monthly direct beneficiaries will be approximately 988 infants and mothers giving birth in the affected hospitals.

Indirect beneficiaries:

- Approximately 218,000 women of childbearing age living in the central region who depend on these health centres for delivery, newborn care and family planning services.



Chiesi
FOUNDATION

In addition, through coordination with the National Association of Rural Women in Burkina Faso, a call for proposals will be launched to select 5 civil society women's organizations to conduct women's empowerment initiatives that will each benefit at least 50 women and their families. This will improve the health and socio-economic status of 250 women to the benefit of the entire community.

The project contribute as well to the SDG 5 - *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*

For more information:

<https://www.acra.it/it/cosa-facciamo/aree-di-intervento/burkina-faso/una-rete-si-cura>

Activities on access to clean water

SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

ACRA is actively working in order to ensure safe drinking water for all and everyone, adequate sanitation and constant hygiene education:

Universal and sustainable access to clean drinking water, adequate sanitation, education on their proper use and management have always been central focuses for ACRA. In Senegal, Tanzania, Mozambique and El Salvador we build water networks in rural areas, improved latrines at family and school level.

In Ecuador, the project developed in collaboration with the **B-corp WAMI** (Water with a Mission), is taking place in the Province of Tungurahua, in the Ecuadorian Sierra.

The area is characterized by a reduced availability of drinking water which, in rural areas, reaches only 35% of the population, leaving many families without enough water to meet their basic needs (Foro Nacional de Recursos Hídricos, 2013).

The already difficult living conditions of the local populations are exacerbated by the inequitable distribution of water resources, the high level of surface water pollution, the inadequate administration of the Andean Parámetro ecosystem and the use of rudimentary technologies and infrastructures for the management of community aqueducts.

The project aims to ensure access to water in sufficient quality and quantity to meet human needs and preserve natural resources. Thanks to the planned infrastructure, drinking water will reach the indigenous and peasant communities of Churumanga, Salasaca, Pillate and Chacauco.

ACRA has developed a long-term strategy, sustainable at financial and infrastructural level, supporting the dialogue between the Municipality of Pelileo and the local Juntas de Agua for the management and administration of water infrastructures and related consumption tariffs.

With the aim of achieving greater levels of dignity and resilience, the approach adopted includes improving beneficiaries' resource management capacities and supporting communities through the provision of modern and durable infrastructure.



Activities

- Supply of drinking water to more than 2,000 people in 4 communities by upgrading existing but damaged or inadequate infrastructure.

- Creation of 291 connections, of which 3 belong to local schools.

Outcomes

Beneficiaries:

- The 2,188 inhabitants belonging to the 4 communities of Churumanga, Salasaca, Pillate and Chacauco.

The project contribute as well to the SDG 3 - *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*

For more information:

<https://www.acra.it/it/cosa-facciamo/aree-di-intervento/ecuador/acqua-sicura-a-tungurahua>