Director’s Welcome

Sue Adkins
International Director

As we approach the second anniversary of the UN Sustainable Development Goals The UN Secretary has released a report on progress towards the Goals 2017. This report indicates that whilst there is some progress across The Goals, progress is not consistent, there is much to be done and people are being left behind. The SDG Framework outlines the Goals, the challenges and research from a number of sources, as outlined my recent blog on the subject, identifies the clear opportunities for people, profit and plant. As I read through the news from across the CSR360 Global Partner Network over the last three months, I was struck by the degree to which, through tailoring approaches to local need, across the CSR360 Global Partner Network we are addressing the vast majority of the Global Goals.

We have seen many of the CSR360 GPN partners take part in Give & Gain 2017 and this edition of the newsletter is dedicated to showcasing these stories and successes. There is no denying that the very nature of our work lends itself to SDG 17 ‘Partnerships for the Goals’ but through facilitating cross-sector partnerships Give & Gain has supported employee volunteers to contribute to a variety of SDGs in one or two projects. Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), Quality Education (SDG 4), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10) and Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3) to name a few. The Fuping Development Institute in Beijing asked volunteers from Citi Bank to deliver educational activities including sessions on financial management for migrant children for example while the Corporate Volunteer Association in Turkey asked employee volunteers to design a robotic hand for the disabled.

Through developing a unique understanding of the needs of our communities and building strong local partnerships, many of our CSR360 GPN partners have managed to address several of the SDGs that others are finding difficult to tackle. Notably GRACE in Portugal organised activities as part of Give & Gain to address SDG 14 ‘Life Below Water.’ This I one of The Goals that the UN report identifies as receiving little attention to such an extent that the situation in our oceans and seas is dramatically declining. For more inspiration about volunteering to improve the environment, look at iVolunteer’s new report Reconnecting with Nature or read the stories of Give & Gain activities from the likes of Foretica (Spain), Hestia (Czech Republic) or Volunteering Hungary – Centre of Social Innovation (OKA) to name a few.

Many Give & Gain activities are yet to take place but we are delighted to report that to date Give & Gain 2017 has supported almost 6,000 volunteers from 169 companies who together have delivered more than 20,000 hours of their time for community causes. We are delighted that through these efforts the lives of over 33,000 people in the community have benefitted.

We continue to be humbled by the direct action and subsequent impact that everyone’s initiatives across The Network have been generating. We are also inspired by the variety of other ways that CSR360 GPN partners have been progressing responsible business, in their markets. From Fundacion Compromiso in Argentina running a conference on employee volunteering in Buenos Aires, to Matan in Israel and Fundacion SERES in Spain releasing publications on ‘recipes for success’ to tackle the SDGs and engage employees.
At BITC we were delighted to launch the Global Relief and Resilience Hub earlier this month which identifies business’ offers to support disaster relief and resilience, and the needs of the humanitarian aid agencies, so that the offers and the needs can be pre-identified, pre-planned, pre-organised and brought together faster, in times of need. Global Relief and Resilience Hub is an online tool, not unlike ‘ebay’ but is based on pro bono contributions. It is simple and straight forward to use and available to business and humanitarian aid agencies everywhere. We hope it will become an integral part of the disaster management cycle to support those impacted by disasters. We encourage you to view it here, and we look forward to organising webinars to take you through it and encourage to share the link with your networks.

In addition, on 4 July we announced the winners of The UPS International Disaster Relief & Resilience Award supported by the Department for International Development as well as The Unilever Global Development Award supported by Business Fights Poverty.

Together, partners of the CSR360 Global Partner Network are using a range of tools and resources to inspire, guide and engage businesses to do more for the people and planet, ultimately addressing the world’s most pressing issues through The Global Goals. Please do continue to send us your news, updates and insights at any time, for us to publicise on the website. In the meantime, as always, we ask that you read, reflect on and learn from the stories of best practice within this edition of the CSR360 GPN Newsletter. We celebrate and applaud these tremendous collective efforts and look forward to hearing from you to sharing more. Thank you.

Sue Adkins
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Business in the Community