As we put together this edition of the CSR360 GPN Newsletter, our thoughts are with all those who have been and are being impacted by the many global disasters. The impact on individuals and on communities in the Americas during this year’s ‘Hurricane Season,’ the two earthquakes in Mexico, the floods of South East Asia, as well as the protracted disasters in various parts of the world is devastating. With 327 natural catastrophes around the world in 2016 at a cost of $175 billion in insured losses, the highest since 2012, this doesn’t reflect on the impact on the environment, livelihoods communities in ruins and lives lost, there is no doubt that the frequency and intensity of disasters is increasing.

Our thoughts go out to our partners in the effected countries as we all continue to seek to find ways to recognise, inspire, engage, support and challenge business, to mobilise for relief and resilience efforts. Research shows that over 80% of business recognise that supporting international disaster relief and resilience supports stable markets and communities.

In support of disaster relief and resilience, we are delighted to launch the Global Relief and Resilience Hub. The Hub identifies business’ offers to support disaster relief and resilience internationally, and the needs of the humanitarian aid agencies, in order that the offers and the needs can be mobilised faster to support all aspects of the disaster management cycle, from preparedness, relief and resilience. 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 the context of the recent disasters and focussed on the challenge of the UN SDGs/The Global Goals, last month during UN General Assembly week, highlighted the need for accelerated action. Speaking at an event organised by Business Fights Poverty and supported by ourselves and Harvard Kennedy School we focussed on the question of ‘Re-thinking collaboration around the SDGs’. The clock is ticking, businesses, governments and non-government organisations alike are all grappling to deliver The Goals.

I am humbled by the innovative, impactful and thought leadership work that CSR360 GPN partners are initiating, managing and delivering within your networks across the globe, to address the complex issues in your communities that address The Global Goals. In this edition, we bring together some of the latest achievements of the Network on a variety of SDG topics but the challenge is clear: we need to actively collaborate and accelerate the pace of change.

Against the back drop of the SDGs, we were delighted to host a webinar on the issue of Global Youth Unemployment which addresses a number of The Global Goals. Community Business shared insight on their ENGAGE Key Cities Programme, ENGAGE Hong Kong. This is a 6-month training, work experience and mentoring scheme designed to get young people from the most disadvantaged suburbs of the city into work. Community Business provided an inspirational example of managing cross-sector collaboration to address an issue spanning many of the SDGs. Best practice examples were also shared by Intercontinental Hotels Group and the Youth Careers Initiative. To listen to this recording follow the link here.
Apart from all our individual programmes, we are also encouraged that through Give & Gain and ENGAGE, we as a network are addressing the issue of young unemployment in a variety of different ways.

There is of course always more that can be done and the opportunity for learning, sharing and collaboration cross the network is huge. We welcome and look forward to hearing your ideas and exploring the opportunity with you.

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. 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 ideas for collaboration, news, updates, and insights.

We look forward to publicising these on the website for you, to exploring ideas for collaboration and working together with you.

Wishing you all the best

Sue Adkins
International Director
Business in the Community