1. OUR COMMITMENT

In all SGS operations, we continually strive to reduce our impacts while conducting our business in a manner that respects the rights and dignity of individuals and communities affected by our business activities. Beyond this, we want to apply our skills and innovation to help address the most pressing sustainable development challenges around the world.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) define global sustainable development priorities and aspirations for 2030 and seek to mobilise global efforts around a common set of goals and targets. The SDGs call for worldwide action among governments, businesses and civil society to end poverty and create a life of dignity and opportunity for all, within the boundaries of the planet.

At SGS we are committed to aligning our community actions with global priorities linked to poverty, health, education, climate change and environmental degradation. These are captured under three community pillars: Education, Empowerment and Environmental Sustainability. Through our support of the SDGs, SGS can play its part in helping to address the world’s biggest sustainable development challenges.

2. POLICY SCOPE

This policy applies to all SGS employees and sub-contractors globally.

3. TARGETS

Our 2020 Sustainability Ambitions require us to increase our investment in communities around the world by 30%, against our 2014 baseline.

We will achieve this goal by:

- Supporting non-profit initiatives and organisations that are committed to improving overall quality of life in the communities where we live and work.
- Investing in local and global community projects that are aligned to the SDGs.
- Building capacity in non-profit agencies by contributing our knowledge, resources and time.
- Encouraging managers and employees to engage in volunteering and other activities that directly benefit the communities where we live and work.
- Supporting disaster relief efforts through nominated agencies with the expertise to coordinate and deliver humanitarian aid in a timely and efficient way.
- Monitoring and reporting our community investment impact in a transparent way using measurable targets and robust data.
4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Our global community coordinator reports to the Vice President Corporate Sustainability and oversees day-to-day management of the community programme, working across the affiliates to implement our Group community guidelines globally and monitor performance.

Our network of local community coordinators provides a platform for information sharing and advice on common themes linked to community volunteering, fund-raising and disaster response.

Senior management is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy, including but not limited to the establishment of programmes and compliance with reporting requirements. Sustainability, however, is the responsibility of all of us, at every level within our organisation.

It is the responsibility of every Managing Director to ensure that our community policy is implemented and that appropriate resources are allocated to proactively manage our community investment in all SGS affiliates.

The Chief Executive Officer of SGS is ultimately responsible for the implementation of this policy, and is assisted by the Sustainability Steering Committee, which oversees the implementation of social and environmental programmes within SGS.

In the implementation of this policy, we act within the framework of laws and international conventions. We respect and comply with all relevant legislation, agreements and other provisions that set the parameters for our business operations.

Our actions are guided by transparency, fact-based decision-making and are based on a preventative, precautionary and integrated approach to community investment. This means conforming to or exceeding the requirements of national and international regulations as well as engaging in continuous and informed dialogue with relevant stakeholders.

5. RELATED DOCUMENTS AND POLICIES

This policy supports the SGS Business Principles as well as the SGS Sustainability Policy Statement and the SGS Human Rights Policy Statement. This policy should be read in conjunction with other published SGS sustainability policies available at www.sgs.com.

6. POLICY REVISION

This policy may be revised from time to time at the discretion of SGS Corporate Sustainability. All updates will be communicated by Corporate Sustainability to Senior and Regional Management.

Daniel Rüfenacht
Group Sustainability Vice President