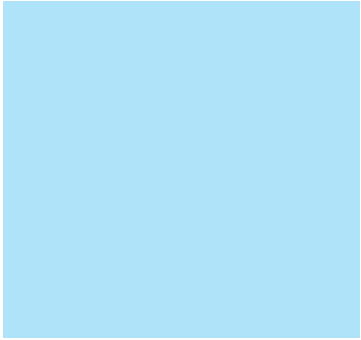
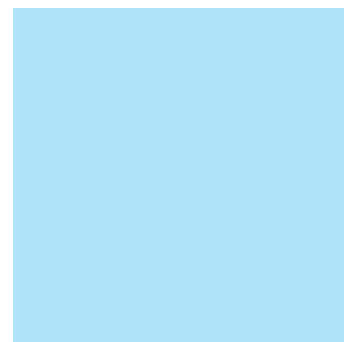


2020  
IK Investment  
Partners  
Communication  
on Progress



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# Letter from our CEO

IK INVESTMENT PARTNERS (IK) has been a signatory to the UN Global Compact (UNGC) since 2014. This is our sixth Communication on Progress (COP) report, reflecting actions taken between December 2019 and December 2020. For the third consecutive year we remain a signatory to the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment and were delighted to gain recognition within the Private Equity and Strategy and Governance modules, receiving A+ and A ratings, respectively.

2020 has been a tumultuous year for businesses and investors alike, with the effects of Covid-19 posing unprecedented global economic, social and environmental challenges. Now, more

**“As we look to the future, our role within the post-pandemic recovery will be underpinned by our commitment to responsible investment and our ability to make a difference to our portfolio companies, our investors and to society”.**

than ever, we recognise the interdependence of our markets, the fragility of our natural environment and the inequalities within our society.

Despite this uncertainty, IK has been resilient and successful, staying true to our core values of professionalism, accountability and integrity.

We successfully closed our ninth Mid Cap fund, the IK IX Fund, which closed at its hard cap of €2.85 billion and attracted significant interest from a global base of high-quality institutional investors. We realised several investments, made multiple acquisitions - including the first investment by IK's newly formed UK Small Cap team - and strengthened our in-house expertise by establishing a Capital Markets team to ensure we continue to improve performance and create sustainable value.

This year we have enhanced our environmental, social and governance (ESG) approach through several important initiatives. We bolstered our ESG Steering Committee with two additional members and, in the ownership stage, we implemented a new ESG monitoring process. We have also strengthened our ESG integration in the pre-investment and exit phases. For example, as part of our pre-investment due diligence, we will roll out a new climate change risk assessment tool in 2021. This is aligned to our heightened focus on climate change, as reflected by the updates to our Responsible Investment policy and our commitment to join iCI (Initiative Climat International, originally Initiative Climat 2020).

As we look to the future, our role within the post-pandemic recovery will be underpinned by our commitment to responsible investment and our ability to make a difference to our portfolio companies, our investors and to society.

I would like to thank our colleagues for their hard work during this extraordinary year, and our new and existing investors for their ongoing support. We remain focused on delivering long-term positive change and are confident in IK's ability to create sustainable value for all our stakeholders.



**Christopher Masek**

Chief Executive Officer, IK Investment Partners



# Insights from the ESG team

**THIS YEAR WE HAVE** focused our efforts on enhancing our ESG approach throughout the investment cycle. We extended the capabilities and experience of our ESG Steering Committee, which has been instrumental in providing guidance on the Firm's approach to Covid-19. With the support of the Committee, we have prioritised Social factors, including employee health and safety as well as workforce management.

Climate change remains a strategic priority for us and we have updated our Responsible Investment policy so that IK will no longer invest in companies that have an unacceptably high greenhouse gas footprint and have failed to take reasonable steps to reduce these emissions (each as determined by IK). We are also developing a new climate change risk assessment tool that will launch at the start of 2021. This innovative tool will allow us to understand physical and transition climate risks facing a company in the pre-investment stage, helping to guide our final investment decision. Recognising the importance of collective engagement, we are joining Initiative Climat International (iCI) and will work with the wider industry to mitigate and

prepare for the effects of climate change.

During this year, we have strengthened our ESG assessment and integration processes. We have streamlined our investment sustainability monitoring and analysis by adopting Worldfavor, an online system for sustainability reporting. Through the platform, our ambition is to align our data with global standards such as the UN Global Compact and UN Sustainable Development Goals. Our pre-investment due diligence continues to evolve, and we are pleased to report that 100% of Investment Committee Memoranda have a dedicated ESG section. We have also adopted a new systematic approach to ESG assessment at the exit stage, helping us quantify our impact over the life of an investment.

The pandemic has highlighted the need for businesses to demonstrate their social license to operate. In light of this, we have expanded our philanthropy programme so that every IK office has the resource and funding to support local initiatives. We look forward to rolling out this initiative over the next 12 months.



*Mads Ryum Larsen*

**Mads Ryum Larsen**

Partner & Head of IR and ESG, IK Investment Partners




*Jovana Stopic*

**Jovana Stopic**

ESG Coordinator, IK Investment Partners

# IK Investment Partners at a glance

Leading Pan-European private equity Firm	96 exits	Building stronger and better businesses since 1989	
141 investments		Capital Markets Team	Operations Team
3 complementary fund strategies		€13 bn commitments raised	
Responsible Investment policy since 2012	ESG integration across IK Funds	Defining and delivering transformational agendas	
7 offices 		Sector specialisation:  <div data-bbox="930 1276 1082 1429"></div> <div data-bbox="903 1460 1110 1487">Business services</div> <div data-bbox="1241 1276 1393 1429"></div> <div data-bbox="1222 1460 1414 1487">Consumer / food</div> <div data-bbox="930 1529 1082 1682"></div> <div data-bbox="887 1713 1126 1740">Engineered products</div> <div data-bbox="1241 1529 1393 1682"></div> <div data-bbox="1254 1713 1382 1740">Healthcare</div>	
Venture philanthropy activities with IKARE		UN PRI signatory	UN Global Compact signatory
		Active ownership model	Multiple Fund Strategies

## 2020 Highlights



## Our portfolio 2020



IK IX and IK Small Cap II Fund

# High quality investor base

## €3.4 bn

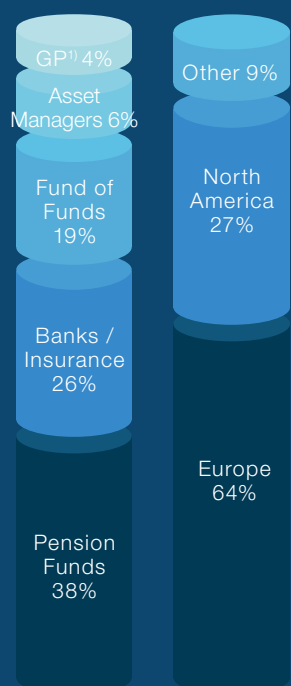
fund commitments

## >100

investors

## 57%

UN PRI signatories



### Examples of our ultimate stakeholders



- 1 Canadian teachers
- 2 New York police and fire officers
- 3 British pensioners
- 4 Social security beneficiaries in Kuwait



VARMA

HIRTLE  
CALLAGHAN  
& COMINNESOTA  
STATE BOARD OF INVESTMENTAmundi  
ASSET MANAGEMENTPICTET  
1805

Lexington Partners

ARDIAN

EUF  
EUROPEAN  
INVESTMENT  
FUND

PANTHEON

HARBOURVEST

INDOSUEZ  
WEALTH MANAGEMENTTKP  
Investments

alpha associates

Northwestern  
Mutual<sup>®</sup>Aberdeen Standard  
Investments

1) Including SWFs, Family Offices and HNWI's.

# Responsible investment: How we do it

At IK, RESPONSIBLE investing lies at the heart of who we are and what we do. We acknowledge that ESG issues can affect the performance of our portfolio companies. Therefore, IK follows a structured approach to investment from

the moment we consider a potential investment to the point at which we divest. With the help of our proprietary toolkit, "IK Way", ESG considerations are screened across all strategies and embedded into every stage of the investment process.

## Pre-investment



1. We screen all potential investments against a well-defined Responsible Investment policy, in place since 2012.
2. We scope additional due diligence on ESG-related concerns with external consultants, when deemed appropriate.



3. We advise the Investment Committee on the potential investment and present a detailed assessment of financial and non-financial information. This includes an ESG risk screening and a summary of identified ESG factors.
4. Depending on the materiality of the ESG risks identified, IK develops corrective actions post-acquisition.

## Active ownership



5. We commission an independent ESG review, which identifies ESG risks and opportunities of material character, and the company's ability to manage ESG. The review also makes high-level recommendations, from quick wins through to strategic actions, with the aim of protecting and creating shareholder value.
6. The ESG review report is presented to the Board of Directors of the portfolio company in question. Where appropriate, we also encourage portfolio companies to form an Audit & ESG Committee.



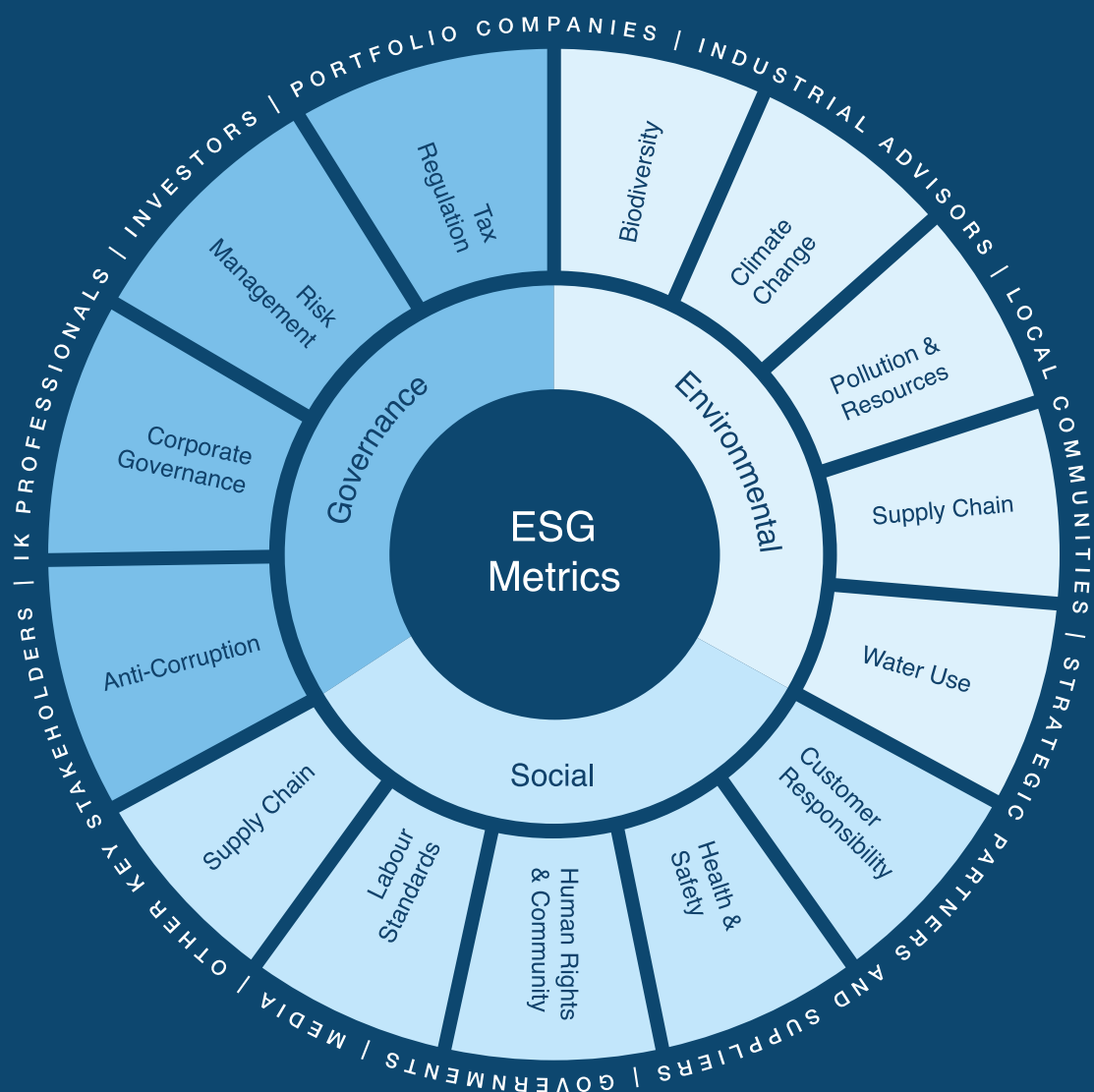
7. We actively engage and support our portfolio companies with the implementation of high-level ESG recommendations, managing ESG risks and opportunities as well as creating or protecting sustainable value.
8. We monitor our portfolio companies' sustainability performance through an online reporting platform.

## Exit



9. We strive to implement a high-level and independent ESG assessment at the exit stage to provide an overview of ESG related results achieved during our ownership.

# Definition of ESG



- Climate change
- Pollution and contamination of land, air and water
- Eco-efficiency and resource efficiency
- Waste management
- Natural resource scarcity
- Biodiversity



- Labour rights and labour conditions
- Health and safety
- Treatment of customers and communities
- Human rights
- Diversity
- Supply chain management
- Data privacy and cybersecurity



- Regulation
- Anti-bribery and corruption measures
- Business ethics
- Transparency and accountability
- Board composition and independence
- Shareholder rights

# IK's ESG journey

Engaging in responsible investment has been an integral part of IK's culture since the Firm was founded. For the past decade, we have been developing a more structured approach to help us create sustainable value.



# Making the most of ESG opportunities in 2020

## 1. Strengthening our internal processes

- Expanded ESG Steering Committee
  - Amended our Responsible Investment policy
  - Developing new climate change risk tool
  - Active ownership: Adopted Worldfavor, a new sustainability monitoring platform
  - Exit: Integrated high-level independent ESG analysis
- worldfavor**

## 2. Engaging with stakeholders

- Joined Initiative Climat International (iCI), supported by the PRI
  - Global Compact UK Network participant
  - Member of the Invest Europe ESG Roundtable
  - Attended forums and workshops on sustainability issues
  - Contributed to industry-wide consultations and surveys on ESG
-  **initiative climat international**  
Private equity action on climate change
- Supported by:
-  **PRI** Principles for Responsible Investment

## 3. Being transparent

- Submitted our third Transparency Report to the UN PRI, achieved A+ for the Private Equity module for three consecutive years
- Submitted sixth UN Global Compact COP report
- Published IK's GHG Report for 2019

# Social commitment

## Human rights

IK IS FIRMLY COMMITTED to the values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We support fundamental principles of human rights across all our lines of business and we are committed to respecting human rights in any region where we operate.

The IK Responsible Investment policy, which is applicable across all IK Funds,

stipulates that we will not invest in companies that have demonstrated a systematic denial of basic human rights, while IK's Ethical guidelines for portfolio companies express our expectation of portfolio companies to respect the internationally proclaimed human rights principles.

## Labour

WE BELIEVE THAT a good working environment and equal opportunities for all are fundamental rights for every employee. As an employer, we are committed to supporting best practices in terms of labour and employment. This includes equal opportunities for all, support for diversity, zero tolerance of discriminatory practices and a culture of safety and welfare at work. Our commitment is reflected in our human resources policies.

IK has a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery. Our employees are asked to raise concerns regarding modern slavery in any part of our business, or our supply chains, as early as possible. In compliance with the UK Modern Slavery Act ('MSA') 2015, IK publishes a transparency statement on steps taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking do not take place in our business, our supply chain, and we continue to raise awareness internally on the MSA.

IK's Ethical guidelines for portfolio companies stress our expectation of

portfolio companies to support the rights of all individuals, independent of gender, race, religion or any other characteristic protected by law, to uphold the freedom of association and the right to bargain collectively, and to provide working conditions that surpass basic health and safety standards.

The Covid-19 pandemic poses new challenges to people at work and societies and has put our ESG approach to the test. To protect our employees and support our portfolio companies, IK led a dynamic and successful response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In terms of IK's own employees, IK has been carrying out analysis of government recommendations in all geographies where we have offices and adapting our approach to enable both working from home and for the return to offices. With more colleagues working remotely, we expanded our programme of IT training to safely deliver maximum connectivity and collaboration between employees and management teams.

## Peter Tucker

Director, IT team, IK Investment Partners



"IK'S IT FUNCTION has been fundamental for allowing maximum connectivity and collaboration between employees and management teams during a volatile year. We successfully completed IK's three-year IT strategy a year early, just before the Covid-19 crisis began unfolding across Europe, putting us in a strong position to deliver a seamless

transition from IK's centralised offices to home based working. We swiftly ensured all endpoint security systems and software were compatible so remote working could be undertaken safely and securely. We also delivered internal training to help IK staff identify potential cyber security risks and we continue to provide regular communications on possible security issues that may arise from operating remotely. Our digital security is continually reviewed and benchmarked against industry best practice by a third-party provider and as part of our continuous development, we are now working towards a new three-year roadmap to ensure our IT technology, processes and training remain industry-leading".

## Paula Savage

Senior Portfolio Manager, Operations team, member of the ESG Steering Committee, IK Investment Partners



"OVER THE COURSE of the year, the ESG Steering Committee has held regular meetings to inform how IK can approach ESG topics during the Covid-19 pandemic. Drawing upon the expertise and experience of Committee members, we have strengthened and broadened our monitoring of social risks, such as workforce health and safety, which remains a priority. Another focus point has

been communications to key stakeholders, such as customers and employees, which the Committee viewed as critical to maintaining a culture of transparency.

The ESG team and Operations team have been working closely to integrate key ESG concerns within our portfolio monitoring activities. This collaboration enabled us to adapt and refine our approach to ESG analysis and underscored the importance of ESG integration during active ownership. Together, we have effectively navigated this period of volatility to improve performance and create sustainable value".

## Spotlight: Questel IK IX Fund

**Country:** France  
**Sector:** Business services  
**Signing date:** October 2020



**QUESTEL IS A** major intellectual property solutions provider that operates worldwide, developing SaaS products, automated brand services and patent filing platform. Employing approximately 900 people across 30 countries throughout the world, Questel is renowned for its technological expertise and has expanded considerably since 2018, when the IK VIII Fund first invested in the company.

“At Questel, we strive to create sustainable value for all our stakeholders, and we understand that our duties as an Intellectual Property and Innovation solutions provider come with significant responsibilities. One area of particular importance is our relationship with suppliers, as they play a crucial role in providing solutions to our business and clients.

In recognition of this, we have developed a Supplier Diversity Policy for our translation division. As Questel contracts with thousands of suppliers in over 80 countries, it is vital that Questel recruits from a diverse group of individuals and businesses. Our Supplier Diversity Policy has helped achieve this by encouraging the use of local suppliers, outlining our inclusive recruitment process and how we use external accreditations, such as ISO 17100:2015 criteria, to evaluate a prospective supplier's qualifications.

We work collaboratively with our suppliers to help them deliver a world-class service. Looking to the future, Questel will increase the number of supplier summits available each year, to ensure our suppliers have access to global, regional, or local colleagues who can support their long-term success. These practical steps help our suppliers contribute to global value creation as well as improving their overall economic, social and environmental performance.

Diversity and more broadly equality of opportunity is a crucial subject for

Questel. To have a positive impact as soon as possible, we structured a funding program to support employee-sponsored social projects dedicated to childrens' development and well being”.



**Pascal Magnier**

Marketing Communications & CSR Director, Questel

## Spotlight: Pinard IK VIII Fund

**Country:** France  
**Sector:** Consumer goods  
**Acquisition date:** July 2017



**FOUNDED IN 1970**, Pinard Beauty Pack (previously Pinard Emballages) specialises in the design, development and manufacturing of high-end plastic bottles mainly for the cosmetics, fragrance and personal care markets.

“The development and delivery of well-being at work initiatives was a key priority for our management teams, who regularly engage in constructive and open dialogue with employees to understand how Pinard's culture and workplace can continuously evolve in line with best practice. Transparent and honest feedback has been vital in creating a workforce that is truly representative of our society.

At Pinard we are proud that women account for 40% of our workforce. We feel that this reflects our commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive culture.

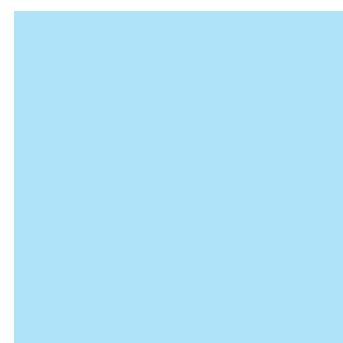
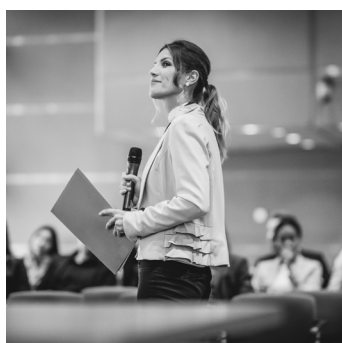
However, as a progressive and ambitious business, we felt that it was our responsibility to assess how we could further support our colleagues and improve female talent retention and development.

We reviewed our absenteeism rate which helped us understand the main causes behind female absenteeism. In response, we developed a new initiative to introduce flexible working practices to help our colleagues balance commitments in their personal lives with their work. We have taken steps to improve our recruitment process, taking the decision to anonymise all applications, and we will launch a new scheme to address and remove obstacles facing our colleagues who are young parents. Finally, we are keen to diversify the opportunities available for young people and are actively creating a new internship programme.

Furthermore, 2020 has seen several successes, including the publication of our first gender equality report. When we calculated our equality index, we were delighted that we achieved 79%, above our target of 75%. Having a diverse workforce is a key component which enables us to provide quality products. We remain committed to satisfying our customers' demands while maintaining our social and environmental values and adopting a culture of inclusivity. As we look to the future, we are excited to see how we can continue to develop diversity and well-being at Pinard”.

**Thomas Pinard**

CEO, Pinard



# Environmental commitment

AT IK, WE recognise that there are significant challenges posed by climate change to the global economy, society and ecosystems. Climate change and environmental impacts are therefore among our key focus areas. IK is committed to measuring and publicly communicating our greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and we continue to try to reduce emissions from our own operations. Business travel has been a core part of IK's business activity and and Scope 3 emissions therefore remained significant in 2019, with air travel as the dominating emission source. Due to measures imposed to manage Covid-19, primarily restricted air travel, we expect to report reduced emissions for 2020.

Climate change is a part of our ESG definition and in 2020 we extended IK Responsible Investment policy to include in the referrals companies with an

unacceptably high greenhouse gas footprint, that have failed to take reasonable steps to reduce these emissions (each as determined by IK). We are also preparing for the implementation of a pre-investment tool that will enable the better scoping of climate related risks and opportunities. To capture the range of future possibilities we will be looking at two different climate scenarios – Climate Chaos and Green Revolution. Finally, as part of our commitment to promote greater environmental responsibility, IK became a member of the UK network of the Initiative Climat International.

IK's Ethical guidelines communicate our expectation of portfolio companies to support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges and undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility.

## Alice Langley

Partner, member of the ESG Steering Committee,  
IK Investment Partners



"2020 HAS PLACED a renewed emphasis on social issues. However, environmental considerations, such as biodiversity loss and the effects of global warming, remain high on the global agenda. Climate change continues to be a strategic priority for IK and we have established new processes to improve our understanding of climate-related financial risks. Through our

updated Responsible Investment policy, we are moving away from companies that we deem as unwilling to reduce their unacceptably high

levels of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, our climate assessment tool – to be introduced in 2021 – will provide a better insight at the pre-investment stage of physical and transitional climate risks, as recommended by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.

These initiatives allow us to provide fresh insight to the wider industry, strengthening our ability to effectively collaborate with our peers. We recently joined Initiative Climat International and look forward to working with a global community of investors who recognise their responsibility to society and the environment".

## Spotlight: Løgismose Meyers IK VII Fund

Country: Denmark  
Sector: Consumer  
Acquisition date: January 2015



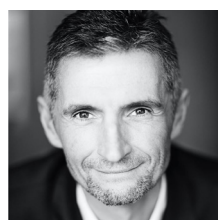
L+M IS THE merger of Løgismose and Meyer, two of the strongest and widely recognised high-end food brands in Denmark offering a range of gourmet food products and services across various channels including retail distribution, food service, B2B wholesale and selected own outlets.

"There is no doubt that the production and consumption of food greatly affects the world around us. As operators of two leading Danish food brands, employing over 800 people in total, we have a culture and mindset that puts sustainability at the heart of both Løgismose and Meyers. We are committed to promoting animal welfare, developing plant-based products, and reducing food waste, all with the intention of mitigating climate change.

We actively engage in dialogue with suppliers, retailers and primary

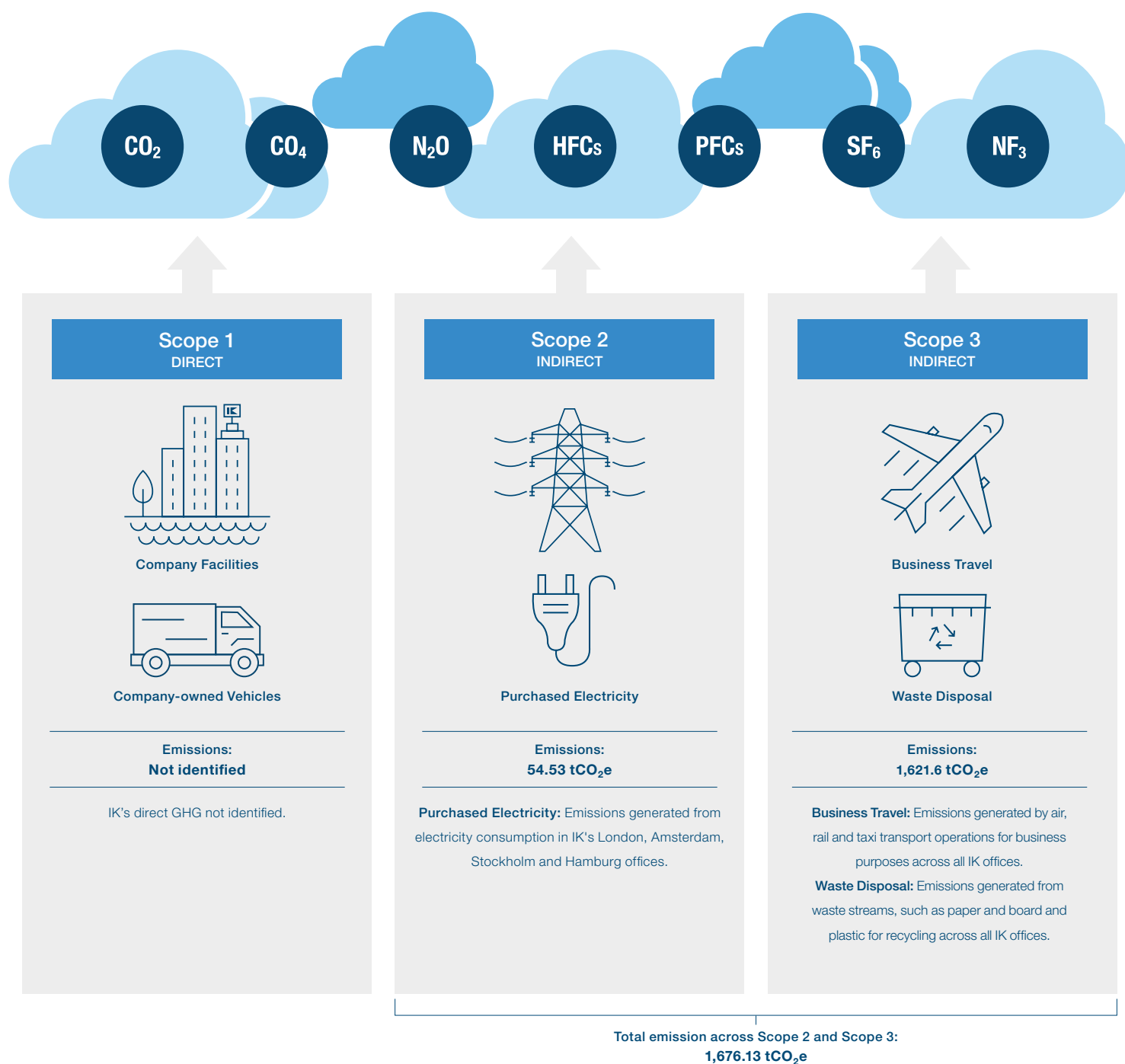
producers on how to adopt best practice within operations. Importantly, we understand that the everyday choices our colleagues and customers make, can have a considerable impact on our planet and society. So, we have partnered with other industry groups and think tanks to see how we can

become better environmental stewards within our business and across our value chain. Working with our customers, employees, suppliers and the wider industry, we hope to incorporate a sustainable approach from farm to fork".



**Jesper Uggerhøj**  
CEO, Løgismose Meyers

# IK's environmental impact



## Methodology

IK'S GHG EMISSIONS determines the amount of GHG emitted by our own operations, excluding our portfolio. The footprint is measured in carbon dioxide equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e), which includes seven major greenhouse gases.

IK's GHG emissions imply the total amount of CO<sub>2</sub>e produced by in-house business travel activities, waste disposal and electricity consumption across IK offices.

IK's CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions are calculated and reported in accordance with the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard. The GHG protocol framework splits GHG emissions into three scopes. IK's emissions fall into Scope 2 and Scope 3, which are considered critical to day-to-day operational activities.

More detail is available in the 2020 [IK Investment Partners GHG Report](#)

# Governance

AT IK, WE have an established governance framework for managing ESG matters and specialists across the Firm continuously aim to improve our approach to material ESG concerns. A dedicated ESG team is responsible for promoting responsible investment awareness internally, as well as engaging with external stakeholders on ESG issues. The IK ESG Steering Committee provides further support and guidance on ESG initiatives. The ESG Steering Committee, which includes our CEO, IK partners, directors and specialists, including the ESG team, has been extended this year to include more members from IK's fund administration, investor relations and investment teams. This will allow us to further enhance our engagement on ESG initiatives.



**“IK’s Code of Ethics communicates our core values – professionalism, accountability and integrity. It is an element of our broader approach to instituting and maintaining high standards of governance and business ethics within the Firm and its portfolio companies”.**

We ask IK funds’ portfolio companies, when appropriate, to form an Audit & ESG Committee, which reports to the Board of Directors. The committee is charged with ensuring that the company has a robust ESG plan and monitors the implementation of that plan on an ongoing basis. The committee reviews the company’s key ESG activities and achievements and reports its findings to the Board in conjunction with the annual review process.

IK’s Code of Ethics communicates our core values – professionalism, accountability and integrity. It is an element of our broader approach to instituting and maintaining high standards of governance and business ethics within the Firm and its portfolio companies. We are committed to complying with the laws and regulations of each country in which we operate, including compliance with the UK Bribery Act and we do not participate in corruption, bribery or extortion. An IK Compliance Officer manages our robust compliance programme which includes Anti-corruption, Whistleblowing and Conflicts of Interest policies, induction training for all new joiners and mandatory training for all our staff on an annual basis. Our yearly compliance training was completed by 94% of IK employees in 2019.

IK’s Ethical guidelines for portfolio companies emphasise our expectation of portfolio companies to operate good governance practices, particularly in relation to bribery and corruption and conflict of interests. We are continuously working towards our aim of having the Ethical guidelines adopted by all IK portfolio companies.

## Thierry Aoun

Director, Capital Markets team, IK Investment Partners



“IN OCTOBER 2020, IK entered exclusive negotiations to acquire a majority stake in Kersia, IK IX Fund’s first investment. The acquisition will be financed through a corporate social responsibility (‘CSR’) - linked syndicated term loan placed with institutional investors in the European leveraged loan markets, making Kersia and IK the first firms to secure financing of this nature in France.

Kersia has grown over the last four years to become a global leader in biosecurity for the food, farming, and healthcare industries. The company

has put in place a far-reaching CSR strategy that centres around its ‘Act for Positive Impact’ programme, embracing the need to establish a fully circular economy and in the long-term, to mitigate the negative impact companies can have on communities and the environment.

As part of its investor commitments, Kersia will adhere to three Key Performance Indicators (‘KPIs’) that will be tracked, monitored and externally verified. Firstly, the company will be required to expand the implementation of systems to collect and recycle customers’ packaging. Secondly, Kersia will continue to increase its share of green products. Finally, it will maintain and expand its employee shareholding scheme. The company’s evaluation of these KPIs will be carried out by an independent auditor.

We are immensely proud to be one of the early adopters of this form of financing and we look forward to working with Kersia in accomplishing our ambitions and delivering value for all stakeholders”.

“KERSIA’S BUSINESS MODEL revolves around biosecurity in crucial end-markets, namely food, farm and healthcare, and for this reason CSR has been at the heart of the Company’s strategy. As part of our ongoing partnership we will be supporting the management team’s continuing focus on these areas, and this innovative financing will play a key part in enabling Kersia’s sustainable growth”.



**Dan Soudry**  
Partner, IK Investment  
Partners

# Our extended commitment: IKARE

IK Aid and Relief Enterprise (IKARE Ltd) is the venture philanthropy vehicle founded and supported by IK Investment Partners. IKARE uses venture philanthropy principles to make a positive long-term impact.

## SDG Goals:



ENGAGING IN PHILANTHROPY has been an integral part of IK's culture since the Firm was founded in 1989. But, as IK developed, the partners wanted to adopt a more structured approach to charitable donations and link them more closely to the Firm's core business. They wanted to make a difference, federate staff and leave something sustainable behind. That is why IKARE was set up as an independent charity, imbued with the principles of venture philanthropy. IKARE sees its role mainly as a catalyst for change. Being problem focused and solutions oriented, IKARE typically engages for the long-term with a select number of strong social entrepreneurs, which it believes have developed sustainable and scalable solutions for the issues IKARE wants to address. Through an individually tailored

mix of funding (grants and soft loans) and non-financial support, IKARE can assist in such capacity building at a social enterprise as may be deemed necessary to reach further impact on the ground. As an early stage investor, IKARE's funding acts as a catalyst in the piloting, fine-tuning and de-risking of solutions, thereby also helping to bring other funders on board. Over the years IKARE's investment strategy has evolved to focus on strengthening health services delivery infrastructures in developing countries, addressing the current gaps as experienced by end-users and other stakeholders including beneficiaries. Local engagement and gradual ownership are core to this work. Through its operations, IKARE is laying the foundation for scaling and systematic change.



## 2006

- IKARE launches, mainly focusing on Stamp Out Sleeping Sickness in Uganda



## 2013

- IKARE with former portfolio company Ceva, sponsors the Cows Against Malaria study, conducted by a group of researchers from The University of Liverpool and The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine



## 2015

- IKARE engages with Shifo Foundation to see how their electronic version of MyChild Solutions, launched in 2014, could be adapted to work in a low-resource setting in Uganda. This led to Shifo developing the hybrid Smart Paper Technology (SPT) version of MyChild Solutions, a Health Management Information System (HMIS)

## 2018/ 2020

- Piloting of the SPT version of MyChild Solutions begins in September in Mukono District, Uganda, with funding from IKARE. In 2020, based on the positive results and recommendations from an external evaluation the Ugandan Ministry of Health, made the decision to scale SPT nationally

## 2009

- IKARE invests in MyC4 microfinancing platform, providing loans to small businesses in Africa
- IKARE provides start-up financing to help build up the 3 V Vets network



## 2014

- IKARE embarks on a WASH initiative in Kampala with the Students Support Philanthropy Program (SSPP). This led to the launch, in 2016, of the Bwaise WASH pilot in cooperation with the target communities and their local leadership

## 2017

- IKARE, Shifo, Gavi and other partners embark on piloting the SPT version of MyChild Solutions in two districts of The Gambia, with a view to scaling the system nationally by March 2021. This is well on its way



SDG Goals:



## MyChild Solutions

### Smart Paper Technology (SPT) expands its remit

MORE THAN FOUR MILLION children each year suffer or die from preventable diseases like pneumonia and measles. A shortage of vaccines is not the primary reason. Instead, it is often due to children not being registered at birth, nor with their local healthcare providers, which means they do not receive all their childhood vaccinations. In developing countries where systems for registering children and their immunisation are in place, managing the paperwork is typically time-consuming and the quality of the recorded data is poor.

Shifo developed the hybrid Smart Paper Technology ('SPT') that serves a full range of maternal and children's healthcare services, from reproduction to immunisations of children under five. The SPT forms are scanned and the digitised data is then verified using the AI technology. The records can be searched by different criteria such as type of vaccine administered and aggregated data reports and KPIs are automatically generated from the system. The SPT version of MyChild solutions reduces the time health workers spend on

administrative tasks by nearly 70%, whilst helping to ensure the timely delivery of high quality (99%) data.

The operating and maintenance costs of Shifo's solutions are equal, or lower than those of less efficient alternatives currently in use in developing countries. Furthermore, the solution can operate in low resource settings or where security is an issue. They enable access to high quality, timely, and consistent data that is a prerequisite for continuous quality improvement and closing of gaps in health services delivery. Increasingly, countries and health organisations have shown interest in SPT solutions, which have been piloted and de-risked through IKARE's support and engagement in The Gambia and Uganda. IKARE recognises that SPT provides an affordable and user-friendly, hybrid paper and digitised system which has the potential to significantly contribute to maternal and infant mortality reduction by 2030.

## Impact in numbers

### The Gambia

- Progress 2017 – March 2020
- 2/7 districts (Western Region 1 and 2): ½ total population

150,262 children registered

179,223 SMS immunisation reminders

45,476 children fully immunised

### Uganda

- Progress 2018 – March 2020
- Mukono district

64,895 children registered

73,396 SMS immunisation reminders

19,445 children fully immunised

## Kampala Slums WASH initiative

Focusing on hygiene awareness and empowerment during the Covid-19 pandemic

IKARE HAS BEEN working with the Ugandan youth-based organisation, the SSPP, since 2014 on community-based water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions in the informal settlements of Kikoni and Bwaise in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. Bwaise has a population of approximately 90,000 people, with over 80% estimated to be surviving on less than US\$2 a day.

In addition to supporting this vital on the ground project, IKARE will also provide financial and non-financial support to the SSPP over the next two years in order to further reinforce its capacity as a trusted WASH partner, whilst also exploring different ways to strengthen its financial sustainability. This may be achieved by growing the company, RCDHA, it recently established, which provides data collection services, or through engagement with other organisations pursuing different WASH initiatives.

Ugandan lockdowns and curfews, imposed since March 2020, in response to Covid-19 have forced much of SSPP's work to move online. SSPP has focused its efforts on providing community leaders with smart phones so that they have access to fact-based information about the disease and the preventative measures they can implement. In addition, "radio talk shows" have been hosted by SSPP on local channels that have featured community leaders and health centre representatives to provide information on best hygiene practices. These radio shows have become hugely popular, people living in Bwaise and Kikoni can call the show to have their questions answered, and will continue until the end of the year. The long-term aim of sustainably reducing the occurrence of water-borne diseases remains a key priority and has been strengthened throughout Covid-19 by messages of best hygiene practice and the continued visibility of SSPP as a trusted partner and source of help.

SDG Goals:



"Ugandan lockdowns and curfews imposed since March 2020 in response to Covid-19 have forced much of SSPP's work to move online. SSPP has focused its efforts on providing community leaders with smart phones so that they have access to fact-based information about the disease and the preventative measures they can implement".



## Expansion of the 3 V Vets initiative

From disease control to improving livelihoods

10 YEARS AFTER the launch of the public private partnership "Stamp Out Sleeping sickness" (SOS) in Uganda, of which IKARE was a founding partner, the World Health Organization declared in 2017 that Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT) - or sleeping sickness - was on a steady course towards elimination. Only three cases were reported in the SOS area both in 2018 and 2019. With the burden of the disease now lifted from the communities in the SOS area the focus can be shifted to improving livelihoods.

After several years of providing mentoring support to the financially sustainable 3 V Vets Franchise network, IKARE has decided to invest both in the expansion of the network and to empower households that lost cattle to the disease Nagana or who have had to sell off poultry and other live-stock to pay for hospitalisation. While veterinary services are labelled essential businesses and can continue to operate the Covid-19 lockdown and closing of borders along with reducing trade and imports have had a negative effect on the supply of veterinary products and retail prices since spring. In a country like Uganda with a young and growing population, and where 70% still make a livelihood out of subsistence farming, it will be critical to re-introduce and improve farming and animal husbandry practices for food security, improved nutrition and for providing jobs throughout the value chain.

SDG Goals:



"Only three cases were reported in the SOS area both in 2018 and 2019. With the burden of the disease now lifted from the communities in the SOS area the focus can be shifted to improving livelihoods".

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