

Sector scorecard



HEALTHCARE



In collaboration with:



The State of Children's Rights and Business 2025

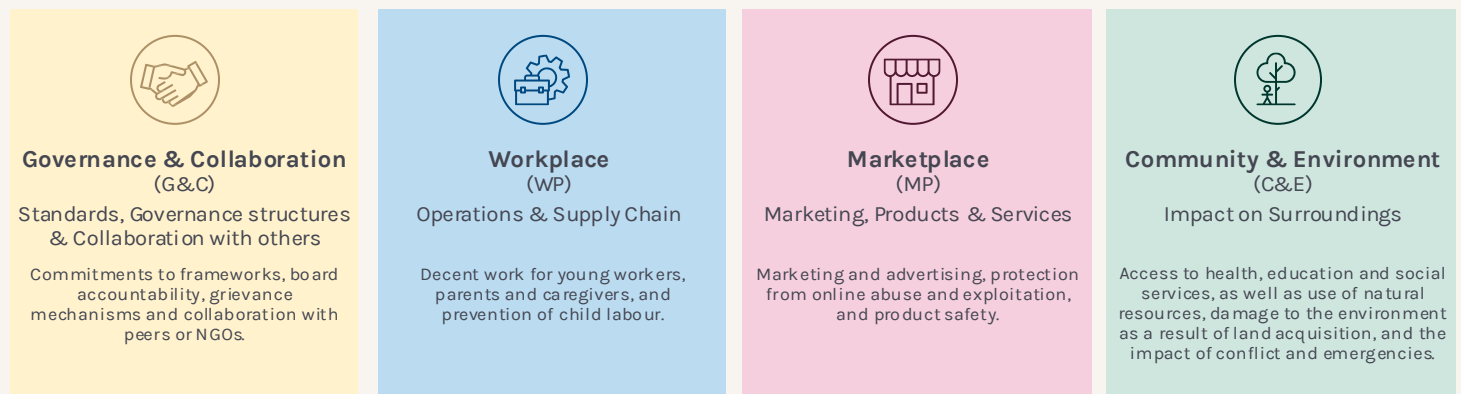
Part of the Global Child Forum Corporate Sector and Children's Rights Benchmark

About the scorecard

The set of indicators that companies in this scorecard have been benchmarked against align with the **Children's Rights and Business Principles**¹, organized into four impact areas: Governance & Collaboration, Workplace, Marketplace, and Community & Environment. These impact areas provide an

overview of what companies are doing in each of these spheres of influence, allowing them to identify areas of improvement in relation to their operations. The corporate response of companies is important when assessing the degree of influence as well as areas of improvement for each impact area. Therefore, the impact areas are

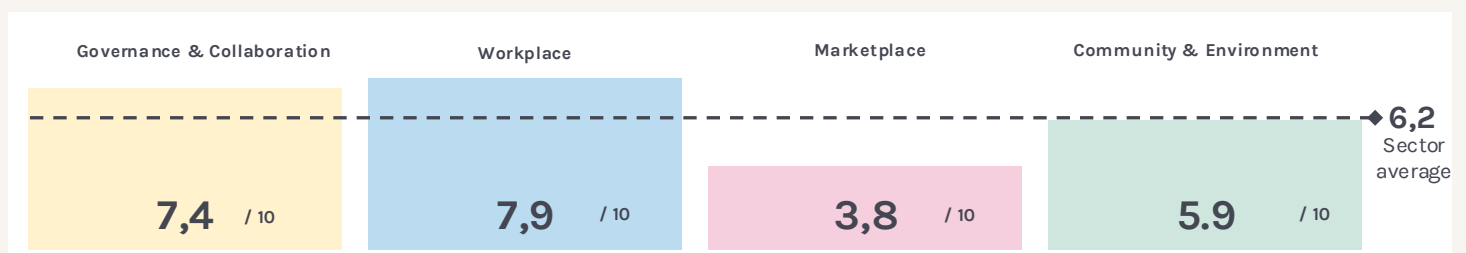
structured by three subcategories, namely, Policies & Commitments; Implementation; and Reporting & Actions, where these sub-categories are viewed as corporate responses to children's rights related issues. The boxes below present a short overview of what the different impact areas measure².



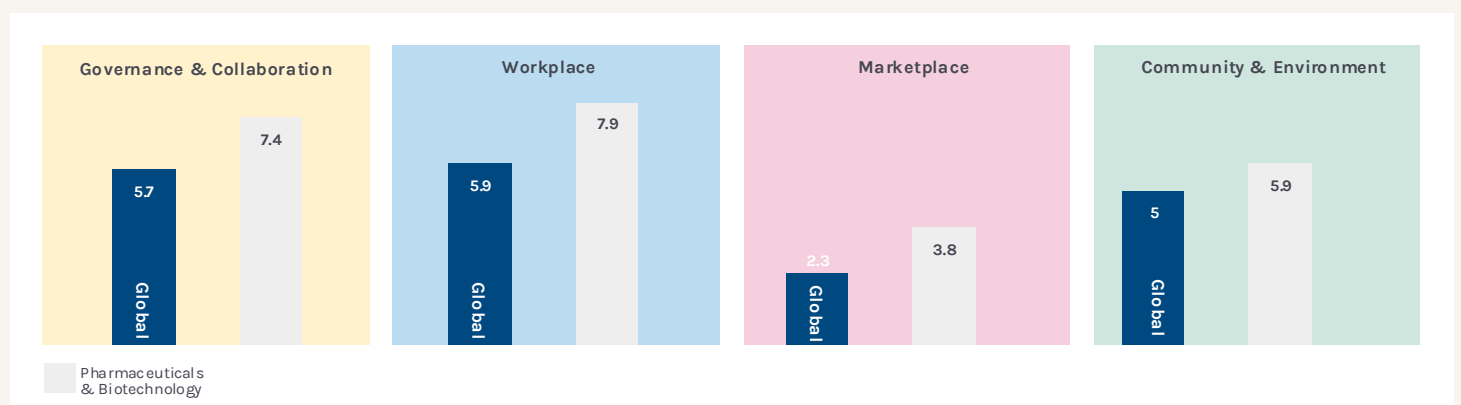
¹ A comprehensive framework for understanding and addressing the impact of business on the rights and well-being of children developed by UN Global Compact, UNICEF and Save the Children.

² To learn more about Global Child Forum's methodology, access it [here](#).

1.1 Sector Average Score



1.2 Sector vs Global



Sector description

The Healthcare sector covers companies that are engaged in producing medical equipment and pharmaceuticals. The industry included in the sector is *Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology*.

This sector includes only a few companies, but they represent the entire sector on a global scale, as a small number of major players dominate the market.

No. of companies in sector	33
Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology	33

About our weightings

Our methodology consists of four impact areas (Governance & Collaboration, Workplace, Marketplace, and Community & Environment). The Governance & Collaboration impact area covers topics we consider to be equally important, independent of sector. Hence, the **same weight is applied for this impact area across the board** when calculating the final score. However, this is not the case for the other three impact areas as **each sector face different risks and possibilities when considering their material reality caused by their operations**. For more information, see our [Methodology](#)

1.3 Healthcare

The Healthcare sector is clearly an important one with respect to children’s health and wellbeing globally. The products manufactured in this sector provide opportunities to combat diseases and health conditions for children requiring medical attention. However, when a children’s rights lens is applied, it becomes evident that there are several different factors that the Healthcare sector must consider to further increase its positive input in relation to the value chain.

Prominent topics in the **workplace** for this sector concern child labour in supply chains (e.g., raw materials and agriculture), decent working conditions and family-friendly policies for both direct and indirect

employees (i.e., supply chains), and safe practices and standards for employees in production plants. Policies and safe practices addressing employee safety and working arrangements allow parents to be more accessible to their children.

Regarding the **marketplace**, the healthcare sector could give greater consideration to product safety through labelling and packaging to prevent children from ingesting medicines by mistake. Furthermore, because many products distributed to the marketplace are crucial to the survival of children, the sector could cooperate both within the sector and with governments to ensure the widespread availability of affordable

products globally.

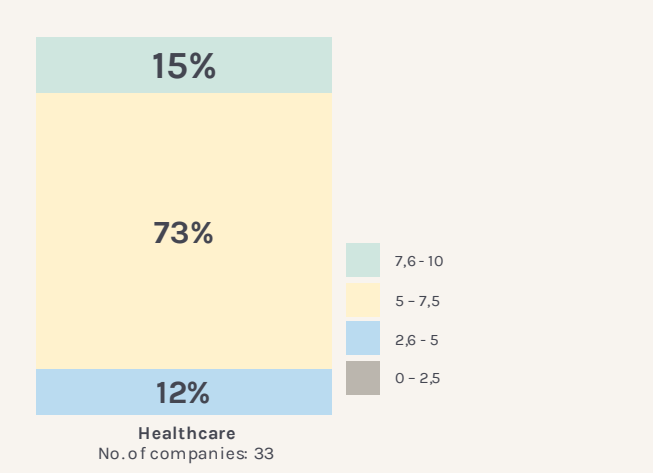
The key risks identified with the Healthcare sector’s impact on **local communities & the environment** concern air, soil and water pollution caused by production plants, reduction of GHG emissions, and water stress as a result of production. The activities carried out by the Healthcare sector’s operations risk causing adverse effects on children in local communities in terms of their health and well-being. These issues can be addressed through environmental and community commitments and policies. Moreover, these policies and commitments require frequent monitoring and reporting on compliance.

1.4 Material Topics³

Impact	Where	What	
Child labour	Supply chain	Work collaboratively with others against child labour in informal sector around supplier and/or beyond tier 1 (metals and crops required for manufacturing of products).	Work place
Access to parents/child labour	Procurement/ Supply chain	Ensure that purchasing practices (lead times and pay) are contributing to decent working conditions with suppliers.	Work place
Children’s health and safety	Products	Ensure that children won’t be harmed by exposure to pharmaceuticals (e.g. through packaging and labelling).	Marketplace
Children’s health and safety	Products	Collaborate with sector initiatives, governments and civil society to promote and protect children’s rights, including health and safety, in the development of medical equipment and pharmaceuticals.	Marketplace
Future wellbeing of children	Operations	Improve water efficiency and waste management to prevent pollution of water supply and water stress.	Community & Environment
Children’s health and safety	Operations/Supply chain	Evaluate and prevent any risks to children in the surrounding community caused by pollution and waste.	Community & Environment

³ Governance and Collaboration is not present here as it contains only generic topics

1.5 Performance distribution



Disclaimer

Global Child Forum's assessments are based on publicly available data and specific criteria established at the time of analysis. These assessments do not necessarily capture all aspects of a company's operations, including ongoing controversies, incidents, or updates that may occur after the data collection period.

Our rankings and insights are intended to reflect the information available at the time of assessment and are meant to drive positive change in business practices concerning children's rights. We encourage companies to publicly disclose their efforts to address and remedy any impacts on children's rights, especially in cases of adverse actions.

While a company may receive a favorable assessment, this does not imply the absence of areas needing improvement, particularly if there are concerns related to children's rights abuses. Global Child Forum uses its platform to call for increased transparency, accountability, and continuous progress toward safeguarding children's rights. We aim to act as a catalyst for change, advocating for responsible business conduct and the promotion of children's rights in all aspects of operations.

1.6 Top 10 performing companies

Company name	Score	Collaboration & Governance	Workplace	Marketplace	Community & Environment	Country of HQ
Bayer	8,5	10,0	10,0	6,4	7,4	Germany
Moderna	8,3	10,0	9,4	6,8	6,9	United States
Merck	8,0	9,4	9,4	6,4	6,8	Germany
Sanofi	7,8	9,4	10,0	5,0	6,8	France
Merck & Co	7,6	8,8	8,8	6,5	5,6	United States
Bristol Myers Squibb	7,2	9,4	9,4	3,5	7,4	United States
Sun Pharma	7,0	7,5	9,4	5,0	6,1	India
Pfizer	7,0	10,0	10,0	3,0	5,0	United States
Johnson & Johnson	7,0	10,0	7,5	4,0	7,4	United States
GSK	6,9	10,0	8,8	3,4	6,1	United Kingdom

1.7 Top three performing indicators

Indicator	Indicator number	Percentage of companies scoring 10/10	Corporate response
Does the company commit to standards and frameworks which refer to children's rights?	1.1.1	91%	Policies & Commitments
Does the company prohibit child labour?	2.1.1	100%	Policies & Commitments
Is the company committed to environment-related reduction targets?	4.1.1	93%	Policies & Commitments

1.8 Three challenging indicators

Indicator	Indicator number	Percentage of companies scoring 10/10	Corporate response
Has the company conducted a materiality assessment considering responsible marketing or product responsibility in relation to children?	3.2.1	18%	Implementation
Does the company report on positive impact on children or incidents of non-compliance with their product responsibility commitments?	3.3.2	0%	Reporting & Actions
Does the company disclose actual or potential negative impacts on children in communities, beyond the scope of operations?	4.3.2	0%	Reporting & Actions

- Governance & Collaboration
- Workplace
- Marketplace
- Community & Environment

For more information on our indicators, see our [Methodology](#).

About our Sector Scorecards:

This scorecard is based on data collected by Global Child Forum in partnership with Boston Consulting Group. The results are based on publicly available data. However, we don't evaluate actual compliance with policies or outcomes of policies and/or programmes.

Publication date: October 2025

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To quote this report, please use the following reference:

Global Child Forum, 2025, "Sector Scorecard Healthcare", Stockholm.

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Founded in 2009 by the Swedish Royal Family, Global Child Forum is a leading forum for children's rights and business dedicated to innovative thinking, knowledge-sharing and networking. We believe in the power and responsibility of business, working in partnership with all parts of society, to create a prosperous, sustainable and just society for the world's children. In addition to our forums, Global Child Forum delivers research perspectives, best practices and risk assessment tools designed to unlock opportunities for business to integrate children's rights into their operations and communities.

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