



2026

Benchmark Methodology

GLOBAL CHILD FORUM

CORPORATE SECTOR AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS BENCHMARK



About the Corporate Sector and Children's Rights Benchmark Series

WHAT IS THE BENCHMARK?

Global Child Forum and the Boston Consulting Group initiated the Corporate Sector and Children's Rights Benchmark study series in 2013 to fill a gap in research. The purpose of the series is to develop a children's rights benchmark for the corporate sector and to enable tracking of progress over time on how children's rights are addressed by business. To date, we have produced a combination of global and regional benchmarks, encompassing over 3000 companies across eight different sectors, including the Nordic countries, the Middle East and Northern Africa, Southern Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia. Since 2024, our scope for the benchmark is approximately 1800 companies, which are assessed on a yearly basis.

HOW IS THE SAMPLE SELECTED?

In 2020, Global Child Forum joined the World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) and chose to adopt the SDG2000 as a base for selecting our primary universe. The WBA uses the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) for industry classification, and we apply our own sector grouping based on the Refinitiv Business Classification (TRBC), which includes the following eight sectors: Basic Materials; Business to Business (B2B); Consumer Discretionary; Energy & Utilities; Financials; Food, Beverage & Personal Care; Healthcare; and Technology & Telecommunications.

HOW IS THE STUDY CONDUCTED?

During the first half of the year, publicly available information in English from the selected companies (sustainability reports, etc.) is screened against a set of 26 indicators.¹

Each indicator has a possible score of:

0 – no information could be found;

5 – the company is reporting on human rights or sustainability for this issue;

10 – the company reports on how they address children's rights for this issue.²

The results are based only on publicly available data, systematically assessing corporate organisational response to impact on children's rights. However, we do not evaluate actual compliance with policies, nor outcomes of policies or programmes. The individual results were shared with each company for feedback and possible corrections to ensure a fair assessment.

For more information or to register yourself as a contact person for the feedback period, please contact benchmark@globalchildforum.org.

HOW CAN BUSINESS USE IT?

The set of indicators align clearly with the Children's Rights and Business Principles³, and divides the indicators into the impact areas of Governance & Collaboration, Workplace, Marketplace, and Community & Environment. This not only gives an overview of what companies are doing in each of these spheres of influence, it also gives companies an opportunity to identify areas for improvement in relation to their operations.

¹ Since the 2021 study the number of indicators decreased from 27 to 25. In 2026, we included a new indicator.

² The original methodology used until 2017 used 7 indicators with a binary answer option of yes (score 1) or no (score 0) and a total possible score of 9 (two of the questions were weighted and had a possible score of 2)

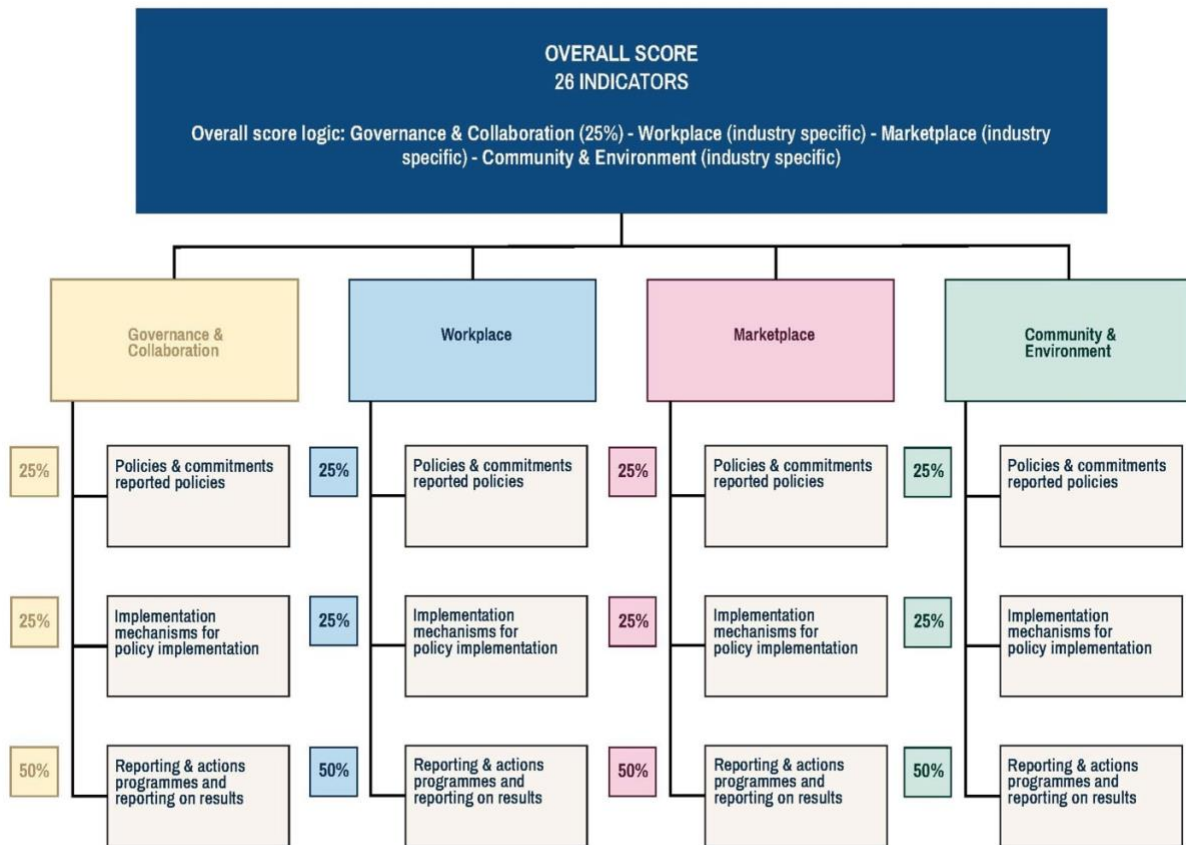
³ A comprehensive framework for understanding and addressing the impact of business on the rights and well-being of children developed by UN Global Compact, UNICEF, and Save the Children

Methodology Overview

The benchmark methodology contains a set of 26 indicators⁴ specific to the impact areas: Governance & Collaboration (G&C), Workplace (WP), Marketplace (MP), and Community & Environment (C&E).

The impact area scores for Governance & Collaboration, Workplace, Marketplace, and Community & Environment are calculated as weighted averages of the maturity levels: “Policies & Commitments”, “Implementation” and “Reporting & Actions”.⁵

The Governance & Collaboration impact area has a fixed weight of 25 % for the overall score. However, the Workplace, Marketplace, and Community & Environment impact areas have industry specific weights when calculating the overall score. The purpose of the industry specific weights is to highlight the material topics relevant for the industries included in the sectors that we assess. The industry specific weights are illustrated in the table page 6.



⁴ As of 2026, we are benchmarking companies against a new indicator, assessing whether companies engage with children or their representatives (indicator 1.2.3).

⁵ These are derived from the [UN OHCHR conceptual and methodological framework for human rights indicators](#)

Impact Areas

GOVERNANCE & COLLABORATION

This impact area focuses on how successfully companies integrate children's rights into their governance mechanisms, comprising indicators that were previously included in the other three impact areas (Workplace, Marketplace and Community & Environment).

Governance & Collaboration centres on the following:

- A company's **governance** establishes the foundation for how a company views and acts with respect to its impact on children's lives, across all issues. Maintaining a clear commitment and having directives emanating from top management determines how important an issue is perceived to be throughout operations.
- **Collaboration** is key to addressing many of the areas where business impacts children's lives. Often these issues are systemic, so a single actor has limited or no capacity to solve an issue or have an impact operating individually. It is essential to seek out and consult with experts, such as children's rights organisations, to ensure that any initiative undertaken is in accordance with best practice and does not result in unintended negative consequences.

WORKPLACE

In our benchmark, impact through operations and supply chains – specifically in relation to employment – is covered under the Workplace impact area.

In Workplace, companies impact children's lives in several ways:

- **Child labour and decent work for young workers.** Child labour, often the first topic that comes to mind when considering how children's rights are relevant to the corporate sector, requires companies to take appropriate measures to assess risks, prohibit, prevent, report on findings, and provide remediation. Ensuring decent working conditions and appropriate job opportunities for young people is another key element.
- **Family-friendly policies and programmes** are of great relevance to children's daily lives. Family-friendly efforts by companies impact the time that children can spend with their parents (for example, through parental leave that exceeds what is legally required, or availability of flexible work arrangements), ensuring that children are looked after when parents are at work.

MARKETPLACE

Impact through marketing and products or services is covered under the Marketplace impact area.

Companies impact children's lives in several ways in Marketplace:

- **Product and service safety** is particularly important when products are intended for children's and teenagers' consumption. Moreover, even when a product or service is not explicitly intended for children, there is the possibility of children encountering it. For these reasons, children should be considered from a perspective of protecting them.
- **Responsible marketing** is important for children and young people, as the recipients of marketing messages. Companies need to recognise and act on children's specific vulnerabilities, putting into practice, for example, restrictions on when and to whom to market. In addition, even if unintentionally, children and teenagers are constantly exposed to marketing messages meant for adults, especially online. Here, companies need to consider whether they are propagating unhealthy ideals or lifestyles or considering how children and young people are portrayed in marketing to adults. Consideration should be given to determining whether a child or young person is equipped to contextualise these messages and understand them properly.
- **Products and services that support children** are an often-overlooked area. Companies can have a significant and positive impact on children's and teenagers' lives by ensuring they have access to products and services that take their needs into consideration.

- With **positive messaging**, companies can not only prevent harm by practicing responsible marketing but also create positive impact. In the arena of mental health and self-esteem, for example, a company could make use of their communication platforms to reach a young audience.

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

In our benchmark, impact through operations and supply chains – specifically in relation to more indirect impact – is covered under Community & Environment.

Here, companies impact children's lives in several ways:

- **Environmental impact** is critical for companies involved in the use of land, chemicals and water, as well as energy consumption and packaging. Overall, research is clear that negative environmental impacts have a disproportionate effect on children compared to adults. This is true both when considering the present day – for example, pollution, water, and land use, where children are particularly vulnerable – and the future, through long-term impacts such as CO2 emissions, lack of circularity and unsustainable use of natural resources. It has also been shown that climate change has a more immediate effect on children, negatively impacting their physical health and mental well-being.
- **Social impact** is particularly far-reaching with regard to children, for example, in access to healthcare, education, and social protection. These issues are primarily the responsibility of the public sector. Nevertheless, business has an essential role, both in environments where state protection is weak and in cases where companies want to contribute to (pay back) society by, for example, supporting children's access to quality education, healthcare, or a sustainable living environment.

Corporate Response Maturity Ladder

To assess the degree to which a child rights issue has been addressed and integrated in a meaningful way by a company, the benchmark indicators are grouped into three maturity steps:

POLICIES & COMMITMENTS

The first indicator of whether a company has truly integrated a children's rights perspective is whether it addresses child rights issues through a policy or an explicit commitment in its publicly available documents.

Commitments can cover different aspects of children's rights across the impact areas of Governance & Collaboration, Workplace, Marketplace, and Community & Environment, and might include child labour, responsible marketing to children, product safety, or a commitment to contribute in a positive way to children in the local community.

IMPLEMENTATION

The next level of integration of a children's rights perspective is the extent to which these policies have been integrated into an organisation's processes. For instance, is the board ultimately accountable? Does it receive regular updates about developments on these issues? Are children's rights issues included in materiality analyses? Does the company conduct supplier assessments? In addition, are there grievance mechanisms in place which allow both internal and external actors to report on cases of misconduct in relation to children's rights issues?

REPORTING & ACTIONS

While policies and commitments are important to establish where a company stands on issues, such statements mean little if there is no periodic review, follow-up, and impact evaluation. To accomplish this, it's essential that companies report on results (both positive and negative). Additionally, companies need to address their impacts, mitigate those that are negative, and contribute to positive development.

Industry materiality weightings for calculating overall score

SECTOR	INDUSTRY	G&C - weight	WP - weight	MP - weight	C&E - weight
B2B	Capital Goods	25%	43%	0%	32%
	Conglomerates	25%	40%	7%	28%
	Construction & Engineering	25%	43%	0%	32%
	Construction Materials & Supplies	25%	45%	8%	22%
	Freight & Logistics	25%	31%	13%	31%
	Motor Vehicles & Parts-B2B	25%	33%	4%	38%
	Postal & Courier Activities	25%	31%	13%	31%
Basic Materials	Agricultural Products	25%	36%	9%	30%
	Chemicals	25%	28%	19%	28%
	Containers & Packaging	25%	33%	14%	28%
	Metals & Mining	25%	31%	0%	44%
	Paper & Forest Products	25%	41%	0%	34%
Consumer Discretionary	Apparel & Footwear	25%	31%	21%	23%
	Motor Vehicles & Parts-B2B	25%	33%	4%	38%
	Motor Vehicles & Parts-B2C	25%	22%	25%	28%
	Passenger Transport	25%	17%	29%	29%
	Retail	25%	29%	28%	18%
	Entertainment	25%	18%	43%	14%
Energy & Utilities	Oil & Gas	25%	19%	9%	47%
	Utilities	25%	16%	24%	35%
	Waste Management	25%	34%	9%	32%
Financials	Banks	25%	9%	35%	31%
	Insurance	25%	9%	38%	28%
	Real Estate	25%	7%	32%	36%
	Payments	25%	10%	40%	25%
Food, Beverage & Personal Care	Agricultural Products	25%	36%	9%	30%
	Food Production	25%	33%	28%	14%
	Food Retailers	25%	30%	27%	18%
	Personal & Household Products	25%	30%	25%	20%
Healthcare	Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology	25%	29%	33%	13%
Technology & Telecommunications	Electronics-B2B	25%	41%	3%	31%
	Electronics-B2C	25%	29%	24%	22%
	IT Software & Services-B2B	25%	34%	7%	34%
	IT Software & Services-B2C	25%	20%	41%	14%
	Telecommunications	25%	28%	25%	22%

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1. Governance and Collaboration

1.1 POLICIES & COMMITMENTS

1.1.1 Policies & Commitments: Standards and frameworks

INDICATOR 1.1.1

Does the company commit to standards and frameworks which refer to children's rights?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company commits itself to one or several children's rights specific standards or frameworks.
- **5** - The company commits itself to standards or guidelines covering broader human rights. Children are not specifically and extensively covered.
- **0** - No, the company does not commit itself to any relevant human or children's rights standards, or this information is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

It is important to commit to internationally accepted standards or frameworks that cover children's rights topics. By committing to international human rights standards concerning children's rights, companies demonstrate that they acknowledge and support children's rights and are committing to following established practice and norms in the field.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if it is clear from public disclosures that the company is committed to international standards or frameworks that explicitly focus on respect or support for children's rights:

- Children's Rights and Business Principles
- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ILO Core Conventions / Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
- ILO Convention 138 (Minimum Age Convention – Effective Abolition of Child Labor)
- ILO Convention 182 (Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention)
- UN Global Compact 10 Principles
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

A score of 5 is given if there is evidence of commitments to international standards or frameworks that cover human rights but does not specifically focus on children:

- UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights
- UN Sustainable Development Goals/Global Goals for Sustainable Development
- Conventions of the ILO – other than those eligible for score 10
- The International Standard ISO 26000
- Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI)
- UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Other similar standards or frameworks

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children (Principle 1)

OECD MNE Guidelines: Part 1, Chapter 4, p. 25

OECD DD Guidelines: Chapter 1, p.22, 1.1

ESRS Indicators: MDR-P, S1-1, S2-1, S4-1

1.2 IMPLEMENTATION

1.2.1 Implementation: Board accountability

INDICATOR 1.2.1

Does the company's highest governance body monitor compliance and progress on policy frameworks regarding social or environmental impacts on children?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company's highest governance body monitors compliance and progress on policy frameworks regarding social or environmental impacts on children.
- **5** - The company's highest governance body monitors compliance and progress on policy frameworks regarding social or environmental impacts. Children, however, are not explicitly included.
- **0** - No, the company's highest governance body does not monitor compliance and progress on policy frameworks regarding social or environmental impacts, or this information is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

It is important for the highest governance body to not merely put their seal of approval on policy frameworks. They must also establish which issues are important for the company to focus on. This is most often expressed by monitoring progress and being involved with related compliance issues (i.e. receive reporting back or charge a dedicated committee or responsible party with this task).

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if it is clear from public disclosures that the highest governance body has responsibility for policies including child rights, compliance with these policies, and monitoring progress and challenges with topics impacting children's rights. For example, if the governance body oversees effect on children's rights in the following areas:

- Outcome of company policies
- Compliance with company policies
- Monitoring progress on material social or environmental topics
- Ensuring there are structures or processes in place to provide information on the perspectives of stakeholders affected by company activities
- Monitoring progress and challenges with regard to the company's salient human rights and environmental risks

A score of 5 is given if it is clear from public disclosures that human rights are taken into consideration within the responsibilities of the highest governance body, but children are not specifically included.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

UN Guiding Principles:

- Principles 15-24 (The corporate responsibility to respect human rights)

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children (Principle 1)

The GRI standards: Reference 2-9, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14

OECD MNE Guidelines:

- Part 1, Chapter 4, p. 27, Paragraph 4
- Part 1, Chapter 3, p. 21, 3

OECD DD Guidelines: Chapter 1, p.23, 1.2

ESRS Indicators: GOV-1, GOV-2, MDR-P, S1-2, S2-2, S3-2, S4-2

1.2.2 Implementation: Grievance channels

INDICATOR 1.2.2

Does the company have channels available for internal and all external stakeholders to raise concerns about human rights impacts in its own operations or the value chain?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company has channels available for internal and all external stakeholders to raise concerns about human rights impacts in its own operations or the value chain.
- **5** - The company has channels for reporting on concerns, but it is unclear if this channel is used for submitting human rights grievances or if this channel is open only to employees.
- **0** - No, the company does not have channels where concerns can be raised, or it is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

If the wider community can lodge grievances with a company, there is a higher probability that misconduct/issues will come to light and be addressed. This opportunity should be available for human rights grievances in operations as well as in supply chains.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has a public statement that makes it clear that child labour or other human rights issues can be:

- Reported to a dedicated hotline/grievance mechanism (either in-house or with suppliers that the company has access to through, e.g. audits or a neutral third party providing the service)
- It should also be clearly communicated that the mechanism is available to all potential stakeholders (all community members) and not only available to employees/suppliers

A score of 5 is given if it is clear from public disclosures that an ethics hotline/grievance mechanism exists, but it is unclear whether the hotline/grievance mechanism:

- Includes human rights issues
- Allows community or environment grievances to be reported
- Allows all members of communities to use the mechanism or whether it is exclusively for employees/suppliers

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))
- All business should provide decent work for young workers, parents and caregivers ([Principle 3](#))

The GRI standards: Reference 103-2

OECD MNE Guidelines:

- Part 1, Chapter 2, p. 14, A9
- Part 1, Chapter 2, p. 14, A10

OECD DD Guidelines: Chapter 2, p. 25, 2.1

ESRS Indicators: S1-3, S1-17, S2-3, S3-3, S4-3, G1-1

1.2.3 Implementation: Stakeholder engagement

INDICATOR 1.2.3

Does the company engage with external stakeholders, including children, teenagers or their representative?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company consults external stakeholders, including children, teenagers or their representatives.
- **5** - The company consults external stakeholders, but it is unclear if children, teenagers or their representatives are consulted.
- **0** - No, the company does not consult external stakeholders, or the information is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Children and teenagers are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of business activities and can be affected by them more severely than adults but are often overlooked as stakeholders. By engaging with children, teenagers and/or their representatives, companies can better understand and mitigate these impacts, ensuring that their materiality assessments are comprehensive and inclusive, and helping to identify issues that might otherwise be overlooked.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if it is clear from public disclosures that the company is engaging with children, youth and/or their representative as external stakeholders. This engagement can be realized when identifying material topics for their materiality assessment, during product development, or before realising a supplier impact assessment, for example.

Representatives of children and teenagers can be:

- Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) focusing on children's and youth's rights
- Youth-led organizations
- Educational institutions such as universities or student unions
- Youth councils and Advisory boards

A score of 5 is given if there is evidence that the company is engaging external stakeholders, but it is unclear whether children, youth or their representatives are specifically consulted.

Marketing engagement is not included under this indicator, as it often overlooks the perspectives and needs of children and youth as key stakeholders.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))

OECD MNE Guidelines: Part 1, Chapter 2, p. 15, B

ESRS Indicators: S1-4, S2-4, S3-4

1.3 REPORTING & ACTIONS

1.3.1 Reporting & Actions: Collaboration with or donations to NGOs

INDICATOR 1.3.1

Is the company collaborating with or making donations to any non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with a focus on children's rights?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company is collaborating with or making donations to NGOs which focus on children's rights.
- **0** - No, the company does not collaborate with NGOs on children's rights, or information on these partnerships is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A company can work to support children's rights in partnership/collaboration with organisations such as NGOs or choose to donate money or volunteer time. This indicates the commitment of the company to advancing children's rights in the workplace, marketplace or wider community.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has either a partnership with an organisation that works on children's rights issues or gives financial contributions or volunteering of employee time to such an organisation (e.g. UNICEF, Save the Children, PLAN, ECPAT, etc.).

A charitable donation can take the form of:

- Making monetary donations
- Inviting children for celebrations of important holidays (e.g. Christmas, Ramadan, Labour Day, etc.)
- Providing school materials
- Staff volunteering for charity/NGOs/others without a set corporate level programme

N.B. activities that only occur once, and is not part of a longer initiative are not considered, unless it is clear from the reporting that the company is acting in response to a one-off event such as a crisis, natural disasters, disease outbreaks, wars etc.

A partnership can be, e.g.:

- A joint programme with another organisation to benefit children
- A partnership to ensure expert input or advice regarding impact on children in relation to company operations, programmes etc
- Staff volunteering as part of a corporate programme to benefit children

In cases where the company donates money to an organisation and terms it a "partnership", for purposes of scoring it is not considered to be a collaboration/partnership and should instead be indicated as being a charity donation.

Initiatives whereby a company lets customers donate money to a charity without contributing its own funds/resources (e.g. matching contributions or similar) are not considered as the input from the company is minimal.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))
- All business should respect and support children's rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use ([Principle 7](#))
- All business should reinforce community and government efforts to protect and fulfil children's rights ([Principle 10](#))
- All business should help protect children affected by emergencies ([Principle 9](#))

1.3.2 Reporting & Actions: Collaboration

INDICATOR 1.3.2

Is the company involved in any partnerships or initiatives addressing children's rights with partners other than NGOs?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company is involved in one or several industry or other partnerships or initiatives that address children's rights.
- **5** - The company is involved in one or several industry or other partnerships or initiatives related to broader sustainability issues but not specifically focusing on children's rights.
- **0** - No, the company is not involved in industry partnerships or initiatives that address children's rights, or such partnerships are not publicly described.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Because many of the issues arising where children's rights and business intersect are in fact systemic, a company acting alone will find their ability to have an impact on an issue is limited. On the other hand, through collaboration with other actors, including with other companies, industry associations or through public-private/private-private/academic partnerships, a company can contribute to enhancing children's rights in the workplace, marketplace, or the wider community in a more substantial way than by acting alone.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company is a member in an industry association or initiative, public-private/private-private/academic partnership or involved in a collaboration between companies through which they explicitly address children's rights issues. Examples include:

- An initiative around ending child labour involving other companies.
- An initiative on preventing sexual exploitation online or in the tourism sector.
- Industry voluntary codes pertaining to, for instance, responsible marketing, nutritional values, product labelling, safe internet and mobile phone use, etc.

These are some examples of (but not limited to) industry initiatives referencing children's rights issues that gives a score of 10:

- Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)
- Responsible Mining Initiative (RMI)
- GSMA Mobile Alliance to Combat Child Sexual Exploitation (single mention of GSMA scores 5)
- ETI (supply chain)
- ICI (cocoa)
- FairWear (apparel)
- Ethical Toy Foundation

A score of 5 is given if it is clear from public disclosures that the company is a member in an industry association or initiative, public/private, private/private or academic partnership in which they address wider human rights and sustainability issues, but children are not specifically and extensively included.

N.B. Involvement in a charity program is considered under indicator 1.3.1.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))
- All business should contribute to the elimination of child labour, including in all business activities and business relationships ([Principle 2](#))
- All business should provide decent work for young workers, parents and caregivers ([Principle 3](#))
- All business should ensure that products and services are safe, and seek to support children's rights through them ([Principle 5](#))
- All business should use marketing and advertising that respect and support children's rights ([Principle 6](#))

- All business should respect and support children's rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use (Principle 7)
- All business should reinforce community and government efforts to protect and fulfil children's rights (Principle 10)

OECD MNE Guidelines:

- Part 1, Chapter 2, p. 15, A14
- Part 1, Chapter 2, p. 15, B1

ESRS Indicators: S1-4, S2-4, S3-4

2 Workplace

2.1 POLICIES & COMMITMENTS

2.1.1 Policies & Commitments: Minimum age of employment

INDICATOR 2.1.1

Does the company prohibit child labour?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company publicly prohibits child labour.
- **5** - The company publicly prohibits violations of labour rights and human rights violations. Child labour is not specifically mentioned.
- **0** - No, the company has not made a public commitment to prohibit child labour, to labour rights or to human rights.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

It is important to take a public stand against child labour to demonstrate a commitment to the issue. Furthermore, it is required by many industry standards/organisations, such as the UN Global Compact and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has a publicly available commitment against child labour expressed in, for example, a:

- Stand-alone policy
- Code of Conduct (CoC)
- Humans Rights policy
- Reference in an annual/sustainability report

N.B. It is not necessary to have a zero-tolerance policy, for example, in relation to suppliers, as such measures might cause more harm than good for working children.

Definition of child labour: A child is defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to be a person under the age of legal majority, usually under 18 years old. There should be evidence of a clear commitment to working against child labour as defined by the ILO Conventions 138 and 182. Note that under these conventions, some types of employment for teenagers under 18 years may be permitted.

A score of 5 is given if it is clear from public disclosures that the company prohibits human rights or labour rights violations, but children are not specifically and extensively included.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))
- All business should contribute to the elimination of child labour, including in all business activities and business relationships ([Principle 2](#))

ILO Conventions: [Convention 138](#) & [Convention 182](#)

OECD MNE Guidelines:

- Part 1, Chapter 4, p. 25
- Part 1, Chapter 5, p. 25

OECD DD Guidelines: Chapter 1, p. 24, 1.3

ESRS Indicators: MDR-P, S1-1, S2-1

2.1.2 Policies & Commitments: Decent working conditions & family-friendly policies

INDICATOR 2.1.2

Does the company have policies that support a family-friendly workplace and promote decent working conditions for parents or caregivers?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company has a policy or public commitment to create a family-friendly workplace.
- **5** - The company is committed to promoting decent working conditions and not violating employees' rights, but there is no specific commitment to parents or caregivers.
- **0** - No, the company has not published any such commitments or policies.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Workplace policies are important indicators of a company's commitment to the well-being of both employees and their families. For children's development and health, it is essential that they have access to their parents.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has or displays a public commitment to supporting parents and providing work-life balance for their employees such as:

- Paid parental leave that goes beyond what is legally required
- Flexible working hours
- A commitment to supporting working parents

These commitments can be found in, for example:

- A Human Resources policy
- A Code of Conduct (CoC)
- A Human Rights policy
- An Anti-discrimination policy
- A Gender-equality policy
- Relevant public disclosures in an annual/sustainability report

A score of 5 is given if it is clear from public disclosures that the company promotes decent working conditions and protects labour rights, but parents are not specifically and extensively focused on.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should provide decent work for young workers, parents and caregivers ([Principle 3](#))

ESRS Guidelines: MDR-P, S1-1, S1-15, S2-1

2.2 IMPLEMENTATION

2.2.1 Implementation: Materiality assessment

INDICATOR 2.2.1

Has the company conducted a materiality assessment considering child labour or on parents/caregivers in its own workforce and in the value chain?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company has conducted a materiality assessment considering child labour or on parents/caregivers in its own workforce and in the value chain.
- **5** - The company has conducted a materiality assessment considering labour or human rights in its own workforce and in the value chain. However, children's rights are not specifically mentioned.
- **0** - No, the company has not conducted a materiality assessment considering labour or human rights in its own workforce and in the value chain, or an analysis of this type is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

To show that the company takes children's rights issues seriously, children's rights should, at a minimum, be considered in a materiality assessment or in an assessment of salient human rights issues (or be included in a larger group of questions therein, e.g. decent labour or human rights). The way that companies conduct materiality assessments often excludes children as stakeholders. The consequences are that topics relating to company impact that are important to children are not considered or are considered less important.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if child labour or family-friendly workplace - either in the company's own operations or in the supply chain – is a topic in a publicly available materiality analysis/matrix, or it is clear from reporting related to material/salient issues that these topics are included under broader ones, such as:

- Human rights
- Labour rights
- Gender equality
- Non-discrimination policy
- Employees
- Supply chain management

E.g. if child labour is included in, for instance, Human or Labour Rights and if these topics are set forth as being material. Note, if a children's rights topic such as child labour has been considered but is not stated to be a prioritized/top material issue, it is nonetheless assigned a score of 10 for having been assessed.

A score of 5 is given if it is clear from a publicly available materiality analysis/matrix that human rights are considered salient/material, but children's rights are not specifically and extensively identified as salient/material.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))

OECD MNE Guidelines:

- Part 1, Chapter 2, p. 14, A11 & p. 15, A15
- Part 1, Chapter 4, p. 25, 5
-

OECD DD Guidelines:

- Chapter 2, p.25, 2.1
- Chapter 2, p. 25, 2.1
- Chapter 2, p. 27, 2.3

ESRS Indicators: IRO-1, SBM-2, SBM-3, S1-2, S2-2

2.2.2 Implementation: Supplier assessment

INDICATOR 2.2.2

Does the company conduct supplier assessments or audits with regard to child labour?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company conducts supplier assessments or audits to identify risks for or incidents of child labour.
- **5** - The company conducts supplier assessments or audits to identify risks regarding human rights and labour rights. However, children's rights are not specifically mentioned.
- **0** - No, the company does not conduct supplier assessments or audits regarding children's rights, labour rights or human rights, or this information is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

To be able to monitor an issue such as child labour among suppliers, it is of vital importance to make suppliers aware that it is an issue they are measured against.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if it is clear from the company's public disclosures that child rights issues such as child labour are among the topics that suppliers are assessed against in initial supplier assessments (pre-contract) or in audits of existing suppliers. We're expecting that the company describes the process for supplier assessments and the issues they focus on.

A score of 5 is given if it is clear from the company's public disclosures that they assess or audit their suppliers on human and labour rights, but child labour is not part of supplier assessments or audits.

Reporting on child labour or decent working conditions is considered under 1.3.1 Reporting & Action.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should contribute to the elimination of child labour, including in all business activities and business relationships (Principle 2)
- All business should respect and support children's rights in security arrangements (Principle 8)

The GRI standards: Reference 408-1, 412-13, 414-1

OECD DD Guidelines: Chapter 2, p.25, 2.1

ESRS Indicators: BP-1, IRO-1 , G1-2

2.3 REPORTING & ACTIONS

2.3.1 Reporting & Actions: Reporting on child labour

INDICATOR 2.3.1

Does the company report on risks or incidents regarding child labour?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company publicly reports on risks or actual incidents of child labour in their own operations or for their suppliers.
- **5** - The company publicly reports on risks of or actual incidents of labour or human rights violations in their own operations and for their suppliers. Child labour is not specifically reported on.
- **0** - No, the company does not report on risks of or actual incidents of labour or human rights violations for its own operations or those of suppliers, or this reporting is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

To show commitment to a policy against child labour, it is important to be transparent about how it is being implemented and to what extent it is being complied with, so that any remedial action can be assessed against the prevalence of the issue.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has a publicly available statement on identified risks or incidents of child labour. N.B. that reporting on no cases or zero cases also receives a score of 10.

A statement on identified risks for child labour in certain geographies, products or suppliers, through e.g. a supplier assessment/audit procedure or impact assessment will also rate full points.

A score of 5 is given if the company has a publicly available statement on identified risks or incidents of violated labour rights. N.B. that reporting on no cases or zero cases also receives a score of 5.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))

The GRI standards: Reference 408-1

OECD DD Guidelines: Chapter 5, p. 33, 5.1

ESRS Indicators: SBM-3, S1-17, S2-4

2.3.2 Reporting & Actions: Actions against child labour

INDICATOR 2.3.2

Does the company report on actions taken to prevent, mitigate or remediate child labour?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company reports on actions taken to prevent, mitigate or remediate child labour, for example, through age-checks or remediation programmes.
- **5** - The company reports on actions taken to prevent, mitigate or remediate labour rights violations such as trafficking, modern slavery or forced labour. Child labour is not a specific focus.
- **0** - No, the company does not report on actions taken to prevent, mitigate or remediate child labour or labour rights violations, or there is no publicly available information.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

By simply prohibiting it, child labour is not abolished. Indeed, the situation can go from bad to worse because children often tend to then shift into other work, work that is potentially more precarious/hazardous. A company committed to ending child labour better serves its commitment through activities seeking to prevent child labour or remediate any identified cases, or preferably, both.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company publicly describes an action with the purpose of preventing, mitigating, or addressing the issue of child labour (within own operations or those of suppliers), e.g. through:

- Age-checks
- Remediation programmes
- Apprenticeship programmes for under 18's
- Training programmes for employees or suppliers
- Due diligence processes (beyond supplier assessment)

Such actions can be in collaboration with e.g.:

- NGOs
- Industry peers
- Government authorities

Because child labour is a systemic issue, initiatives of this type needn't be entirely driven by a single company acting alone. The company's own foundation/charity organisation (or an entity of this type administered with other companies in the same group) which runs initiatives is also counted as their own initiative. If, for example, scholarships to under 18s focused on preventing child labour through education are directly administered by the company/foundation, it counts as the company's own individual program. In cases where the company/foundation donates to charity for the same purpose, it is considered under Indicator 4.1.1.

A score of 5 is given if it is clear from public disclosures that the company is working actively to prevent, mitigate or remedy labour rights violations such as trafficking, modern slavery or forced labour, but child labour is not a specific focus.

N.B. If the programme or initiative consists solely of donations to an NGO/charity, it doesn't qualify here but will be given a full score under Indicator 1.3.1 Collaboration.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should contribute to the elimination of child labour, including in all business activities and business relationships (Principle 2)
- All business should reinforce community and government efforts to protect and fulfil children's rights (Principle 10)

OECD MNE Guidelines:

- Part 1, Chapter 2, p. 15, A12
- Part 1, Chapter 4, p. 25

OECD DD Guidelines:

- Chapter 3, p. 29, 3.1
- Chapter 6, p. 35, 6.1

ESRS Indicators: MDR-A, S1-3, S1-4, S2-3, S2-4

2.3.3 Reporting & Actions: Decent working conditions & family-friendly actions

INDICATOR 2.3.3

Does the company report on actions taken to create a family-friendly workplace or improving working conditions for parents and caregivers?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company reports on actions taken to create a family-friendly workplace or improving working conditions for parents and caregivers in their own operations or in their suppliers' operations.
- **5** - The company reports on actions taken to improve working conditions for employees in their own operations or in their suppliers' operations. These programmes do not focus specifically on children or parents.
- **0** - No, the company does not report on actions taken to improve working conditions for parents, caregivers, or employees in their own operations or in their suppliers' operations, or there is no information publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

One effective way to address corporate impact on children's lives is to establish activities that strive to prevent and remediate any negative impact or create positive impact for children (and their parents). By operating a workplace that considers the needs of parents, positive indirect impact for children might include: more time with their parents; access to day-care/schooling, and ability to breastfeed for a longer period. Such initiatives have significant health and developmental benefits for children.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has publicly available information showing that they are working actively to support parents and provide work-life balance for their employees such as:

- Programmes to incentivise parental leave (including for fathers)
- Offering on-site quality childcare or childcare subsidies to employees - or suppliers' employees
- Offering subsidies for tuition fees, etc. to support education for employees' children (under 18)
- Under circumstances where access to education is limited, providing educational solutions for employee's children, e.g. running schools, or offering transport to existing schools, etc.
- Supporting breastfeeding by providing leave or breastfeeding facilities for working mothers
- Supporting pregnant workers and ensuring their well-being

A score of 5 is given if the company has programmes to ensure employee well-being more broadly, for instance:

- Working hours
- Wages and other non-monetary benefits
- Health and safety programmes
- Prevention of abuse/harassment
- Promoting gender equality

If the programme focuses only on getting women back to work after childbirth, without any provisions for, e.g. breastfeeding or childcare, it qualifies as a general programme and results in a score of 5, as the benefit for the child in this case is unclear.

N.B. If the programme consists entirely of donations to an NGO/charity, it doesn't qualify here, but it will be considered under Indicator 1.3.1 Collaboration.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))
- All business should provide decent work for young workers, parents and caregivers ([Principle 3](#))

The GRI standards: 401-2

ERSR Indicators: MDR-A, S1-4, S2-4

4.1 Community & Environment - Policies & Commitments

3 Marketplace

3.1 POLICIES & COMMITMENTS

3.1.1 Policies & Commitments: Marketing and Advertising

INDICATOR 3.1.1

Is the company committed to responsible marketing and labelling in relation to children?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company is publicly committed to responsible marketing and labelling in relation to children. This includes marketing that children may be exposed to despite it not being directed at them.
- **5** - The company is publicly committed to responsible marketing and labelling, but this commitment does not specifically relate to children.
- **0** - No, the company is not explicitly committed to responsible marketing and labelling, or this commitment is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

It is important that companies show a public commitment to incorporating a children's rights perspective into their marketing and advertising activities, thereby acknowledging the differences between adults and children as consumers, as target groups/stakeholders, and empowering parents and children to make informed decisions. It should be noted that holds true even when children are not the target audience for marketing/external communications. Why? Because they often have access to/are subject to messages aimed at adults, e.g. through billboards or targeted advertising in social media platforms and stand to be influenced by messaging, images, etc. to an even greater extent than adults.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has a public commitment to responsible marketing, advertising, or labelling with a specific reference to children – even if marketing or a product (labelling) is not directed at them, in for example a:

- Code of Conduct
- Sustainability Report
- Annual Report
- Responsible marketing policy
- Dedicated part of website

Examples of commitments to responsible marketing, advertising, or labelling are:

- Recognising children's specific vulnerability to marketing messages
- Reinforcing positive images and role models
- Eliminating negative stereotypes
- Not using sexualized body images
- Supporting healthy diets or lifestyles, including clear signposting in labelling
- Ethical policy on using material (photo, video, etc) depicting children

A score of 5 is given if the company has a public commitment to responsible marketing, advertising, or labelling, but children are not mentioned.

N.B. This also applies when children are not the target consumer group, e.g. through an ethical policy on using material depicting children or committing to eliminating the use of negative stereotypes or behaviours that can harm children.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should use marketing and advertising that respect and support children's rights (Principle 6)

OECD MNE Guidelines:

- Part 1, Chapter 9, p. 48, 115
- Part 1, Chapter 8, p. 43

ESRS Indicators: MDR-P, S4-1

3.1.2 Policies & Commitments: Product responsibility

INDICATOR 3.1.2

Is the company committed to ensuring safety and responsibility in relation to products or services that are likely to be used by children or which children could come into contact with?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company is publicly committed to ensuring safety and responsibility in relation to products that are likely to be used by children or which they could come into contact with.
- **5** - The company is publicly committed to ensuring product or service safety and responsibility, but this commitment does not specifically cover children.
- **0** - No, the company is not committed to product or service safety and responsibility, or this commitment is not publicly described.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

It is important that a company shows commitment to ensuring the safety of the child consumer (even if indirect), thereby also recognizing that the needs, and vulnerabilities, of children differ from the needs of adult consumers, by e.g. commitment to conducting testing and research of products that are potentially consumed by children; ensuring that children aren't harmed by exposure to a product/service. It is also the positive actions supporting children's rights through offering products and services that are essential for children's survival and development; or seeking opportunities to support children's rights through products and services, for example through seeking to improve children's rights already in product development.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company is committed to product responsibility in relation to children as a stakeholder group, for example in a:

- Code of Conduct
- Sustainability Report
- Annual Report
- Product safety policy
- Dedicated part of website

N.B. Increasing positive impact through, for example, maximizing accessibility and availability of products and services for children and seeking opportunities to support children's rights through products and services, is also considered when assessing product responsibility.

A score of 5 is given if the company is committed to product or service safety and responsibility including trying to create a positive impact on human rights through products, but children are not specifically focused on.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should ensure that products and services are safe, and seek to support children's rights through them (Principle 5)

OECD MNE Guidelines:

- Part 1, Chapter 9, p. 48, 115
- Part 1, Chapter 8, p. 43

ESRS Indicators: MDR-P, S4-1

3.2 IMPLEMENTATION

3.2.1 Implementation: Materiality assessment

INDICATOR 3.2.1

Has the company conducted a materiality assessment considering responsible marketing or product/service responsibility in relation to children?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company has conducted a materiality assessment considering responsible marketing or product/service responsibility in relation to children.
- **5** - The company has conducted a materiality assessment considering responsible marketing or product/service responsibility, but this is not related to children explicitly.
- **0** - No, the company has not conducted a materiality assessment considering responsible marketing or product/service responsibility, or this analysis is not publicly described.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

To show that the company takes children's rights issues seriously, children's rights should, at a minimum, be considered in a materiality assessment or in an assessment of salient human rights issues (or be included in a larger group of questions therein, e.g. responsible marketing, product responsibility or human rights). The way that companies conduct materiality assessments often excludes children as stakeholders. The consequences are that topics relating to company impact that are important to children are not considered or are considered less important.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if child rights issues, e.g. responsible marketing or product or service responsibility for children, is a topic publicly described in a materiality analysis/matrix, or if it is evident from reporting related to material/salient issues that these topics are included under broader ones, such as:

- Responsible marketing
- Product or service responsibility
- Inclusion and diversity

N.B, even if a child rights' issue isn't categorized as a prioritized/top material or salient issue, a score of 10 is given if it has been considered despite not being prioritized.

A score of 5 is given if responsible marketing or product responsibility (defined as minimizing risks or enhancing opportunities for the consumer) is a topic publicly described in a materiality analysis/matrix, or if it is evident from reporting related to material/salient issues that these topics are included under broader ones, but children are not a specifically and extensively focused on.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))

The GRI standards: Reference 102-47, 103-1

OECD DD Guidelines:

- Chapter 2, p.25, 2.1
- Chapter 2, p. 27, 2.3

ESRS Indicators: IRO-1, SBM-2, SBM-3, S4-2

3.3 REPORTING & ACTIONS

3.3.1 Reporting & Actions: Marketing and Advertising

INDICATOR 3.3.1

Does the company report on actual or potential impact on children from marketing initiatives, or incidents of non-compliance with voluntary commitments or regulations on marketing to children?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company reports on actual or potential impact on children from marketing initiatives, or incidents of non-compliance with voluntary commitments or regulations on marketing to children (even when they are not direct consumers/target audience).
- **5** - The company reports on actual or potential impact from marketing initiatives, or incidents of non-compliance with voluntary commitments or regulations on marketing, but it does not differentiate between children and adult consumers.
- **0** - No, the company does not report on actual or potential impact from marketing initiatives, or incidents of non-compliance with voluntary commitments or regulations on marketing, or these reports are not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

This indicator follows up on indicator 3.1.1 "Is the company committed to responsible marketing and labelling in relation to children?". A company shows commitment to responsible marketing in relation to children by transparently disclosing information on the company's performance. If, for example, there is a policy on responsible marketing, it is important to also show what the outcomes/impact of this policy have been.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has a publicly available statement on one or several of the following:

Compliance (reporting on either full compliance, or incidents of non-compliance):

- The level of compliance with formal legal or regulated requirements related to marketing, advertising and labelling of products and services in relation to children
- The level of compliance with voluntary commitments to industry marketing codes or regulations in relation to children
- The level of compliance with internal policies or commitments which address marketing, advertising and labelling activities in relation to children

Identified risks, incidents, or opportunities (potential impact) in relation to children through marketing, advertising, and labelling, for example:

- Exposure to excessive, inappropriate, or harmful content
- Inadequate labelling of potentially dangerous, or harmful products
- Results from initiatives for positive impact, e.g. number of children reached, or activities realised.

N.B. A score of 10 is given if a company has a commitment (score 10 on 3.1.1) and reports full compliance or no *incidents of non-compliance* with commitments on responsible marketing and labelling in general – for example reporting according to GRI 417-2 and -3.

A score of 5 is given if the company reports on any of the above in general, but impacts on children are not specifically reported on.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))
- All business should use marketing and advertising that respect and support children's rights ([Principle 6](#))

The GRI standards: Reference 417-2 or 417-3

OECD MNE Guidelines: Part 1, Chapter 8, p. 43

ESRS Indicators: SBM-3, S4-4

3.3.2 Reporting & Actions: Product Responsibility

INDICATOR 3.3.2

Does the company report on actual or potential impact on children's health and safety associated with their products and services, or incidents of non-compliance with voluntary commitments or regulations on product or service safety?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company reports on actual or potential impact on children's health and safety associated with their products and services, or incidents of non-compliance with voluntary commitments or regulations on product or service safety.
- **5** - The company reports on actual or potential impact associated with their products and services, or incidents of non-compliance with voluntary commitments or regulations on product or service safety, although not specifically on the effects on children.
- **0** - No, the company does not report on actual or potential impact associated with their products and services, or incidents of non-compliance with voluntary commitments or regulations on product or service safety, or this reporting is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

This indicator follows up on indicator 3.1.2 "Is the company committed to ensuring product safety and product responsibility in relation to products and services that are likely to be used by children or which children could come into contact with?". A company shows commitment to a policy on product or service safety in relation to children by transparently disclosing information on the company's performance. If, for example, you have established a policy on product or service safety/responsibility, it is important to also disclose what the outcome/impact of this policy has been.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has a publicly available statement relating to children as a specific group, clearly disclosed on e.g.:

Compliance (reporting on either full compliance, or incidents of non-compliance):

- The level of compliance in regard to formal legal or regulated requirements related to product or service safety or recalls/reports
- The level of compliance in regard to voluntary commitments with industry codes or regulations addressing product safety or recalls
- The level of compliance with own policies or commitments addressing product safety or recalls

Identified risks, incidents, or opportunities (potential impact) in relation to children through products or services, for example:

- The potential risks of non-compliance with their own product or service responsibility commitments or formal regulations.
- Potential harm to children from products or services
- Results from initiatives for positive impact, e.g. number of children reached, or activities realised

N.B. A score of 10 is given if a company has a commitment (score 10 on 3.1.2) and reports full compliance or *no incidents of non-compliance* with commitments on product or service safety/responsibility in general – for example reporting according to GRI 416-2 and 418-2.

A score of 5 is given if the company has such public reporting as described above, but impacts involving children are not specifically reported on.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))

- All business should ensure that products and services are safe, and seek to support children's rights through them (Principle 5)

The GRI standards: Reference 416-2 and 418-2

OECD MNE Guidelines: Part 1, Chapter 8, p. 43

ESRS Indicators: SBM-3, S4-5

3.3.3 Reporting & Actions: Actions on Responsible Marketing or Product Responsibility

INDICATOR 3.3.3

Does the company report on actions taken to prevent, mitigate or remediate negative impacts, or promote responsible marketing or improving product and service responsibility for children?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company reports on actions taken to prevent, mitigate or remediate negative impacts, or promote responsible marketing or improving product and service responsibility for children.
- **5** - The company reports on actions taken to prevent, mitigate or remediate negative impacts, or promote responsible marketing or improving product and service responsibility, but these actions are not explicitly focused on children.
- **0** - No, the company does not report on actions taken to prevent, mitigate or remediate negative impacts, or promote responsible marketing or improving product and service responsibility, or this information is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A company has great potential to have a positive impact on children's rights by, taking actions through for example conducting their own actions or campaigns/initiatives in relation to either their marketing and the opportunities that lie within this type of communication; or in relation to the safety of the product/service as well as how it might support children.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company reports on taking actions to enhance product safety or responsible marketing with the purpose of advancing children's rights in the marketplace. These actions can be designed in relation to the industry within which the company operates, or they can be of a more generic nature, e.g.:

- Preventing or eliminating the risk that products or services might be used to abuse, exploit or otherwise harm children
- Product development and design that seek to support children's development or specific needs
- Reinforcing positive imagery to support self-esteem and mental health through marketing or through product development
- Highlighting inclusion and diversity through marketing or product development
- Taking steps to provide a safe online environment or support children's online access
- Food & Beverage taking steps to improve product formulation or nutritional profile, for example in relation to salt, sugar, fat and ultra-processed food, to support children's health and wellbeing
- Personal care and household products, taking steps to improve products used by children taking their specific needs into account, or limiting or excluding dangerous chemicals from household products (e.g. cleaning, washing) that children could come into contact with
- Hotels/transport taking measures against child sexual exploitation
- Real estate sector considering children's needs when planning and executing projects and in evictions
- Banks providing financial education to children
- Producers of products that are harmful (or illegal) for children to consume taking steps to protect children from such products
- Transportation and automobile producers taking interior (e.g. airbags) and exterior (e.g. pedestrian airbags) safety measures to increase the safety of all users, taking special precautions with regard to children's specific needs and vulnerabilities

Note that actions/programmes/initiatives that are not directly connected to the product or service and has a wider reach than the company's consumers, are not scored here, but instead under 4.3.3.

A score of 5 is given if the company reports on actions taken to prevent, mitigate or remediate negative impacts, or promote responsible marketing or improving product and service responsibility, but they are not explicitly focused on children.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children (Principle 1)
- All business should ensure that products and services are safe, and seek to support children's rights through them (Principle 5)
- All business should use marketing and advertising that respect and support children's rights (Principle 6)

OECD MNE Guidelines: Part 1, Chapter 8, p. 43

ESRS Indicators: MDR-A, S4-4

4 Community & Environment

4.1 POLICIES & COMMITMENTS

4.1.1 Policies & Commitments: Resource use & damage to the environment

INDICATOR 4.1.1

Is the company committed to a transition plan for climate change mitigation?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company is committed to a transition plan for climate change mitigation.
- **5** - The company is committed to climate change mitigation but has no specific transition plan.
- **0** - No, the company does not have an explicit commitment to climate change mitigation, or their commitment is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A commitment to reducing negative environmental impacts reflects a company's commitment to the wider community and displays an awareness on the part of the company of its responsibilities as a corporate citizen. Specific reduction targets indicate a stronger commitment than do indefinite statements to reduce emissions/impact more broadly.

Despite the fact that commitments regarding environmental impact do not typically reference children as a specific group, any environmental impact has a significant impact on children's lives, both directly (through pollution and health impacts, for example) and indirectly by virtue of the fact that children will live with any environmental damage - especially climate change - for longer than adults will, which translates into a greater overall impact on their lives.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has a clear and public commitment to reduce their negative environmental impact through a transition plan. This transition plan should:

- Set specific reduction targets, thereby enabling the company to measure its progress
- Be time-bound
- Align with climate science recommendations

A score of 5 is given if the company has a general commitment to reducing their environmental impact but has no specific transition plan.

N.B. This indicator does not require specific mention of children in disclosures as it is not customary for companies to report on their environmental efforts in this way. However, this topic, as has been described under "Why is this important" is especially relevant to children. We would therefore welcome a more explicit reference to children by companies in their policies on environmental impact.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should respect and support children's rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use (Principle 7)

OECD MNE Guidelines: Part 1, Chapter 6, p. 33

ESRS Indicators: MDR-P, E1-1

4.1.2 Policies & Commitments: Community impacts

INDICATOR 4.1.2

Is the company committed to reducing their negative community impacts and increasing their positive contribution to the local community?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company is committed to increasing their positive impact or reducing their negative impact on the community and specifically children, even beyond the scope of their own operations.
- **5** - The company is committed to increasing positive impact or reducing negative impact on the community, even beyond the scope of their own operations. Children are not specifically mentioned.
- **0** - No, the company is not explicitly committed to reducing negative community impacts or increasing its positive contribution to the local community, or this commitment is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A commitment to the community shows a company's commitment to society as well as an awareness of its impacts on the wider community and its license to operate. It also demonstrates an understanding of a corporation's responsibility to protect its surrounding community beyond the scope of its own operations.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has a clear and public commitment in relation to the impact it can have on children in the community beyond the scope of its own operations, e.g.:

- Displacement of communities when acquiring land for business use
- Impact resulting from traffic/logistics
- Noise and disturbing sounds
- Ability to move freely and safely within the community
- Access to quality healthcare and education

A score of 5 is given if the company has such a clear commitment, but children are not specifically mentioned.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should respect and support children's rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use ([Principle 7](#))

OECD MNE Guidelines: Part 1, Chapter 2, p. 14, A3

ESRS Indicators: S3-1

4.2 IMPLEMENTATION

4.2.1 Implementation: Materiality assessment

INDICATOR 4.2.1

Has the company conducted a materiality assessment considering their environmental or community impact on children?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company has conducted a materiality assessment considering their environmental or community impact on children.
- **5** - The company has conducted a materiality assessment considering their environmental or community impact, but children are not specifically mentioned.
- **0** - No, the company has not conducted a materiality assessment considering their environmental or community impact, or this analysis is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

To show that the company takes children's rights issues seriously, children's rights should, at a minimum, be considered in a materiality assessment or in an assessment of salient human rights issues (or be included in a larger group of questions therein, e.g. social impacts, environmental impacts, such as pollution or human rights). The way that companies conduct materiality assessments often exclude children as stakeholders. The consequences are that topics relating to company impact that are important to children are not considered or are considered less important.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company publicly describes their materiality assessment and if children's rights in the community and in relation to the environment are:

- Included as a topic in a materiality analysis/matrix
- Incorporated under broader material or salient topics (e.g. community issues, environment, or human rights)

Note, even if this topic is not stated as a prioritized/top material issue, it has been given consideration, and therefore still results in a point.

A score of 5 is given if the company identifies environmental or community impact as material or salient, but children are not specifically considered material or salient.

N.B. Materiality in relation to children in the community regarding child labour is not included here but is covered under Indicator 2.2.1. Likewise, commitments to children in the community related to the company's service, product or marketing activities are covered under Indicator 3.2.2.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))

The GRI standards: Reference 102-47, 103-1

OECD DD Guidelines:

- Chapter 2, p.25, 2.1
- Chapter 2, p. 27, 2.3

ESRS indicators: IRO-1, SBM-2, SBM-3, S3-2

4.2.2 Implementation: Supplier assessment

INDICATOR 4.2.2

Does the company conduct supplier assessments or audits with regard to their suppliers' environmental or community impacts on children?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company conducts supplier assessments or audits to understand their suppliers' impact on children in relation to the environment or on children in the community.
- **5** - The company conducts supplier assessments or audits regarding their suppliers' impact on environment or the community. Children, however, are not specifically mentioned.
- **0** - No, the company does not conduct supplier assessments or audits with regard to their suppliers' impact on environment or the community, or this practice is not publicly described.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

A large part of many companies' impacts on children's lives is through their supply chain. To be able to monitor issues such as consequences of suppliers' environmental or community footprint, it is of vital importance to clearly convey to suppliers that these are issues they will be measured on.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company's publicly available information includes a clear description of actual or potential impact that their suppliers have on children in relation to environmental performance, e.g.:

- Health or developmental impact on children, for example as a consequence of children's higher vulnerability in relation to pollution, use of pesticides or other types of environmental impact which also affects people
- Suppliers' ongoing work towards a just environmental transition
- Suppliers' social impacts on local communities where they operate
- Impact on children in the community as a consequence of operations/facilities (i.e. use of land, traffic hazards, indigenous communities, etc.)

A score of 5 is given if these assessments and audits focusing on suppliers' impact on the environment and the community does not explicitly focus on children.

N.B. We are looking at whether the company describes the process for supplier assessments or audits, as well as which issues, they focus on.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should respect and support children's rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use ([Principle 7](#))
- All business should respect and support children's rights in security arrangements ([Principle 8](#))

The GRI standards: Reference 103-2, 308-1, 414-1

OECD MNE Guidelines: Part 1, Chapter 2, p. 15, A13

ESRS Indicators: BP-1, IRO-1, G1-2

4.3 REPORTING & ACTIONS

4.3.1 Reporting & Actions: Resource use and damage to the environment

INDICATOR 4.3.1

Does the company report on its environmental impact?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company discloses information on their environmental impact as well as their progress in reaching their reduction targets.
- **5** - The company discloses information on their environmental impact. There is no information on reduction targets and the progress being made towards achieving them.
- **0** - No, the company does not report on their environmental impact, or this reporting is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

This indicator follows up on indicator 4.1.1 "Is the company committed to measurable reduction targets regarding their environmental impact?". A company which discloses its own environmental performance (and that of its supply chain) shows a commitment to upholding its environmental policy. An even stronger commitment is evident if the disclosure shows performance in relation to specific targets.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company is:

- Reporting on the environmental impact of its own operations and supply chain (e.g. GHG emission in scope 1-3)
- Reporting on the annual progress towards set reduction targets to measure the company's improvements

A score of 5 is given if this reporting does not include information on or progress on reduction targets.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should respect and support children's rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use ([Principle 7](#))

The GRI standards:

Reference 301-1, 305, 306, 307 for impacts in own operations and 308-2 for impacts in supply chains

OECD MNE Guidelines:

- Part 1, Chapter 2, p. 14, A1
- Part 1, Chapter 6, p. 33, 1d

ERSR Indicators: SBM-3, S3-4

4.3.2 Reporting & Actions: Community impacts

INDICATOR 4.3.2

Does the company disclose actual or potential negative impacts on children in communities, beyond the scope of operations?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company discloses actual or potential negative impacts on children in the local communities, beyond the scope of operations.
- **5** - The company discloses actual or potential negative impacts on local communities but does not report on children specifically.
- **0** - No, the company does not disclose actual or potential negative impacts on local communities, or this reporting is not publicly available.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

This indicator follows up on indicator 4.1.2 “Is the company committed to reducing their negative community impacts and increasing their positive contribution to the local community?”. It's important to recognize that much of the impact a company has on children's lives in the communities surrounding its operations, or in the community at large, is potentially harmful in a variety of ways, i.e. increased traffic, lack of safe spaces to play due to land use, waste management, increase in sexual exploitation in relation to e.g. mega projects, etc. A company that reports on its actual or potential negative community impacts shows a clear commitment to the community and demonstrates an understanding of its wider impacts and responsibilities.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if there is publicly available information with specific reference to children on, e.g.:

- Identified risks for or incidents related to increased traffic
- Lack of safe spaces to play or risks of accidents as a result of land use
- Increase in sexual exploitation in relation to mega infrastructure projects
- Risks of sexual or gender-based violence to (women and) girls in the community as a result of migration or of social insecurity
- Migrant children's (and left-behind children) access to birth certificates, education and healthcare

A score of 5 is given if there is reporting on community impacts, but children are not specifically reported on.

N.B. Risks of child labour are not considered here; they are addressed under indicator 2.3.1. Reporting on no findings of actual or potential impact also counts for a score. Disclosure of positive impact is considered under 4.3.3.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))
- All business should respect and support children's rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use ([Principle 7](#))

The GRI standards: Reference 413-2

OECD MNE Guidelines:

- Part 1, Chapter 2, p. 14, A1
- Part 1, Chapter 6, p. 33, 1d

ESRS Indicators: SBM-3, S3-4

4.3.3 Reporting & Actions: Community and environment actions

INDICATOR 4.3.3

Does the company report on actions taken to prevent, mitigate and remediate negative impacts or achieve positive impacts on children in communities?

SCORING OPTIONS

- **10** - Yes, the company reports on actions taken to prevent, mitigate and remediate negative impacts or achieve positive impacts on children in communities.
- **5** - The company reports on actions taken to prevent, mitigate and remediate negative impacts or achieve positive impacts on communities, but these actions are not explicitly focused on children.
- **0** - No, the company does not report on actions taken to prevent, mitigate and remediate negative impacts or achieve positive impacts on communities, or these actions are not publicly described.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Companies have a broad impact on society and the environment directly, through operations, and indirectly as well. They also often have access to economic resources and technical skills which can contribute to solving problems that are particularly important to children, for example, in regard to access to healthcare, education and social protection. While such issues are primarily the responsibility of the public sector, business has a key role, too, both in environments where state protection is weak and in cases where companies want to contribute (pay back) to society by, for example, supporting children's access to quality education. A company displays its commitment to contributing positively to the wider community by actively driving its own actions.

ABOUT THE SCORING

A score of 10 is given if the company has a publicly described action showing that they are working actively to contribute positively to the wider community, with a particular focus on advancing children's rights. Internal actions can include, e.g.:

- The company's own foundation/charity organisation (or one with other companies in the same group) which runs community or environment programmes
- Scholarships to the wider community administered by the company
- Providing and coordinating health or education initiatives for children

If the company or its foundation simply makes charitable donations to other organisations, it does not qualify under this question, which looks at company-run actions rather than efforts that support initiatives undertaken by other organisations.

A score of 5 is given if the company is actively working on creating a positive impact on the communities touched by their business, but children are not specifically focused on.

N.B. actions that focus on prevention or remediation of child labour are not considered here; they are addressed under Indicator 2.3.2. If an action consists solely of donations to an NGO or a charity, it doesn't qualify here but falls instead under Indicator 1.3.1 Collaboration.

INDICATOR REFERENCE

Children's Rights and Business Principles:

- All business should meet their responsibility to respect children's rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children ([Principle 1](#))
- All business should respect and support children's rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use ([Principle 7](#))

The GRI standards: Reference 413-1

ESRS Indicators: MDR-A, S3-4