New Tools on Children’s Rights and Business

26 February 2014 at 10 am EST
Questions

Technical Difficulties: If you have technical issues, please let us know by typing a message in the Questions pane (A). You can raise your hand (B) if we do not respond.

Q&A: We will be taking questions on content at the end, but you can send them to us throughout the webinar by using the Questions pane (A). Please specify to whom the question should be directed.

Example: Question for John Doe: What is Human Trafficking?
Agenda

Welcome and Introduction
Elena Bombis, Policy & Legal Advisor, UN Global Compact

Integrating Children’s Rights into Company Policies and Processes
Ida Hyllested, Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist, UNICEF

Save the Children and CRBP Resources
Sanna Johnson, Executive Director, Center for Child-Rights & Corporate Social Responsibility

Q & A: Remaining Time
The Children’s Rights and Business Principles

1. Meet their responsibility to respect children’s rights and commit to supporting the human rights of children.
2. Contribute to the elimination of child labour, including in all business activities and business relationships.
3. Provide decent work for young workers, parents and caregivers.
4. Ensure the protection and safety of children in all business activities and facilities.
5. Ensure that products and services are safe, and seek to support children’s rights through them.
6. Use marketing and advertising that respect and support children’s rights.
7. Respect and support children’s rights in relation to the environment and to land acquisition and use.
8. Respect and support children’s rights in security arrangements.
10. Reinforce community and government efforts to protect and fulfil children’s rights.
Basis of Legitimacy

- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ILO Conventions on Child Labour
- UN Global Compact
- Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

► **Built on existing standards, initiatives and best practices**
► **Connection the dots; and bringing a child rights lens to sustainability**

“The Children’s Rights and Business Principles are an important effort to explore the implications of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for the human rights of children. Children are among the most marginalized and vulnerable members of society, and can be disproportionately, severely and permanently impacted by business activities, operations and relationships. (Prof. John Ruggie, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on business & human rights)
Structure
Core of the Principles

- The UN Global Compact asks businesses to **support and respect** the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights
- **Respect** – don’t cause harm (the minimum)
- **Support** – make a positive contribution (desirable, encouraged)
- The Children’s Principles elaborate on what this means as regards Children’s Rights

“Children are one third of the population today, but children are 100% of our future customer base, employees.”
- Richard Gillies, Marks and Spencer
The Children’s Rights and Business Principles – Get Involved

1. Awareness raising and outreach
2. Collecting and promoting good practices
3. Report on Progress
4. Commit to the Principles
5. Implement the Principles
Information and Resources

• Children’s Rights and Business Principles website.: www.childrenandbusiness.org
• Booklet and Overview of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles

• Good Practices per Principle (UN Global Compact)
• Eliminating Child Labour Guides for Employers (ILO)
• Second Annual Stock-Taking event of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles: 12 May in Nairobi, Kenya. By invitation only.
UNICEF Child Rights and Business Tools

*Integrating children’s rights into company policies and processes*
Vision

The aim of UNICEF’s CSR strategy is to promote the corporate responsibility to respect and support children’s rights in the workplace, marketplace and community in conjunction with the government duty to protect and safeguard children’s rights.

Definition

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) within UNICEF refers to efforts towards positively changing business behaviour and practices as they affect children in collaboration with a range of stakeholders, including companies, government, civil society, children and young people.
NEW TOOLS

Reporting
Reporting on performance

Workbook
Summarizing the guidance provided in the UNICEF tools

Policy commitment
Incorporating children’s rights into company policies and codes of conduct

Assessing and integration
Assessing performance and identifying actions for improvement
The Workbook. 2.0

The workbook summarizes the guidance provided in UNICEF’s child rights implementation tools – including ‘Children’s Rights in Policies and Codes of Conduct’, ‘Children’s Rights in Impact Assessments’ and ‘Children’s Rights in Sustainability Reporting’

- Learn about and better understand the child rights issues relevant to each of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles.
- Determine the contexts where child rights risks or opportunities may be more prevalent.
- Assess policies and processes that are critical to addressing child rights impacts, and identify actions for improvement.
- Take actions to integrate children’s rights based on impact assessment findings.
Children’s Rights in Policies and Codes of Conduct

- Integrate children’s rights elements into existing corporate commitments and policies
- Get started on developing a stand-alone child rights or child protection policy or code of conduct
- Establish expectations for personnel, suppliers, customers and other business partners.
- Lists elements that ALL companies should integrate
- Recommends respect and support elements for consideration according to each Principle
- Highlights examples and resources
Children’s Rights in Impact Assessment

- **A management tool** to examine policies and processes key to addressing children rights impacts
- **Emphasis on integration** (focus on child rights integration into wider assessments)
- **Structure:** 1) policy, 2) due diligence; and 3) remediation.
- **Primary and supplementary** criteria to enable companies to go into greater depth in certain areas depending on materiality and level of implementation of human rights due diligence
- Includes **guidance** for how companies can take action to address any identified risks
- Criteria may be considered at both **corporate, country, site and product level** depending on the operational context
Children’s Rights in Sustainability Reporting

- Guidance for the GRI 3.1 AND G4 frameworks
- Aim is to leverage existing standards and indicators to facilitate and encourage reporting related to children’s rights
- Generic guidance across sectors
- GRI is currently reviewing the guidance and will endorse it while conducting research on the topic
Upcoming tools

• Engaging stakeholders on children’s rights (Q2 2014)

• Grievance mechanisms on children’s rights (2015)
Introduction of participants and sharing of expectations

Save the Children
And
CRBP Resources

Photo: Susan Warner/Save the Children, Mikko Takkunen/Save the Children, Mats Lignell/Save the Children, GMB Akash/Panos Pictures, Mats Lignell/Save the Children
The world's leading, independent organization for Children

Save the Children International

Fact sheet Save the Children

Quick facts

- Founded in 1919
- 30 member organizations
- Active in 120 countries
- Income of US$1.6 billion a year

Our vision:

Is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation

Our Mission

Is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Save the Children’s thematic areas

- Health & nutrition
- Child Protection
- HIV/AIDS
- Emergencies
- Child right governance
- Education

Convention on the Rights of the Child is the foundation on which we build our work. We dream of a world where we no longer are needed, a world...

- where the CRC is realized and the rights of all children are met
- which respects and values each child
- where we listen to and learn from children
- giving every child hope for the future and opportunities

Save the children is active in 120 countries

Photo: Rachel Palmer; Shafiqul Alam Kiron, Save the Children
Save the Children’s Company support model
A CRBP company assessment tool

The CRBP asks companies to perform a Human Rights Due Diligence and understand their impact on Human and Children’s Rights.

Save the Children wants to support companies in implementing the Principles in practice and has therefore developed a model that assists companies in identifying the most relevant areas to focus on, related to their core business operations, specific opportunities and context. The model invites to both a self assessment as well as an in-depth process over several workshops.

How does your company impact children’s rights?
How could your company make a difference for children’s rights?

Photo: Karin Beate Nosterud/Save the Children
This is a Guide for Civil Society Organizations’ which provides guidance to civil society organizations that use or wish to use the Children’s Rights and Business Principles to engage with businesses in monitoring, enforcing and advancing children’s rights. It is hoped that this Guide proves inspirational in civil society efforts to engage with the private sector, and that businesses continue to march closer and closer to-wards full respect and support for children’s rights.

The Guide is divided into 5 parts where:

**Part I** introduce the Guide and establishes the international relevance of the Children’s Rights and Business Principles

**Part II** explains the corporate duty to respect and commitment to support children’s rights in theory and in practice

**Part III** explore each of the 9 substantive Children’s Rights and Business Principles in detail

**Part IV** addresses ways that additional stakeholders including governments, the media, consumers and children can enhance cooperation between business and civil society in matters of children’s rights

**Part V** offers conclusions and selection of resources for further research
What are your rights? What is Business? What should business be doing to respect your rights? The answers to these questions and much more can be found in a new material for children. This booklet, developed by Save the Children, is a practical guide to help children and young people everywhere understand that they have rights. Not only at school, at home, in the community, in the workplace, but – everywhere! We also want to share important information about ‘Children’s Rights and Business Principles', a set of ‘rules’ that every business should follow to ensure children’s rights are respected and supported.

These 10 Children's Rights and Business Principles are explained in the book in a simple and easy-to-read way. We invite children and young people everywhere to read more about their rights and business and to share this book with family and friends.
General comment on child rights and business to the Child Rights Convention

General comment No.16

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child adopted its General comment No. 16 on State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children’s rights in February 2013.

Save the children consulted over 400 young people ages 7–17 on their views and recommendations regarding the General Comment, all presented in the report; Doing good work for us children. Children and Adolescent’s Contributions to the draft General Comment on Child Rights and Business Sector.

Consultations were held with children and young people from Asia, Latin America and Africa concerning the draft General Comment on Child Rights and the Business Sector.

The express aim of the consultations was to explore the details of the draft General Comment and what governments should do to ensure business respects children’s rights. This document is a summary of the views, comments and recommendations of the young people who took part in the various consultations aimed at setting the standards for child-friendly businesses everywhere.
Children's Rights in Policies and Codes of Conduct.
A tool for companies, developed by UNICEF and Save the Children.

This tool for companies recommends ways for all businesses to incorporate children’s rights into their policies and codes of conduct, based on the Children’s Rights and Business Principles. It reaches beyond the traditional focus areas of child labour and philanthropy and outlines the child rights elements that are relevant to all companies. At the same time, it is intended to be flexible and adaptable, and includes elements that companies can adopt and integrate as appropriate, based on their biggest areas of risk and opportunity.

The tool comprises three main parts:

The first part gives a detailed introduction to the tool and background on the Children’s Rights and Business Principles; Part 2 includes information on how to get started and describes how a commitment to respect and support children’s rights can be integrated within company statements of Business principles and codes of conduct; Part 3 outlines the elements that all companies should consider integrating into their human rights and other policies.

Photo: Mats Lignell/Save the Children
Center for Child Rights and Social responsibility (CCR CSR), China

A social enterprise who sells competence, experience and knowledge to help companies develop/improve and implement child-rights related CSR-strategies, programs and projects (in collaboration with a number of parties). Established in Beijing China in 2009, by Save the Children Sweden.

OUR TOOLS FOR IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- Multi Stakeholders
- Research
- Company & Social Assessments
- Advisory Services
- Cooperation
- Policy Development
- Training

Photo: Chris de Bode/Save the Children
Thank you for joining us today.
Presentation slides and a recording of the webinar will be available on the UNGC website.

If you have any additional questions, please contact:
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