GLOBAL CHILD FORUM IS INITIATED BY
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APRIL 2017

THE CORPORATE SECTOR AND CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IN SOUTH AMERICA

IN COLLABORATION WITH:

BCG
THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP
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## ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND RESULTS

% of Companies Scoring on Each Indicator

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<th>3 Key Areas</th>
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<td>Operations</td>
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- **Board Accountability**: 8%
- **Materiality & Risk Assessment**: 11%
- **Child Labour Policy**: 59%
- **Addressing Children’s Rights Issues Other Than Child Labour**: 21%
- **Performance Reporting**: 24%
- **Collaborations with Child Rights Organizations**: 11%
- **Charity and/or Programs Related to Children’s Rights**: 63%
INTRODUCTION

CORPORATE IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Every day, businesses across the globe, both large and small, interact with children – through the products and services they offer, the impact of their operations on communities, and through employment policies. These interactions provide opportunities for companies and investors to not only respect and support, but also to advance children’s rights.

THE CORPORATE SECTOR AND CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Of the approximately 420 million people living in the region’s twelve countries, nearly a third are children below the age of 18. With a young, increasingly educated and internet connected population, and an abundance of natural resources, South America is one of the world’s economic strongholds, attractive to both companies and investors. The region is home to some of the world’s largest oil and mining companies, and although there has been some recession in recent years, the last decades’ economic growth has been significant, with GDP for the whole of Latin America growing roughly 35% from 2000 to 2013.

Business in South America faces several challenges and risks in relation to human rights in general, and children’s rights in particular. As UNICEF noted in 2013, children in the region suffer from the prevalence of violence and socio-economic inequality. They continue to work as forced labourers in agriculture, within the extractive, manufacturing, and construction industries, as well as in the service sector (retail, tourism, transport). They are victims of forced domestic work, commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking, and a large share of young people are excluded from formal employment.

In a region where people are more and more connected, the expansion of information communication technologies (ICTs) has put children at increased risk of commercial sexual exploitation and other types of violence such as cyber-bullying. ICT companies have a responsibility to consider how their products can keep children safe online as well as offline.

In all sectors, businesses can market their products to children responsibly, challenging negative stereotypes related to gender and ethnicity and ensuring that sexualized images of children are not used. Products and services can also proactively promote good habits and a more active lifestyle for children, especially important in a region where obesity is a growing concern.

GLOBAL CHILD FORUM AND THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP BENCHMARK STUDY SERIES

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 the existing research. This is the sixth study in the series. The purpose 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. The research is based on publicly available data and measures neither compliance nor company performance. Global Child Forum and the Boston Consulting Group have previously produced one global study and four regional studies: the Nordic region, the Middle East and Northern Africa; Southern Africa, and Southeast Asia. To date, we have systematically assessed over 2,500 companies against a set of indicators in order to make comparisons across geographical regions and within industry sectors.

HOW WE CONDUCTED THE STUDY

Do companies have policies in place throughout their operations to ensure that the actions of board members, employees, and suppliers do not negatively impact children? Do businesses ensure that children’s rights are safeguarded – their rights to education, health, and play, for example? To answer these questions, we developed a set of indicators based on the Children’s Rights and Business Principles. The nine indicators are organized into three key areas to assess whether companies 1) include children’s rights in their governance structures and in their operations; 2) have policies addressing their impact on children’s rights and whether they report on the results of these policies; and 3) establish partnerships with children’s rights organizations. The maximum number of points achievable for each company in the assessment is nine: the indicators assessing Board Accountability and Materiality and Risk Assessment both receive two points, while the remaining indicators receive one point each. For more information about the indicators, please refer to Appendix 1.

This report presents the findings of our assessment of 282 of the largest publicly listed South American companies based on revenue.
MAIN FINDINGS

KEY AREA 1
GOVERNANCE AND CORE OPERATIONS

Less than 10% of companies have boards who take responsibility for children’s rights issues.

In 8% of the companies assessed, responsibility for children’s rights issues rests with the board. Such responsibilities might include, for example, setting policies and subsequently following up on them through regular reporting on implementation and compliance. 11% of the companies identify their impact on children’s rights in risk assessments or materiality analyses.

"Companies in the region are engaged in advancing children’s rights issues. Many have established policies against child labour, but can do more to ensure that their boards are accountable for vital issues that impact our children."

Fiona Rotberg, Research Director, Global Child Forum

KEY AREA 2
POLICIES AND REPORTING

Companies take a stand on child labour but lack reporting mechanisms.

While 59% of companies assessed have a policy or statement against child labour, only 24% of companies report on the results of their policies, for example, on findings of child labour in their supply chains. Twenty-one percent of South American companies report on children’s rights issues other than child labour; the majority of reporting is on ending child sexual exploitation or on taking responsibility for how their products affect children. Only four percent of companies report on whether their marketing is responsible towards children, and even fewer – one percent – report on taking measures to ensure that children’s rights are considered when operations affect the surrounding community, for example, the right to water, adequate sanitation and a healthy environment.

"Our Code of Ethics is our source of values and principles. Together with our organizational culture, it serves as the foundation for our behaviours, attitudes and routines."

Sónia Cardoso, Executive Sustainability Manager, EDP Brasil

KEY AREA 3
PARTNERSHIPS, PROGRAMS AND CHARITY

Companies are charitable and contribute to children’s rights initiatives.

63% of the companies assessed either have their own charitable program focusing on children or make charitable contributions to organizations working for children’s rights. When measuring company collaborations with child rights organizations, only 11% have established strategic partnerships with children’s rights organizations on issues that affect their business operations.

"Through the partnership with Childhood Brasil, we strengthened our network in the community and improved our skills to work against sexual exploitation of children."

Uilson Paiva, Community Relations Manager, Klabin
### Addressing Children’s Rights Other Than Child Labour

**Family-Friendly Practices**

**Good for Business, Good for Children**

An important aspect of children’s wellbeing is having their parents or caregivers available and able to exercise good parenting practices. Companies and suppliers that employ parents or other caregivers have the potential to contribute to the welfare of children by allowing their employees opportunities to balance family and work obligations.

Depending on the companies’ operations, the needs of employees and the existing social structures of the countries in which they operate, there can be an array of different initiatives businesses might implement.

For example, a company can provide:

- living wages
- paid parental leave for both mothers and fathers
- childcare facilities on or near company premises
- flexible working hours
- opportunities to work from home

Of the South American companies assessed, 10% have a family-friendly practice in place, most often in the form of extended parental leave, childcare facilities/subsidies, or subsidies towards their children’s education.

In its Early Childhood Development and private sector program, UNICEF works with companies to help ensure that the children of their and their suppliers’ employees receive the support needed in the first 1000 days of life, through the promotion of breastfeeding in the workplace, extended parental leave, etc.

See more at: [www.empresasxlainfancia.org](http://www.empresasxlainfancia.org) and [www.unicef.org/lac/empresasxlainfancia_29724.html](http://www.unicef.org/lac/empresasxlainfancia_29724.html)

“*The private sector plays an essential role in ensuring that young children not only survive but thrive, by adopting policies and practices for their employees in the workplace, such as increased paid maternity and paternity leave and childcare options, among others.*”

Maria Cristina Perceval
Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNICEF

### Sexual Exploitation of Children

**The Connection to Business**

Commercial sexual exploitation of children is often associated with the travel and leisure industry through child-sex tourism, and with the ICT industry through the utilisation of telecom and IT services to access children online and spread child sexual abuse material. However, this is an issue that can affect all industries, for example, through employee use of company computers to access child sexual abuse material (images and videos) or sexually abusing children when on business travel. Companies also need to consider the risk of children being sexually exploited in connection with their own or their suppliers’ operations.

To help identify and mitigate these risks throughout their value chain, many companies turn to the expertise of civil society organizations. An example of this is the work of the nongovernmental organization Childhood Brasil, part of the World Childhood Foundation, established by H.M. Queen Silvia of Sweden in 1999.

In 2006, Childhood Brasil launched the multisectoral On the Right Track Program (Programa Na Mão Certa) to combat child and adolescent sexual exploitation. The program mobilizes governments, companies, civil society organizations and truck drivers to fight child sexual exploitation on Brazil’s highways. To date, over 1,600 companies have signed the program’s corporate pact affirming their commitment to this cause.

Also, in 2016, together with the Fundação Getúlio Vargas Law School, Childhood Brasil developed a human rights impact assessment guide focusing on children’s rights which companies can apply to large infrastructure projects and other initiatives.

More information can be found at: [www.childhood.org.br/programas](http://www.childhood.org.br/programas)
INDUSTRY RESULTS

The 282 companies surveyed represent nine industries, depicted below. The regional average score is 2.2 out of a possible of 9 points. Several industries score at or above the regional average: Travel and Leisure (average score of 2.7); Oil, Gas and Utilities (2.6); Financials and Property (2.4); ICT (2.3) and Basic Materials (2.2). These industries have a larger proportion of companies that score between 3 and 5 points than the lower average scoring industries.

Most industries in the study have a number of high scorers (6–9 points).

It is worth noting that companies in the higher than average scoring industries tend to score on the following indicators:

- Child Labour Policy
- Performance Reporting
- Charity and/or Programs Related to Children’s Rights

OIL, GAS & UTILITIES
CHILD LABOUR AND BEYOND

Oil, Gas and Utilities – the industry with the greatest number of companies in this sample – is dominated by electric utilities companies, which generate and distribute electricity in the region. This industry, as compared to other industries in the region, scores relatively high in this assessment.

Delving into the details of the indicators, 76% of the companies in this industry have a policy against child labour, higher than both the South American region and the results from all our previous benchmarks. They also tend to report on these policies: 29% of companies in the industry score on this indicator, compared to 24% of all companies in the study.

A high 36% of companies in this industry report on children’s rights issues other than child labour, most often child sexual exploitation. The majority of companies tackle child sexual exploitation through their Code of Ethics/Conduct, which prohibits employees, contractors and suppliers from any misconduct against children. Further efforts to combat sexual exploitation of children are carried out through strategic collaborations with children’s rights organizations. After sexual exploitation, the issue most frequently dealt with is recognising the ways in which children are affected by a company’s products; here it is primarily electric utility companies which have programs in place to teach children about the hazards of, for instance, electrical high-tension cables and how to use electricity safely at home.
Companies with the highest scores (between 6 and 9 points in total) are depicted below. These leading companies either consider children’s rights to be a material aspect for their business, or have in place a risk assessment mechanism to understand how their company affects children’s rights. The industry leaders have policies against child labour. The majority of the leaders also address additional issues such as product safety and sexual exploitation.
COMPANY EXAMPLES

**KEY AREA 1: GOVERNANCE AND CORE OPERATIONS**

**TELECOM ARGENTINA**  
**ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED APPROACH**

Telecom Argentina’s board of directors has defined corporate social responsibility and sustainability as an integrated strategy and management model throughout the company. Each year, the board approves the company’s corporate social responsibility plan of activities and monitors sustainability performance with reports from the corporate social responsibility management team.

Based on the CSR plan, the company designs programs where technology is a tool for the development of children and young people, because child protection online and responsible use of the internet has been identified as one of their top ten material issues.

“Raise awareness about children’s rights in digital environments is a main priority for us as a company providing telecommunications services.”  
Pedro Lopez Matheu  
Director of Government Relations  
Communication and Media

**DURATEX**  
**MITIGATING RISKS IN THE SUPPLY CHAIN**

Duratex, a manufacturer of paneling and wood products, has identified their supply chain as an area with possible risk of exposure to negative social and environmental impacts. The risks identified include the use of child labour, as well as child sexual exploitation in the logistics chain. To mitigate these risks Duratex has developed a Supplier Management Program (GFD).

On an annual basis, the program evaluates suppliers through questionnaires, scheduled on-site visits and documentation control. A comprehensive guide that addresses Human Rights and Ethics is distributed to all suppliers in the program.

To address the issue of child sexual exploitation, the company takes part in the Na Mão Certa sensitization program for truck drivers.

“For us it’s normal business conduct to strictly follow universally acknowledged principles and values on human rights and be guided by the highest ethical standards.”  
Luciana Alvarez  
Communication and Sustainability Manager  
Duratex

**KEY AREA 2: POLICIES AND REPORTING**

**KLABIN**  
**PREVENTING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

Klabin, the largest paper producer in Brazil, recently built a new pulp processing plant. In this project, the company identified management of its impact on the surrounding community as a top priority. Because sexual exploitation and violence against children has been identified as a problem associated with large infrastructure projects, Klabin understood that managing its impact on the community included preventive measures to protect children and adolescents in the area.

To address this, Klabin partnered with Childhood Brasil. They mapped out key drivers together with stakeholders, conducted training and developed various preventive measures. Analysis of key drivers led to actions which included:

- Hire the majority of workers locally/regionally
- Provide free internet access in accommodations for migrant workers, enabling them to keep in contact with family and friends.
- Make use of radio station to broadcast popular music, news, and information to workers rather than relying on written material.
- Train key staff on the issue of sexual exploitation and sexually transmitted diseases (STD) so that they can pass on their knowledge to other staff.
- Ensure that all induction training includes information sessions on social impact and respect for the community, including sexual exploitation and STD prevention.

“This model has been successful both in preventing cases and in having a preparedness to address and provide assistance if prevention fails.”  
Uilson Paiva  
Community Relations Manager  
Klabin
**EDP BRASIL**

**MANAGING THROUGH TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICS**

In their materiality analysis, the electric energy company EDP Brasil, indicates that human rights, in particular child labour, is an important material aspect both for internal and external stakeholders.

The Internal Audit and Compliance team has the main responsibility to ensure dissemination of company values, principles, rules and legislation to all stakeholders, to monitor compliance risks and to provide training on ethical issues, including the company position on sexual abuse and exploitation of children and adolescents and child labour.

In the company Code of Ethics, EDP commits to not use child labour in its own operations or in dealings with suppliers or other third parties. The Code of Ethics also states that the company should do business with suppliers who adhere to sustainable practices throughout their own value chain.

All employees are required to sign the Code of Ethics, and all supplier contracts contain human rights and labour practices clauses. Suppliers are required to follow the EDP Code of Ethics or maintain their own with equivalent standards.

To monitor their suppliers’ performance, including social responsibility issues, the company uses a Suppliers Performance Index. The index results are presented to suppliers in regular meetings and are used to establish minimum levels of materials and services quality, innovation as well as supplier development through comparison with best practices. If suppliers are found to be in non-compliance with the Code of Ethics and/or their contract, EDP evaluates the severity of the issues and determines whether contracts shall be terminated or revised.

**KEY AREA 3: PARTNERSHIPS, PROGRAMS AND CHARITY**

**HOLCIM ECUADOR**

**COLLABORATING STRATEGICALLY**

In 2012, Holcim Ecuador, a member of LafargeHolcim Group, leader in the building materials industry (cement, aggregates and concrete and sustainable solutions) joined the Red de empresas por un Ecuador libre de trabajo infantil (the Corporate Network for an Ecuador free of Child Labour). This corporate network is a cooperation between the Ecuador Ministry of Labour and UNICEF, with additional members such as the Ministry of Education, the Ecuadorian Global Compact Network and the local corporate social responsibility network – CERES.

Through this unique public and private sector network, which is integrated by close to 30 public and private enterprises from different industries, companies share good practices and find new ways of working within the private sector, in collaboration with government authorities, to eliminate child labour in Ecuador.

The corporate members of the network commit to a set of established requirements that work to eliminate child labour, such as:

- Adopt a policy against child labour
- Train all company employees in the implementation of the policy
- Ensure supplier contract clauses that prohibit child labour
- Engage in dialogue with, and training for, suppliers.

One network initiative works to specifically address the presence of child labour in the informal sector, for example, in brick works, agriculture, and mining, where there is often a high prevalence of child labour.

According to the company, the network not only provides a space for information sharing and collaboration, but has also led to a closer relationship with the authorities and opened up new channels of direct communication with, for instance, the Ministry of Labour.

**BANCO DE CRÉDITO DEL PERU – BCP**

**INVESTING IN THE FUTURE**

Banco de Crédito del Peru – BCP learned through an independent survey that a majority of young people in Peru lack a basic understanding of financial concepts. As a result, the company started a financial education program in collaboration with the Ministry of Education for secondary school students (12-16 years old).

Through this unique project, teachers are offered a professional training program that provides them with financial education as an added part of the curriculum.

After three years, 300 teachers have completed the training program, reaching approximately 50,000 children.

In 2017, the goal is to refine the program so that it can be taken over by the government on a country-wide scale.

“We want to provide teenagers with the financial knowledge they will need as they transition from childhood into adult life. For us, this also has the added value of possible future users of financial services having a behaviour that is associated with lower risks, for example when giving credit or loans.”

Silvia Noriega
Social Responsibility Manager,
Banco de Crédito del Peru – BCP
The South American regional average score of 2.2 points is similar to averages in other regions assessed; Nordics (2.0); Southern Africa (1.7) and Southeast Asia (1.7). All the regions assessed thus far score lower than the global average of 2.9 points.

The South American region differs from other regions assessed in that it has a relatively large proportion of companies scoring in the mid-range (3 to 5 points). This accounts for the region’s slightly higher average score.

Two industries within the South American region stand out from their peers: The Oil, Gas and Utilities as well as the Financials and Property industries on average score higher than the other regions. Also, the Oil, Gas and Utilities companies in the region score significantly higher on average than the global result for this industry. The results for the Travel and Leisure industry are not indicative due to the small sample size.

“The region overall is characterized by great disparity and contrasts – and this reality is reflected in the business community as well. So while one observes many leading companies active and concerned with child welfare, unfortunately there are also many companies and segments where exploitation is still much too common.”

Douglas Woods
Senior Partner & Managing Director
The Boston Consulting Group Brazil

HIGHEST SCORING SOUTH AMERICAN INDUSTRIES
The South American company results are similar to other regional and global assessments in the following indicators: board accountability; materiality and risk assessment; child labour policy, and charity and/or programs related to children’s rights, as depicted above.

The assessed South American companies’ score of 59% for established policies against child labour is notable. Since the 1990’s, child labour has declined steadily in the region; the number of children working has been reduced by half in the last decade in many of the countries. However, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), 5.7 million working children in the region are still either below the legal minimum working age or working in hazardous conditions. These issues continue to rank highly on the region’s agenda, where, in addition to an ILO regional network, there are several national initiatives to combat child labour, found in, for example, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and Peru. Taken together, the ILO network and efforts made at the national level have possibly had an impact on the number of companies that have adopted a policy against child labour as compared to Southern Africa and Southeast Asia, regions with a considerably higher prevalence of child labour and a weaker institutional response to the issue.

The South American companies assessed outperform those in the other regions for the indicator that measures children’s rights issues other than child labour. Nine percent of the South American companies address child sexual exploitation, as compared to 0.7–4% of the companies in the other regional and global studies. However, with child obesity quickly on the rise in the region, it’s worth noting that only a small percentage of companies in the Food and Beverage and Consumer Goods industries address the issue of product responsibility and responsible marketing.

The high proportion of companies in all regions that donate to charities associated with children’s rights or create intra-company initiatives to benefit children indicate that the rights of children are viewed by business as primarily a charity-related issue.
KEY REFLECTIONS

To become advocates for children’s rights, companies need to:

1. recognize that children are stakeholders
2. understand how children are impacted by their supply and value chain
3. include children’s rights in codes of conduct as well as in human rights, supply chain, and procurement policies
4. ensure that the highest level of company management is accountable for, and follows up on policies regarding children’s rights.

There are national and regional multi-stakeholder networks that address children’s rights; for example, the Global Compact, the ILO-led regional network against child labour, and country-based networks. Companies should join these networks to learn from industry leaders and collaborate to protect children.

Although there are a few leading examples in the region, the majority of companies assessed could address children’s rights more comprehensively. For example, companies having their own programs and/or who donate to charity (63%) could form partnerships with children’s rights organizations, such as UNICEF, to identify how these rights can be addressed throughout company operations.

There is potential for improvement in governance and integration of children’s rights into core operations: incorporating children’s rights indicators in risk assessments and ensuring that boards receive and act upon regular reporting on how children are affected by company operations are examples.

Clear company policies that address children’s rights need to translate into corporate action and results. Establishing transparent systems for implementation and compliance as well as reporting on the results is crucial.

Additional leading business practices that safeguard children’s rights need to be gathered and distributed among corporate decision-makers so that learning can be shared and industry collaborations established.

"Peer-to-peer learning is extremely important: it helps me bring about change much faster in the organization when I can bring in ways of working that others have already tested and found to be working well."

Silvia Noriega
Social Responsibility Manager
Banco de Credito del Peru – BCP
# APPENDIX 1:

## SEVEN INDICATORS AND FACTORS ASSESSED

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<th>KEY AREA</th>
<th>INDICATOR</th>
<th>EXPLANATION</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GOVERNANCE &amp; CORE OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td><strong>BOARD ACCOUNTABILITY</strong></td>
<td>Board of directors or a board committee explicitly states that children’s rights/child labour are part of their responsibilities. Company receives two points if it clearly states the highest level responsibility for child rights issues (not only sustainability in general) rests with the board. The company receives two points if it is stated that managerial level/sustainability officer reports directly to board level and board acts on that information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MATERIALITY &amp; RISK ASSESSMENT</strong></td>
<td><strong>Company conducts risk or materiality analysis on issues regarding child labour/children’s rights.</strong></td>
<td>Company receives two points if in public reporting it analyses children’s rights in relation to risk management and/or issues that are considered material to its operations, for example: child labour in operations is analysed as a business risk, with potential impact on the company’s reputation, sales, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>POLICIES &amp; REPORTING</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHILD LABOUR POLICY</strong></td>
<td>Company has a child labour policy. Can be part of human rights policy, supply chain policy, group-wide policy or separate child policy. Company receives one point if it has clearly stated a commitment against child labour, even if the actual policy document is not publicly available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>ADDRESSING CHILDREN’S RIGHTS ISSUES OTHER THAN CHILD LABOUR</strong></td>
<td>Company addresses child rights related issues other than child labour such as: product safety, responsible marketing, sexual exploitation, environment/water/sanitation or community displacement impacting children. Company receives one point if children/children’s rights are specifically mentioned in relation to the issues listed to the left. All issues may not apply to all companies, giving a maximum score of one point. Addressing issues up or down the supply chain will earn a point, even if not part of a company’s own operations.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>PERFORMANCE REPORTING</strong></td>
<td>Company specifies that they publish performance reporting results on child related issues (e.g. non-compliance in child labour). Company receives one point if it highlights results of or follows up on policies and commitments that relate to children’s rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PARTNERSHIPS, PROGRAMS &amp; CHARITY</strong></td>
<td><strong>COLLABORATIONS WITH CHILD RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS</strong></td>
<td>Company collaborates with organizations which focus on children’s rights (UNICEF, Save the Children, Plan, Ecpat, etc.). Company receives one point if the collaboration changes how it conducts its core activities, for example: collaboration with a child rights organization to conduct a Child Rights Impact Assessment or to take child rights into account when developing products/ marketing strategies, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHARITY AND/OR PROGRAMS RELATED TO CHILDREN’S RIGHTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Company is driving own strategic programs or projects regarding children’s rights (for example, health or education focus). and/or Company donates to charity related to children’s rights.</strong></td>
<td>Company receives one point if it has an initiative that goes above and beyond charitable donations, for example: volunteering, or another activity creating a direct relationship that benefits children or impacts children’s rights. Donation in kind, scholarships and adopting schools fall under this indicator as they are usually part of a wider commitment/relationship. If company has established a charity foundation which in turn has its own programme(s) in line with the above, it receives a point. and/or If company (or company’s charity foundation) donates money to another established child rights organization. Partnerships for fundraising and donation drives also fall under this indicator.</td>
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## APPENDIX 2: INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION

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<th>NUMBER OF COMPANIES</th>
<th>TOTAL INDUSTRY</th>
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<td>Automotive Retail, Parts &amp; Equipment</td>
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<td>General Merchandise &amp; Department Stores</td>
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<td>Home Furnishings &amp; Improvement Retail</td>
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The Corporate Sector and Children's Rights in South America

Thank you

We would like to thank the following companies and organizations for contributing to this report through interviews or feedback on their individual company results in the assessment.

AES Brasil | Banco de Crédito del Perú | Childhood Brasil | Centrais Elétricas de Santa Catarina - Celesc | Duratex | EDP Brasil | Empresas Aquachile | Holcim Ecuador | Klabin | Telecom Argentina | Unicef | RedAméricas

Global Child Forum

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

Follow us on Twitter @GCForum and on Facebook.

Endnotes

1 Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.
6 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), 2016, “Food and nutrition security and the eradication of hunger CELAC 2025. Furthering discussion and regional cooperation”. Publicly available information as of 30 August 2016.
7 For previous benchmark studies, company case studies and deep dives into company practice, please refer to our Knowledge Center http://www.globalchildforum.org/knowledge-center/
8 Developed in 2012 by UNICEF, the UN Global Compact and Save the Children, the Children’s Rights and Business Principles are the first comprehensive set of principles to guide companies on the full range of actions they can take to respect and support children’s rights. For more information see http://childrenandbusiness.org
9 Because social structures across the globe differ widely, it is difficult to compare efforts such as family-friendly practices between countries and across regions. For this reason, they are not included in the indicators for the Benchmark series. However, as it is an area where business has the possibility of creating direct positive impacts on children’s lives, we looked family-friendly practices in the data collection process.
10 Brazil (137), Chile (59), Peru (28), Colombia (26), Argentina (24), Venezuela (5), Ecuador (2), Uruguay (1).
11 Because social structures across the globe differ widely, it is difficult to compare efforts such as family-friendly practices between countries and across regions. For this reason, they are not included in the indicators for the Benchmark series. However, as it is an area where business has the possibility of creating direct positive impacts on children’s lives, we looked family-friendly practices in the data collection process.
12 For more information on the industry classifications and the number of companies in each industry, please refer to Appendix 2.
13 The results for the Travel and Leisure industry are not indicative, as only three companies were included in the sample.
14 It is possible that company size needs to be considered when comparing to global averages. The Global study includes companies with revenue between: $US 469,200 and $US 9,100 billion, while South American companies range from $US 126,885 to $US 425 billion.

The Boston Consulting Group

The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) is a global management consulting firm and the world’s leading advisor on business strategy. BCG partners with clients in all sectors and regions to identify their highest-value opportunities, address their most critical challenges, and transform their businesses. This customized approach combines deep insight into the dynamics of companies and markets with close collaboration at all levels of the client organization. This ensures that clients achieve sustainable competitive advantage, build more capable organizations, and secure lasting results. Founded in 1963, BCG is a private company with 82 offices in 46 countries.

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