10 CHILD RIGHTS ISSUES for companies to consider
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. For more information, please visit: www.globalchildforum.org.
FOREWORD

THIS YEAR MARKS Global Child Forum’s 10-year anniversary. We have accomplished much in ten years – which, while only the blink of an eye in the timeline of history, is also the time in which a child develops into a teenager, full of dreams, hopes and aspirations. Global Child Forum’s journey has also been marked by change. Setting to work with the notion of building “...a forum with the purpose of inspiring and supporting work around the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child”, we are now a full-fledged organization run by a talented, dedicated team. We have produced 10 global and regional forums, conducted research and developed tools to aid businesses committed to children’s rights, and we’ve cultivated an expanding group of partners who champion our work.

It is rewarding to witness the transition that has occurred during these past 10 years around children’s rights and business. Back in 2009, the concept of children’s rights and business was, for the most part, limited to concerns around child labour. The private sector was largely unaware of the ways in which their operations impacted children and what their responsibility was towards society as a whole, and children more specifically. Now, however, our benchmark research indicates marked improvement within the corporate sector in both adoption of child-focused policies and practices and in the development of a deeper understanding of how business impacts children. Though this is heartening, serious issues – some familiar, some emerging – demand urgent action.

The digital age has continued to usher in advances and opportunities for children and youth, but growing connectivity leaves them vulnerable in ways not imaginable a decade ago. The refugee crisis has sent economic, social and political ripples throughout the Middle East, Europe and beyond – leaving many children adrift. And because climate change continues unabated, we are witnessing environmental consequences to children’s health that undermine many of the gains made when it comes to child survival and development.

AT THE SAME time, issues of concern to the young are being expressed in ways that were unseen and unheard of a decade ago. This young generation is speaking out, marching across the globe for issues they are passionate about, and taking their message to world leaders. Business is being challenged to act.

To mark our anniversary and to acknowledge the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, we asked young people and adult stakeholders what they see as the most critical issues for business to consider in the coming decade. Their answers and reflections follow.

We hope this paper serves to focus us, at Global Child Forum, in the next 10 years. We also hope that it will highlight for business leaders and learners, government policy-makers and practitioners, what is most important: Our children.

Cajsa Wiking
Secretary-General, Global Child Forum
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3 out of 5 young people worry about job opportunities. p.18
We all know the phrase “children are the future”. Whether we are worried or hopeful about that future, the impact of business on children happens very much in the here and now.

CHILDREN ARE LIVING and studying in homes and schools designed and built by architectural and construction companies. Their early growth and development is being enhanced or hindered by what they consume – enter food and beverage companies, the media, and advertisers. Perhaps they are growing up in a part of the world where child labour is tolerated or even expected. Or they’re breathing air in a locality where industries burn fossil fuel. They might be fortunate to have parents employed by companies with policies supporting parents and caregivers. Or maybe their ability to develop 21st century job skills is being diminished by inequality, food shortages, or lack of employment.

It’s been argued that investing in children’s rights is the ultimate definition of sustainability. When businesses prioritize children’s rights, possibilities expand. The development of a future workforce that is stable, inclusive, and productive is supported.

What’s exciting is that all companies in all sectors have the opportunity to take part in this shift toward a new way of doing business. By championing children’s rights in the here and now, the business sector allies itself with those who are facing the challenges of the future.

ABOUT THIS PAPER
This paper is based on a global study which includes a diverse selection of adult respondents in business, government, academia and other organizations as well as children between the ages of 11–18. The paper presents ten children’s rights issues, identified by the study, as being key business priorities for specific industry sectors over the next 5–10 years. For each issue, we highlight child-focused actions for companies to consider. In closing, we identify additional key concerns that we expect will persist as well as newer challenges that are becoming apparent.
WE HEARD FROM...

95 children, from 17 different countries

440 adults, from 78 different countries

79 countries, with a total of 535 respondents

REPRESENTING...

147 businesses
76 others
73 NGOs/charities
72 child-focused organizations
25 educational institutions
24 research policy institution
23 governments

WEIGHING IN ON 17 SECTORS

Number of respondents

- Agriculture: 6
- Apparel & Footwear: 7
- Banking & Finance: 24
- Chemicals & Construction: 2
- Commercial Services & Professional Services: 2
- Construction: 0
- Consumer Goods & Household: 6
- Consumer Services: 31
- Consumer Electronics: 15
- Energy & Power: 4
- Food & Beverages: 4
- Forestry & Mining: 3
- Healthcare: 0
- Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals: 1
- Hospitality: 1
- Information & Communication: 6
- Insurance: 4
- Leisure: 1
- Media & Entertainment: 6
- Oil & Gas: 4
- Other: 4
- Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology: 1
- Real Estate: 1
- Sport: 6
- Transportation: 1
- Utilities (incl. renewables): 0
Child-centered issues for companies to consider
The children we surveyed expressed strong views on child labour. Nearly two-thirds of them indicated they were “very concerned” about “children working when they should be at school” and nearly half would like to see businesses “making sure they don’t employ any children under the legal age”. Child labour was identified by approximately half our respondents as a priority requiring the immediate attention of the agriculture and apparel industries. Over a third believed that the mining and metals sector should address this issue.

There are companies taking steps to address child labour, but there is no quick fix. Child labour is often linked to poverty and inequality, and many times children’s earnings are essential to survival and there are situations where work is legally permitted for children. To tackle child labour’s root causes, business should look to approaches that take socio, cultural and economic factors into account.

Fewer, but still too many

Global trends show a significant reduction of child labour over the last couple of decades but with varying degrees of progress within countries and sectors.  

- Recently, the UN’s Food and Agricultural Organization noted that the number of children working in agriculture has increased by 10 million since 2012. Currently, over 108 million children ages 5 to 17 work in the agricultural sector, making it the industry with the highest incidence of child labourers.

- In a January 2019 report, the University of Berkeley documented large numbers of young girls in India carrying out “homeworking” in the apparel sector. The girls engaged in intricate work such as beading and sewing sequins for Indian manufacturers producing garments for export.

- Child labour occurs in artisanal and small-scale mining. Following an Amnesty International report on child miners in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2016, CBS News traveled there in 2018 to investigate further and confirmed seeing “children digging in trenches and laboring in lakes”.

Child labour was identified by approximately half our respondents as a priority requiring the immediate attention of the agriculture and apparel industries.
Food, beverages and pharmaceuticals are all industries that influence whether children are healthy, well-nourished and able to manage their health. Because children are developing, they’re especially vulnerable to the effects of poor nutrition and inadequate health care. In our survey, child health and well-being was identified as the top concern with regard to the food & beverage and pharmaceutical sectors.

**THE RIGHT TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE**

The vulnerability of children is starkly illustrated by the fact that, according to UNICEF, in 2018, 6.2 million children and young adolescents died, mostly from preventable causes. Children under the age of 5 accounted for 5.3 million of these deaths – nearly half of whom were newborn babies. Six million of these deaths can be avoided. But inadequate access to quality health care and life-saving supplies still contributes significantly to preventable maternal and child deaths. In 2008, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, whose mandate includes analyzing the pharmaceutical industry’s human rights responsibilities in relation to access to medicine, developed guidelines to be followed when formulating strategies, policies, and programs involving access to medicine, paying particular attention to the needs of children.

**OBESITY BY THE NUMBERS**

Approximately half of our adult respondents highlighted that children’s health and well-being should be the main priority for the food & beverage industry. Two-thirds of the children surveyed expressed concern about obesity ranging from “a little” to “very concerned”. Indeed, the World Health Organization (WHO) notes: “in just 40 years the number of school-age children and adolescents with obesity has risen more than 10-fold, from 11 million to 124 million (2016 estimates)”.

This portends long-term adverse health complications, including higher rates of diabetes, heart disease and premature mortality.

Aware of the fiscal costs incurred when a population is unhealthy, governments are pressing the private sector to act and have begun regulating the industry. The UK government, for example, told the food industry in 2018 to cut 20% of calories from their products within six years. Other efforts, such as Partnership for a Healthier America enlist the private sector to ameliorate a societal problem in which it has a hand, assembling a range of business leaders, fitness advocates and thought leaders to take targeted action to transform the marketplace, increase physical activity and create healthy places to reduce the obesity affecting 18% of US children.
Child safety

TRANSPORT AND ICT SECTORS

For two seemingly unrelated sectors – transport and ICT (information and communications technology) – significant numbers of our respondents, children and adults alike, prioritized child safety and protection.

VULNERABLE ON THE ROAD

In 2018, a report by the WHO reported that road traffic injuries were the leading cause of death for those aged 5 to 29 years. As expressed by the “This is My Street” campaign, they are the number one killer of young people worldwide.

Responsibility for teaching children the basics of road safety falls to parents and caregivers, governments and schools. But given their outsize presence on the road, transport companies are also accountable, and there are relatively straightforward measures that, if implemented, could have immediate impact: Limiting pressure on commercial drivers to meet unrealistic deadlines, prioritizing the importance of periodic breaks, initiating programs to reward heightened caution in school zones and areas where children live and play. Additionally, issues around air pollution resulting from vehicle emissions, effects the most vulnerable – children.

VULNERABLE ONLINE

As the internet becomes an integral part of more children’s lives, child safety and protection loom as issues for the ICT sector. While digital engagement brings information access and social and educational benefits, UNICEF research indicates that the internet enables risks to children such as cyberbullying, online grooming for sexual purposes, and the live streaming of child sexual abuse to flourish.

In responding to the EU Kids Online survey, 55% of 9–16 year olds thought there were things online that bothered them. This corresponds with our survey. Approximately a third of children surveyed felt “very concerned” about “feeling safe online”, while an additional half were “a little” concerned. Among adults, nearly a third of respondents saw “ensuring children are safe when they are using company products or services” as a business priority for the ICT sector.

Further research on the impact of technology on children’s health is essential. But for now, ICT companies can make use of existing child-focused guidance on ways the industry can protect children such as practical guidance developed to ensure child protection in the ICT sector by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the UN’s specialised agency for ICTs.
As the internet becomes an integral part of more children’s lives, child safety and protection loom as issues for the ICT sector.
Nearly half of all survey respondents believe that environmental protection should be the oil & gas sector’s prime focus. Just under a third selected it for mining & metals.

CHILDMERICAN CLIMATE CHANGE
In 2018, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment recommended that businesses conduct environmental and human rights impact assessments, viewed through a children’s rights lens. The Special Rapporteur identified climate change as a global concern disproportionately affecting children, echoing a UN Human Rights Council resolution that recognized children as among the most vulnerable to climate change.

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES’ IMPACTS ON CHILDREN
Oil & gas, mining & metals are industries that extract natural resources, therefore environmental protection measures should be prioritized in the day-to-day operations of companies in this sector. UNICEF’s Children’s Rights in the Mining Sector report highlights how localized environmental impacts of mining (e.g. dust and noise pollution, contamination of soil, ground and surface water by hazardous chemicals) potentially cause eye, skin and breathing conditions in children. Mercury, often used by children working in artisanal mines, can lead to severe kidney and respiratory failure and neurodevelopmental harm. As for the oil & gas sector, research indicates that such operations can adversely impact children directly or indirectly through increased conflict, land acquisition, in-migration of workers and environmental impacts on their communities and families.

THE TIME FOR TALK IS OVER
In August 2018, Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg staged a Skolstrejk för klimatet (school strike for climate) outside the Swedish Parliament. Inspired by Thunberg, students in 125 countries organized Friday strikes against climate change. At its peak in March 2019, an estimated one million students went on strike.

Young people are declaring that the adult world’s response to climate change is inadequate, and our child respondents echo that. Over two-thirds indicated they were “very concerned” about climate change and the environment and want to see companies “making sure their business doesn’t affect the environment where children live/play”. Over 80% of child respondents noted they want businesses “thinking about how their actions affect children’s lives”.

Environmental protection
OIL & GAS, MINING & METALS SECTORS

Young people are declaring that the adult world’s response to climate change is inadequate, and our child respondents echo that.
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Whether sexual exploitation occurs in the real world or virtually, companies in the ICT sector have an important task. Child victims are often groomed online. Perpetrators are known to use electronic devices to communicate with other abusers. And many children, viewing the internet as a wholly positive experience, are often unaware of potential dangers associated with its use.

CALLING FOR PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

Our survey respondents, children and adults alike, indicated they want companies to act to protect children online. Over half of all children want to see businesses “protecting children online and their personal data”, as do 40% of adults surveyed.

Pertaining to the tourism sector, two-thirds of respondents felt that child sexual exploitation should be the top priority. With the increase in low-cost international flights and the ease of privately booking holidays online, countries that were once inaccessible or expensive have become new destinations for abusers contributing to an increase in child sexual exploitation overall. 19

Given this, tourism companies are urged to adopt a proactive approach to identify child sexual exploitation in their business and supply chains. As eyes and ears on the ground, they are uniquely positioned to spot potential child victims, assist and support law enforcement, and collaborate with local NGOs. To varying degrees, both our adult and child respondents expressed a desire to see businesses institute confidential ways for children to report any harm or abuse committed by employees or other individuals working on behalf of a company.

Over half of all children want to see businesses “protecting children online and their personal data”, as do 40% of adults surveyed.
Promoting positive marketing

ADVERTISING, MEDIA, SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT
AND FOOD & BEVERAGE SECTORS

Responses from children and adults show that over half of children and just under a third of adults want companies to consider how their marketing and advertising influences children.

A TARGETED DEMOGRAPHIC
With the growing sophistication of digital advertising, children’s exposure to child-directed ads has increased, and whether it’s through side bars or automatic pop-ups, the line between content and advertising is often unclear. Several industries have been able to circumvent regulations that exist to protect children. This has consequences, especially since spending on digital advertising has begun to outpace traditional media budgets in several countries, allowing almost unfettered access to children. Researchers at the University of Michigan found that 95% of targeted child entertainment apps reviewed contained at least one type of advertising.

EASILY SWAYED, QUICK TO WANT
Until the pre-frontal cortex of a brain is fully developed, a child’s brain works differently from adults. They are not adept, for example, at spotting the subtleties of “persuasive intent” and are therefore more likely to make impulsive choices. But shielding children from advertising is not possible or even useful. While advertising can contribute to harmful outcomes (childhood obesity, poor impulse control) it can also be a tool, a way to develop critical thinking about the content to which one is being exposed. Companies that do choose to advertise and market to children must do so in a thoughtful responsible way. An example of this is Mondelēz International, an American multinational confectionery, food, and beverage company, who were the first to announce global policies for advertising to children in 2005. They are also a founding member of International Food & Beverage Alliance; and along with other members, made a global commitment to the World Health Organization to either not advertise products to children under age 12 or only advertise products that meet specific nutrition criteria to children under age 12 and to monitor those efforts.
While advertising can contribute to harmful outcomes it can also be a tool, a way to develop critical thinking about the content to which one is being exposed.
In our survey, we were surprised to see that decent work was the main priority relating to the banking, financial and insurance sector. Decent work, as defined by the International Labour Organization, involves “opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organise and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.”

THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF THE BANKING, FINANCE AND INSURANCE SECTOR

This sector’s pivotal role in the decent work agenda was noted in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in 2015, an international agreement which provides a global framework for financing sustainable development. As a critical source of capital for businesses in all industry sectors, the banking, finance and insurance industries are key to influencing and educating other industries on the benefits of promoting a culture that prioritizes decent work.

FINDING THEIR PLACE – THE DESIRE FOR DECENT WORK

A strong desire by Generation Z for job security and training opportunities has been shown in global surveys. In an Ipsos Mori poll, three in five young people surveyed worried about job opportunities, while an Accenture Strategy report noted that 97% of the 2017 respondents believed they needed training to further their careers. Our survey’s child respondents share this sentiment. More than half noted they were “very concerned” that there are “not enough good jobs or training for youth available”. (Whereas only a quarter of adults surveyed identified “providing safe and decent work for youth”, as a business priority.)

More than half of our respondents noted they were “very concerned” that there are “not enough good jobs or training for youth available”.

BANKING, FINANCE & INSURANCE SECTORS

Decent work opportunities for youth

18.
Pursuing fair pay & flexible work for parents

BANKING, FINANCE & INSURANCE SECTORS

Just under a half of our surveyed children are “very concerned” about their “parents/caregivers working too hard”. A fifth of adult respondents identified fair pay/flexible work for caregivers as the number one priority to be addressed by the banking, finance and insurance industries.

WORKING PARENTS IS A MATTER FOR COMPANIES WORLDWIDE

In recent years, the issue of decent work for parents has been prioritized in various sustainability programs. However, often these programs and discussions focus on workers in supply chains located in China and other parts of Asia. But also in the U.S. concerns and a growing awareness about the needs of working parents are on the agenda – particularly working mothers. According to a 2015 study by Pew Research Center, 65% of working parents with college degrees – who have better career and earning prospects than less-educated parents – reported that it was “somewhat difficult” or “very difficult” to meet the simultaneous demands of work and family. And the issue isn’t limited to the United States; statistics are equally striking in other countries.

FLEXIBLE WORK IN THE BANKING, FINANCE AND INSURANCE SECTORS

Focusing on the working parent with benefits such as flexible work arrangements and paid parental leave helps all parents achieve a better work-life balance and keep employees happier and more engaged at work. Many financial institutions and insurance companies have developed flexible working options for employees and actively promote agile, fluid work arrangements. In European companies, the impetus for such culture change came from domestic law, as national governments transposed Council Directive 2010/18/EU (the Parental Leave Directive).

Many companies have reported positive business benefits, including greater productivity levels, better morale, less turnover, and improved staff retention levels after integrating flexible work.
Reducing toxic chemicals

OIL & GAS, CHEMICAL & CONSTRUCTION SECTORS

The reduction of toxic chemicals in chemical & construction industries was identified as being of primary importance, with over a third of our adult respondents selecting it as the top priority. It should, however, be kept in mind that chemicals are used in other industry sectors, so it’s difficult to assign direct causation on the part of any single industry in terms of having adverse impacts on children’s health. For example, toxic chemicals are part of doing business in the apparel, food, beverage, construction, footwear, mining & metals, and oil & gas industries.

CHEMICAL COCKTAILS

When the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Hazardous Substances and Wastes was appointed in 2018, he remarked “paediatricians describe children today as born ‘pre-polluted’ to a cocktail of unquestionably toxic substances, many of which have no safe level of exposure, or are, years later, demonstrated to be more toxic than initially assumed”.28

CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

When designing and constructing child-friendly spaces, do architects and builders take into account how each aspect of a building used by children has the potential to harm them? According to the WHO, when planning spaces that will be lived in or used by children, rarely is attention paid to the materials of the furniture, the flooring, or the type of paint used, which can often be toxic and sometimes carcinogetic.29

With regard to the oil & gas industries, research from the US suggests there are adverse birth outcomes for babies born to mothers living near oil and natural gas well sites, including increased risk of developing congenital heart defects.30 With many children living, playing and learning in close proximity to oil & gas production, it is urgent that these industries act to mitigate adverse impacts: ensure adherence to government environmental standards, make use of industrial-waste exchange programs, use recycled and non-toxic substances when possible. Workers must be kept current on proper movement, storage and disposal techniques for chemicals.31 As expressed by WHO in Principles for Evaluating Health Risks in Children Associated with Exposure to Chemicals, “the special vulnerability of children should form the basis for development of child-protective policies and risk assessment approaches”.32

Attention is rarely paid to the type of paint used, which can often be toxic and sometimes carcinogetic.
Paediatricians describe children today as born "pre-polluted" to a cocktail of unquestionably toxic substances.
Products and services intended specifically for children were mentioned by our respondents in connection with the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors, among others.

**CHILD-AWARE PRODUCTS/SERVICES IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL SECTOR**

An increasing number of countries are witnessing high numbers of children suffering from mental health illnesses. The pharmaceutical industry bears a responsibility to ensure that drugs used to treat children are developed properly and use child-friendly formations, especially since medication has overtaken talk therapies as the first form of intervention when addressing mental health conditions.

The long-term implications of prolonged drug use by children are significant, not only for an individual child, who could develop a prolonged dependency extending into adulthood, but also from a societal perspective, in the potential lost talent, reduced productivity and overall diminished contribution the child, and then adult, makes. Medicines must therefore be available in formulations that can be adjusted to reflect the size, state of development and condition of a child as they mature.

**PROMISING, NOT YET PROVEN**

As a sector, biotechnology is diverse. Defined as “a broad range of technologies that employ living organisms or parts of them to make diverse products. For example, drugs and therapeutics, nutritional compounds, and biofuels.”

Over the last twenty years biotech companies have developed nutritionally improved crops. The government of Bangladesh has embraced one such crop, Golden Rice, to feed the large numbers of children suffering from vitamin A deficiency. The WHO estimates that one in five pre-school children in Bangladesh has a Vitamin A deficit, a deficiency that is the main cause of preventable blindness in children. While this kind of supplementation holds promise, further research is needed, with emphasis placed on rigorously scrutinizing impacts on children.

One in five pre-school children in Bangladesh has a Vitamin A deficit, a deficiency that is the main cause of preventable blindness in children.
Key concerns for the future

In order to elicit our respondents’ perspectives on issues confronting companies which are likely to be of continuing concern, respondents were provided a list of key concerns with instructions to select three.

**CHILD SURVEY:**

**KEY CONCERNS**

The survey results showed that child respondents care deeply about global issues.

- **84%** are very concerned about poverty.
- **81%** selected discrimination as a major concern.
- **76%** are very concerned about the climate crisis.
- **62%** are very concerned about child labour.

**ADULT SURVEY:**

**KEY CONCERNS**

Conflict and war was highlighted by over a fifth of adult respondents.

- **72%** expressed concern about the climate crisis.
- **39%** identified the global migration crisis as an important concern for companies in the coming ten years.
- **39%** expressed concern about rising inequality.
- **28%** indicated that the human rights implications of AI should be a key concern over the next ten years.

Both our adult and child surveys gave respondents the opportunity to highlight additional concerns or issues they felt were missing from our lists and three issues came up repeatedly:

1. **THE ROLE BUSINESS CAN PLAY IN SUPPORTING THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION**

2. **PLASTIC**

Children and adults commented on the need for businesses to treat the subject of plastic waste seriously, in particular, phasing out disposable plastics and promoting reusable plastic within their business operations.

3. **CHILD RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE**

Adults were concerned that not more companies look at their core business and operations through a child rights’ lens.
TO MARK ITS tenth anniversary the Global Child Forum commissioned a White Paper, one that would be evidence based and should include children as one category of stakeholder to be consulted.

The activities of 40 different business sectors over a period of ten years (2009–2019) were mapped and twenty children’s rights identified. From this list, twelve issues were selected as potential options.

Two surveys were drafted in English; one aimed at adults and the other for children aged 11–18 years old. It was intended that both surveys would be globally oriented, online and inclusive.

Both versions of the survey were translated into Brazilian Portuguese and Spanish. The child survey was then tested with 11 and 13 year olds to ensure its suitability, age-appropriateness and usability.

An explanation of the survey and a link was sent to over 2,000 people worldwide, including individuals working for: companies, governments, intergovernmental organizations such as the UN and its agencies, human rights NGOs, child rights organizations, business and human rights organizations, schools, universities, and research institutions.

The study was conducted by Désirée Abrahams.

DISCLAIMER
The opinions expressed in this report are those of certain respondents and do not necessarily reflect the view of Global Child Forum. Photographs used herein are for illustrative purposes only and do not necessarily represent the issues and initiatives discussed nor imply any particular attitudes, behaviors or actions on the part of those who appear in the photographs.

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FOOTNOTES

2 The ILO convention 138 permits states to allow children below 15 to work under specific circumstances. An example is India: Children up to 14 years old are permitted to work in sporting or entertainment activities, or in family businesses after school hours in India, under the revised Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016. ourworldindata.org and ILO.
3 The report identified 1,452 cases of ‘home-based garment workers’ in Northern and Southern India. Over 19% of workers were considered ‘child labourers’ in Northern India, while over 11% were found in Southern India. University of Berkeley. 2019. Tainted Garments: The exploitation of women and girls in India’s ‘home-based garment sector’. blumcenter.berkeley.edu. Accessed 8 August 2019.
7 45% of adult respondents identified ‘child health & well-being’ as a priority concern for the pharmaceutical and food and beverage sectors, respectively. who.int. Accessed 8 August 2019.
8 John H. Knox’s was appointed at the UN Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment in 2015. Information on his three-year mandate, missions, and reports can be found at ohchr.org. Accessed 23 August 2019.
12 Information on the various student strikes that took place around the world can be found at theguardian.com. Accessed 9 August 2019.
13 For example, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Moldova, Portugal, and Vietnam.
The findings in this White Paper would not be possible without the thoughtful consideration of all those who responded to our survey. Whether you completed it, sent it on, plugged it on social media, or most crucially, permitted your child to take part, we thank you.

And to our young participants, a special word of thanks.