



**Issue 6: Quarterly Bulletin on Business & Children
September 2013**

Welcome to the sixth issue of the *Quarterly Bulletin on Business & Children*, produced by [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](http://www.business-humanrights.org). The purpose of this e-bulletin is to help keep everyone working in this field informed about recent key developments and forthcoming initiatives. Please encourage others to consider signing up. And if you would like to contribute to future issues, let us know. This issue and past bulletins are available on the Centre's [Business & Children Portal](http://www.business-humanrights.org).

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1. Announcements: Forthcoming activities and recent projects

English

i. UN Global Compact

Global Compact Leaders Summit 2013 (New York, 19-20 Sep)

Chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the *UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2013: Architects of a Better World* will bring together chief executives with leaders from civil society, government and the United Nations to unveil a new global architecture for corporate sustainability. Prominent speakers including Prof. John Ruggie, Hon. Gordon Brown, CEO of Safaricom Robert Collymore and H.R.H. Queen Mathilde of Belgium, a strong advocate for children's rights, will be joining the discussions and making key remarks on the social dimension of corporate sustainability.

The Children's Rights and Business Principles will be presented at the Summit's Action Fair at 1pm on 20 September. The session will share examples of how businesses are already taking action to advance the Principles, and inform companies on how they can engage with and commit to the Principles.

In addition, a series of special events will be hosted during and around the Summit focusing especially on child rights and business as part of the broader sustainability agenda. For an overview of these events, please visit our Events page on www.childrenandbusiness.org. For further information about the Leaders Summit, please visit: www.leaderssummit2013.org.

→ *Contributed by Anita Househam, Policy and Legal Advisor, UN Global Compact, [househam \(at\) un.org](mailto:househam@un.org)*

ii. UNICEF

Innovation & Action: Global Workshop on Business and Children's Rights (New York, 18-19 Sep)

In New York this September, global sustainability leaders will work together with child rights and CSR experts as well as UNICEF country specialists, to develop innovative solutions to today's challenges in the realm of business and child rights.

Across two days, the group – a unique combination of change-makers and change-enablers – will delve into issues such as human rights due diligence, child labour, young workers, the post-2015 agenda, digital citizenship, and child-friendly products and services, in considering business engagement with children as stakeholders.

Leading CSR and sustainability experts Jo Confino (Chairman, Guardian Sustainable Business) and Susan McPherson (Vice-President, Fenton Communications) will facilitate lively discussions

with speakers from around the world. Business speakers including Bob Corcoran (General Electric), Anna Zanghi (Mastercard), Bob Collymore (Safaricom), Charlotte Ersbol (Novo Nordisk), Matthias Leisinger (Kuoni) will tune in with their corporate experience and making the connection to children. Global Reporting Initiative and BSR will share their technical expertise on management processes such as impact assessments and reporting on children. Finally, renowned social innovation firm Frog Design will lead participants through a “hands-on workshop” experience to develop new concepts and approaches to child rights and business dilemmas.

UNICEF is active in more than 190 countries and territories through country programmes and National Committees. During the event, child rights experts from UNICEF offices in India, Vietnam, Kenya and Argentina will be providing networking opportunities for action on the ground.

The Innovation & Action UNICEF CSR workshop will take place at UNICEF House, New York, from 18-19 September, 2013. For more information see UNICEF's Corporate Social Responsibility website <http://www.unicef.org/csr>

→ *Contributed by Ida Margarita Hyllested, Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist, UNICEF, [ihyllested \(at\) unicef.org](mailto:ihyllested@unicef.org)*

iii. Save the Children Sweden

Child Rights and Business in the post-2015 Development Agenda

At the Save the Children special event at the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, Save the Children will be joining forces with key global stakeholders from civil society, the UN community, the private sector, and governmental organizations. We will discuss how we can drive sustainable change in children's rights and business, linking to the post-2015 development agenda. The following key focus areas will be highlighted during this session:

- Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development – Practical examples will be discussed from an action-oriented perspective.
- Legal Frameworks – Assessing private sector responsibility, civil society's role, and children as stakeholders in the light of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment on state obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights.
- Emergencies – children's increased vulnerability and private sector's role.

Strengthening civil society in child rights and business

As part of Save the Children Sweden's Child Rights and Business Programme, a guide for civil society to take on issues of business responsibilities in relation to child rights has been developed. The first workshop with civil society partners was held in Latin America in August, with civil society organizations, businesses, academia and government representatives participating. A second event will take place in Kenya in October. Experiences and comments from both these events will feed into the finalisation of the guide.

→ *Contributed by Lina Höök, Save the Children, [lina.hook \(at\) rb.se](mailto:lina.hook@rb.se)*

iv. World Child & Youth Forum

The World Child & Youth Forum is currently planning its next annual forum, to take place in the Royal Palace in Stockholm, Sweden on 11 April 2014. Top level international decision makers from every sector of society will be invited to discuss action needed to protect and realise children's rights. Suggestions and ideas for speakers, initiatives and research are welcome, feel free to contact elin.wallberg@wcyf.se.

→ Contributed by Elin Wallberg, World Child & Youth Forum, [elin \(at\) wallberg.wcyf.se](mailto:elin@wallberg.wcyf.se)

v. International Institute for the Rights of the Child

Awareness of children's rights creates better conditions for the development and sustainability of strong and well-educated communities. Such factors are essential for creating an inclusive, productive and stable business environment.

According to a [report](#) published by the International Institute for the Rights of the Child in May 2013, companies that integrate respect and support mechanisms for children, in all aspects of their business strategies, tend to generate benefits for themselves. Positive measures in favour of children can promote corporate reputation, better management risk and expand what is called corporate social responsibility. A series of measures, that all companies must respect in order to promote, prevent and eliminate any negative impact, has yet to be identified. This initiative recognises the positive impact that large and small businesses can have and it aims to encourage good practices in the private sector. States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child must take concrete steps to fulfill their obligations and thus make a real difference in the lives of children.

More information: *Child Rights and the Business Sector: Urging States and Private Companies to meet their Obligations* – IDE, 2013 - Email: info@childsrightrights.org Website: www.childsrightrights.org

→ Contributed by International Institute for the Rights of the Child, [info \(at\) childsrightrights.org](mailto:info@childsrightrights.org)

vi. Save the Children & UNICEF Peru

The international seminar "Business impact on children's rights" organised by Empresarios por la Educación, Perú 2021, Save the Children and UNICEF took place in Lima, Peru on 6-7 Aug 2013.

The seminar, which brought together business representatives and experts in children's rights, included the presentation of a declaration of commitment for childhood: "[Our best investment is to make children's rights a reality](#)".

Among other issues, speakers at the conference presented and commented on the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment No. 16 on State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights adopted this February. Furthermore, Save the Children and UNICEF presented tools under development for companies to implement the Children's Rights and Business Principles.

A full report of the seminar will be available shortly. Presentations from the seminar are accessible [here](#).

→ Contributed by Andrea Portaro, Save the Children, [andrea.portaro \(at\) savethechildren.org](mailto:andrea.portaro@savethechildren.org) and Gustavo Lopez, UNICEF, [glopez \(at\) unicef.org](mailto:glopez@unicef.org)

vii. Defence for Children International (DCI) Costa Rica

DCI Costa Rica strengthens alliances with the private sector

Defence for Children International - DCI Costa Rica is a civil society organization that works on the protection of human rights and development. It is part of the international DCI movement, which has a presence in 45 countries.

The organization undertakes programmes in Costa Rica, Central America, and other countries, with a regional and international reach. Its main goal is to contribute to the improvement of the lives of children, youth, their families, and their communities, through comprehensive interventions that seek to reduce abuses of children's and youth's rights.

DCI Costa Rica works with the private sector in 5 areas: prevention and awareness of violence, prevention and elimination of child labour, and protection of working youth. It also supports building a more sustainable, safer and healthier world, the development of good habits promoting responsible consumerism and savings, as well as promoting entrepreneurship in women household leaders and youth.

For more information see www.dnicostarica.org or get in touch with presidencia@dnicostarica.org

→ Contributed by Virginia Murillo Herrera, DNI - Costa Rica, [presidencia \(at\) dnicostarica.org](mailto:presidencia@dnicostarica.org)

viii. CCR CSR – Center for Child Rights and Corporate Social Responsibility (China)

A voice is given to the parents of the 60 million left-behind children in China

The life situation of children left behind by migrant workers has been researched in different studies, but the migrant parents themselves are to a large extent invisible and their voice seldom heard thus leaving a gap in understanding their situation, but also what their expectations and wishes would be for a more enabling work environment. [CCR CSR](#) is therefore carrying out a study on “*Understanding the current status of migrant workers as parents*”; their challenges, concerns, especially with regard to their children and what support they appreciate or would appreciate from their employers, the government and the local community.

CCR CSR will, in connection with the launch of the study, present *Purposeful Parenting*, a training programme for both managers and working parents to assure that the 60 million left-behind children and their parents can have a prosperous long-distance relationship. The premise for this programme is that through taking into account the wellbeing of parent and family, the newly empowered parent will be a much more focused and engaged parent and employee.

→ Contributed by Josefin Bennet Fredriksson, Business Development Manager, CCR CSR - Center for Child Rights, [josefin.bennet-fredriksson \(at\) ccrcsr.com](mailto:josefin.bennet-fredriksson@ccrcsr.com)

ix. Global March Against Child Labour

Global March Against Child Labour undertook a scoping mission to Côte d'Ivoire earlier this year to gain in-depth knowledge about child labour in the cocoa sector including interventions by various stakeholders to fight child labour and to identify gaps in sustainable withdrawal, protection and prevention of child labour in the cocoa farming sector. In April 2013, a detailed report on the mission “*Child Labour in Cocoa Farming Côte d'Ivoire*” was presented to child rights and education activists such as Senator Tom Harkin and UN Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown. The report highlights that despite several initiatives taken by government, industry and civil society, child labour continues to be a serious problem in the sector. Global March has outlined a plan for concrete and time-bound strategy to harmonise interventions to end child labour in cocoa farming in Côte d'Ivoire, which includes the government, First Lady's Office, international organizations and local civil society. Download the report by clicking [here](#).

→ Contributed by Rohit Sharma, Global March Against Child Labour, [info \(at\) globalmarch.org](mailto:info@globalmarch.org)

x. Free the Slaves

The anti-trafficking group Free the Slaves (FTS) is launching programmes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to help children escape slavery at mines that produce minerals for the global electronics industry. FTS has recently documented extensive child slavery in the mining of so-called “conflict minerals,” which generate income for armed groups in Congo's ongoing conflict. Research conducted at 12 mines in South Kivu province revealed seven forms of slavery, including child slavery and worst forms of child labour. The research uncovered that 23 percent of those in slavery are children under age 18. Conditions in the mines are deplorable. Children are exposed

to harmful levels of dust and long work hours in the sun. Many children carry heavy loads on their heads, shoulders or backs. Of 203 youths interviewed by researchers, 67 percent were subjected to worst forms of child labour – with significant repercussions for their health, security and growth. To address the situation, FTS is working with local grassroots organizations to expand its successful model to build community-based resistance to slavery.

Details: www.freetheslaves.net/congo.

→ *Contributed by Gabriel Deussom, Free the Slaves, gabriel.deussom (at) freetheslaves.net*

xi. The Code

Introduction video to The Code

The Code is an industry-driven initiative with the mission to provide awareness, tools and support to the tourism industry to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

Who we are, what we do and how tourism companies can become a member:

<http://www.thecode.org/join-the-code-video/>

For more information, please visit www.thecode.org

The Code deploys on-line learning modules to help tourism professionals deal with cases of child exploitation

For many years, one challenge for the tourism industry has been to develop an efficient way to educate their employees on the various forms crimes against children can take. Several recent cases have shown that tourism professionals are in a unique position to identify and report cases when they occur, but the logistics of training large numbers of staff can often seem daunting.

To address this, The Code has recently unveiled a suite of e-learning modules accessible to members. These modules are based on real cases and cover 10 popular tourism roles including hotel receptionists, tourist guides, airline staff, hotel security, housekeeping and tour guides. The modules last approximately 10 minutes and focus on practical actions that tourism professionals can take to protect children who may be at risk. Since launching earlier this year, over 2000 tourism professionals have completed the e-learning with the content receiving much positive feedback.

You can learn more here: <http://www.thecode.org>

→ *Contributed by Patchareeboon Sakulpitakphon [Mam], Project Manager, The Code, mam (at) thecode.org*

xii. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre

The Resource Centre is conducting a re-design of its website and would warmly welcome any feedback on users' experience with the [Business & Children Portal](#). Please feel free to send us any suggestions and comments.

We continue to welcome suggestions and materials for our Business & Children Portal, including our new sections on [UN General Comment on state obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights](#) and [implementation tools of the Children's Rights & Business Principles](#). We are keen to feature materials both in English as well as other languages.

→ *Contributed by Eniko Horvath, Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, horvath (at) business-humanrights.org*

Español

xiii. UNICEF

Innovación y Acción: Workshop Global de UNICEF sobre Empresas y Derechos del Niño

En Nueva York, este septiembre los líderes globales en sustentabilidad empresarial se reunirán con expertos en derechos del niño y expertos geográficos en temas de infancia para construir soluciones innovadoras que promuevan acciones y resultados para los niños.

Durante dos días, el grupo va a profundizar en temas de debida diligencia de derechos humanos, trabajo infantil, jóvenes trabajadores, la agenda post-2015, ciudadanía digital y productos y servicios amigables con la infancia para generar nuevas ideas en sesiones facilitadas por el equipo de la reconocida firma de innovación social Frog Design.

El rango de oradores y participantes brindará distintas perspectivas: Susan McPherson (Fenton Communications) y Jo Confino (Guardian Sustainable Business) moderarán sesiones con líderes del mundo privado, incluyendo a Bob Corcoran (General Electric), Anna Zanghi (Mastercard), Bob Collymore (Safaricom), Charlotte Ersbol (Novo Nordisk), Matthias Leisinger (Kuoni) quienes brindarán su experiencia corporativa. Global Reporting Initiative y BSR compartirán su expertise en la gestión de iniciativas como por ejemplo procesos de debida diligencia y reporte social.

UNICEF trabaja en más de 190 países y territorios a través de oficinas nacionales y comités. Durante el evento, expertos en temas de infancia de India, Vietnam, Kenya y Argentina proveerán oportunidades para el desarrollo de actividades conjuntas a nivel nacional.

Workshop Global de UNICEF sobre Empresas y Derechos del Niño Innovación y Acción se realizará en UNICEF House, New York el 18 y 19 de Septiembre. Para más información consultar la página de Responsabilidad Social Empresarial de UNICEF: <http://www.unicef.org/csr/>

→ *Contribución de: Ida Margarita Hyllested, Corporate Social Responsibility Specialist, UNICEF, [ihyllested \(at\) unicef.org](mailto:ihyllested@unicef.org)*

xiv. Save the Children & UNICEF Perú

El Seminario Internacional “El impacto de las empresas en los derechos de los niños y niñas” organizado por Empresarios por la Educación, Perú 2021, Save the Children y UNICEF, se llevó a cabo del 6 al 7 de agosto del 2013 en la ciudad de Lima – Perú.

Durante esta actividad, que reunió a empresarios y especialistas en asuntos de la infancia de Latinoamérica, se dio a conocer la Declaración de Compromiso por la infancia “[Nuestra mejor inversión es hacer realidad los derechos de la niñez](#)”.

Durante el seminario se presentó y comentó la Observación General N° 16 del Comité de los Derechos del Niño de las Naciones Unidas, aprobada en febrero de este año. Además, Save the Children y UNICEF presentaron las herramientas que se vienen desarrollando para que las empresas puedan poner en práctica Los Derechos del Niño y los Principios Empresariales.

Un informe completo del seminario será disponible en breve. Presentaciones del seminario son disponibles [aquí](#).

→ *Contribución de: Andrea Portaro, Save the Children, [andrea.portaro \(at\) savethechildren.org](mailto:andrea.portaro@savethechildren.org) y Gustavo Lopez, UNICEF, [glopez \(at\) unicef.org](mailto:glopez@unicef.org)*

xv. Defensa de Niñas y Niños Internacional (DNI) Costa Rica

DNI Costa Rica fortalece alianzas con el Sector Empresarial

DNI - Costa Rica, Defensa de niñas y niños internacional es una organización social que trabaja en la defensa de los derechos humanos y el desarrollo humano. Forma parte del Movimiento Internacional de DNI con presencia en 45 países.

Desarrolla programas en Costa Rica, Centroamérica y en otros países con impacto regional e internacional. Tiene por objetivo principal contribuir a mejorar las condiciones de vida de los niños, niñas y adolescentes y sus familias y comunidades, a través de intervenciones integrales que permitan conseguir la disminución de las violaciones a los derechos de los niños, niñas y adolescentes.

DNI trabaja con el sector empresarial en 5 líneas, prevención y atención a la violencia, prevención y eliminación del trabajo infantil y protección del trabajo adolescente, aporta a construir un mundo más sostenible, seguro, saludable y a la creación de buenos hábitos promoviendo el consumo responsable y el ahorro, así como promueve el emprendedurismo en mujeres jefas de hogar y en poblaciones adolescentes y jóvenes.

Para más información puede acceder a www.dnicostarica.org o comunicarse a presidencia@dnicostarica.org

→ Contribución de: Virginia Murillo Herrera, DNI - Costa Rica, [presidencia \(at\) dnicostarica.org](mailto:presidencia(at)dnicostarica.org)

xvi. Marcha Global Contra el Trabajo Infantil

La Marcha Global Contra el Trabajo Infantil emprendió una misión de evaluación a principios de este año para ganar conocimiento profundo sobre trabajo infantil en el sector agrícola de cacao en Costa de Marfil; las intervenciones existentes de partidos interesados en la lucha contra el trabajo infantil en el país; identificación de las lagunas de retirada, protección y prevención de trabajo infantil en sector agrícola de cacao. La Marcha Global presentó un informe detallado “*Child Labour in Cocoa Farming Côte d’Ivoire*” a los activistas prominentes Senador Tom Harkin y Enviado Especial de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación Global, El Señor Gordon Brown. El informe destaca que a pesar de las diversas iniciativas adoptadas por el gobierno, industria y sociedad civil, trabajo infantil sigue siendo un gran problema en el sector agrícola de cacao en Costa de Marfil. La Marcha Global ha perfilado un plan con estrategia concreta y plazos para armonizar las intervenciones para erradicar el trabajo infantil en el sector agrícola de cacao agricultura en Costa de Marfil. Este incluye el gobierno, el despacho de la Primera Dama de Costa de Marfil, organizaciones internacionales y la sociedad civil en el país. Para descargar el informe, por favor haga clic [aquí](#).

→ Contribución de: Rohit Sharma, Global March Against Child Labour, [info \(at\) globalmarch.org](mailto:info(at)globalmarch.org)

xvii. Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos (CIEDH)

El CIEDH está rediseñando su sitio web e invita comentarios sobre la experiencia de usuarios del [portal sobre empresas y niñez](#). Por favor, no hesiten en enviarnos cualquier sugerencia o comentario.

Seguimos aceptando sugerencias de materiales para nuestro portal sobre empresas y niñez, incluyendo para nuestras nuevas secciones sobre la [Observación general de la ONU sobre las obligaciones del estado en relación con el impacto del sector empresarial en los derechos del niño](#) y [Herramientas de implementación de los Principios sobre Derechos del Menor y Empresas](#). Estaremos encantados de presentar materiales tanto en inglés como en español y otros idiomas.

→ Contribución de: Eniko Horvath, Centro de Información sobre Empresas y Derechos Humanos, [horvath \(at\) business-humanrights.org](mailto:horvath(at)business-humanrights.org)

Français

xviii. Institut international des Droits de l'Enfant

Le respect des droits de l'enfant crée de meilleures conditions pour le développement de communautés solides et bien éduquées, facteurs essentiels à la création d'un environnement d'affaires stable, inclusif et productif.

Dans la [publication](#) de l'Institut international des Droits de l'Enfant (mai 2013), il ressort qu'une entreprise intégrant le respect et le soutien aux enfants dans ses stratégies et activités génère également des avantages pour elle-même. Des mesures positives en faveur des enfants peuvent promouvoir la réputation des entreprises, assurer une meilleure gestion des risques, élargir l'appui sur le lieu de développement des activités et renforcer la motivation de la main-d'œuvre. Une série de mesures, que toutes les entreprises doivent s'engager à respecter afin de prévenir et éliminer tout impact négatif, doit être identifiée. L'influence positive que les entreprises, grandes et petites, peuvent avoir est reconnue et les bonnes pratiques du secteur privé sont encouragées. Les Etats parties à la Convention, quant à eux, doivent prendre des mesures concrètes pour remplir leurs obligations, et ainsi faire une réelle différence dans la vie des enfants.

Plus d'infos : *Droits de l'enfant et secteur privé : amener les Etats et les entreprises à remplir leurs obligations* – IDE, 2013 Courriel : info@childsrightrights.org Site : www.childsrightrights.org

→ *Contribution de l'Institut international des Droits de l'Enfant, info (at) childsrightrights.org*

xix. Marche mondiale contre le travail des enfants

La Marche mondiale contre le travail des enfants a entrepris une mission exploratoire en Côte d'Ivoire au début de cette année pour acquérir des connaissances approfondies sur la question du travail des enfants dans le secteur de la culture du cacao; sur les interventions existantes des différents acteurs concernés pour lutter contre le travail des enfants; sur les lacunes identifiables dans le retrait viable, et dans la protection et la prévention du travail des enfants dans le secteur de la culture du cacao. En avril 2013, un rapport détaillé sur la mission intitulé "*Child Labour in Cocoa Farming Côte d'Ivoire*" (« *Le travail des enfants dans la culture du cacao en Côte d'Ivoire* »), a été présenté aux défenseurs des droits des enfants et aux militants de l'éducation comme le Sénateur Tom Harkin et l'Envoyé spécial pour l'éducation globale de l'ONU Gordon Brown. Le rapport souligne que, malgré plusieurs initiatives prises par le gouvernement, l'industrie et la société civile, le travail des enfants constitue toujours un problème sérieux dans le secteur. La Marche mondiale a esquissé un plan pour une stratégie concrète et définie dans le temps, pour harmoniser les interventions pour mettre fin au travail des enfants dans la culture du cacao en Côte d'Ivoire. Il comprend le gouvernement, le bureau de la Première dame, les organisations internationales et la société civile. Téléchargez le rapport en cliquant [ici](#).

→ *Contribution de: Rohit Sharma, Global March Against Child Labour, info (at) globalmarch.org*

xx. Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme

Le Centre des Ressources est en train de repenser son site web et invite les utilisateurs à commenter sur leur expérience du [portail sur les entreprises et les droits de l'enfant](#). N'hésitez pas à nous envoyer vos suggestions et commentaires.

Nous continuons d'accepter des suggestions et des ressources à inclure sur notre portail sur les entreprises et les droits des enfants, y compris pour les nouvelles sections sur [L'Observation générale 16 « Obligations des États par rapport à l'impact du secteur des affaires sur les droits de l'enfant »](#) et les outils pour [la mise en œuvre des Principes Régissant les Entreprises dans le Domaine des Droits de l'Enfant](#). Nous souhaitons présenter des ressources à la fois en anglais et dans d'autres langues.

→ Contribution de: Eniko Horvath, Centre de Ressources sur les Entreprises & les Droits de l'Homme, horvath (at) business-humanrights.org

2. Other news and developments

Below are some recent news stories and developments. For more, see the Resource Centre's [full archive of news on business and children](#).

Global

- ILO developed a [training guide on the worst forms of child labour](#) for policy-makers, workers' and employers' organizations, and NGOs to help develop or update relevant national policies and action plans.
- US Department of Labor [added 6 items to its list of products made by forced or indentured child labour](#): cattle (South Sudan), dried fish (Bangladesh), fish (Ghana), garments (Vietnam), and gold and wolframite (Democratic Republic of Congo).
- CSR Asia highlighted ["poignant thoughts" for companies to consider from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment](#) on state obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights, including:
 - Enduring impacts businesses may have on children: *"[C]hild labour or unsafe products or environmental hazards may have life-long, irreversible and even trans-generational consequences"*.
 - Integrating children's perspectives into decision-making: *"States may not adequately consider the impact on children of business-related laws and policies whilst...the business sector often exerts a powerful influence on decisions without reference to children's rights"*.
 - Obstacles to children's access to remedy: *"There are particular difficulties for children to obtain remedy for abuses that occur in the context of businesses' global operations"*. (See section VI. B par. 66-72 of [General Comment](#) for more details)
 - The difference between voluntary actions and the responsibility to respect children's rights: *"[It] should be emphasized that...voluntary actions and initiatives [such as social investments, advocacy and public policy engagement, voluntary codes of conduct, philanthropy] are not a substitute for State action and regulation of businesses...or for businesses to comply with their responsibilities to respect children's rights"*.
- Analysis of the [limited impacts of child-labour free certifications](#) – includes comments from Child Labour Coalition, Ethical Trading Initiative, Fairtrade Foundation GoodWeave, Stop the Traffik Netherlands along with examples from the carpet and chocolate industries.
- Paul Klein of Impakt argued for [increased innovation & investment by big companies to address childhood injury](#) citing *"remarkable examples that demonstrate how aligning with this issue can deliver meaningful social change and measurable business value"*, including from Bitrex, Dorel Juvenile Group, GM. He said: *"In addition to car injuries and accidental poisoning, children are being injured in many other ways that have high relevance to businesses, including sports, cycling and food-related injuries due to choking. Corporations in these industries need to take leadership on an issue that remains off the chart in terms of its emotional and financial cost"*.
- [British Airways may face a lawsuit after former employee allegedly sexually molested children](#) during a company event at a Kenyan orphanage. The company said it is *"shocked and horrified"* by the allegations.
- [Breastfeeding-friendly workplaces are good for business](#), said the ILO's maternity protection specialist. Examples from Mozambique, Philippines and USA suggest that maternity protection programmes at work reduce absenteeism and increase worker retention.

- [GlaxoSmithKline & Save the Children launched a health care innovation award to combat child mortality in developing world.](#)
- [Pfizer signed an agreement with GAVI Alliance to sell vaccine against pneumonia & meningitis at cheaper price for children in poor countries.](#) (Also in French / disponible en français)
- ECPAT was awarded \$1.5 million Hilton Humanitarian Prize for its [work against commercial sexual exploitation of children](#). Some of the non-profit's campaigns collaborate closely with companies, including Body Shop.

Africa

- **Burkina Faso:** [Children look to gold mining](#) to support themselves and their families despite difficult working conditions & risk of illnesses – includes comments from child miners. (Only in French / en français)
- **Cape Verde:** [Husky Injection Molding Systems made a \\$15,000 donation to SOS Children's Villages International](#) programme to prevent child abandonment and strengthen fragile families. (Only in French / en français)
- **Côte d'Ivoire:** [President Ouattara condemned the use of child labour in gold mining](#) and made a commitment to regulate the sector in order to allow more children to attend school.
- **Dem. Rep. of Congo:** [A new report by Amnesty International](#) documented human rights abuses, including child labour, in the mining sector of Katanga. Responses by Glencore Xstrata, Groupe Bazano and Misa Mining provided. The Resource Centre invited China Railway to respond to the allegations concerning the company and its subsidiaries – it did not do so. ([Also in French / en français](#))
- **Kenya:** Local authorities [blocked China Wu Yi from mining gravel due to allegedly endangering children at a local school](#).
- **Senegal:** [Child parliamentarians in gold mining region with high levels of child labour demand improvement of living conditions](#), potable water, and access to healthcare. The Youth & Employment Minister has committed to defend their rights. (Only in French / en français)
- **Tanzania:** Human Rights Watch report says children are subjected to [serious risks of injury, health damage and death in artisanal mines](#) – includes recommendations to government, mining companies, and companies trading Tanzanian gold to address the issue.
- **Uganda:** [Hima Cement installed air filters to reduce dust affecting children](#) at nearby school following warning from National Environment Management Authority.

Americas

- **Brazil:** The [3rd Global Conference on Child Labour is to take place in Brasilia on 8-10 October](#). It will evaluate progress on eliminating worst forms of child labour and propose measures to drive further action. A [virtual platform](#) allows individuals and organizations to share ideas and discuss challenges prior to the conference.
- **Mexico:** Local authorities in Sonora invited companies to apply for [award recognising agricultural businesses for rejecting child labour and adopting policies to protect children](#). Deadline to register is 30 Sep. (Only in Spanish / en español)
- **Mexico:** The [Ministry of Labour certified 46 work sites as free of child labour](#) following labour inspections. (Only in Spanish / en español)
- **USA:** [True Power to pay \\$93,000 settlement for alleged child labour](#) and failure to pay minimum wage for employees selling bracelets at malls kiosks.
- **USA:** [Lawsuit against lead-based paint manufacturers over damage to children's health](#) started in California. *"There are still thousands of kids that are getting exposed to lead through lead paint every year...[The lawsuit seeks to force manufacturers to] pitch in to help*

solve the problem going forward, which is the least...they could [do]”, says the chief of special litigation for the San Francisco City Attorney’s Office

- **USA:** [Lawsuit brought by Hershey shareholder against company for alleged child labour in West Africa may be dismissed](#) due to lack of evidence.
- 80 Grupo Telefónica employees volunteered to [help eradicate child labour in Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru](#). (Only in Spanish / en español)

Asia & Pacific

- **Afghanistan:** According to a report by Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, US contractors [Mercury and Zafarkhaliq left the construction of a teacher training facility unfinished, exposing students to potential electrocution and fire hazards](#). The Resource Centre is seeking responses from the companies and will indicate whether or not the companies respond at the link above.
- **China:** Children in Hunan Province village are born with deformities reportedly due to [excessive levels of cadmium from former chemical factory](#).
- **India:** [India requested for US Department of Labor to remove Indian textiles from its list of products made by use of forced or indentured child labour](#) considering various initiatives underway to end child labour in the industry. In response, the US Department of Labor noted that *“there is not yet adequate available information to evaluate [the initiatives] effectiveness”* and will continue to monitor their implementation.
- **Indonesia:** [Apple to investigate whether tin mined by children on Bangka Island is used in iPhones](#) following pressure by Friends of the Earth and Earth Make it Better campaign.
- **Myanmar:** [Child labour is widespread and deeply rooted in Burmese society](#) according to activists. UNICEF says [1/3 of children in the country work](#) rather than attend school. Many cite the need to support their families: *“I have been working here [at a restaurant] for a couple of years to support my mom, as my parents are divorced,”* said an 11-year-old girl. Save the Children and UNICEF recommend stronger implementation of existing labour laws and increased access to affordable education for poor families.
- **Thailand:** CSR Asia summit will include a [panel on business impact on children's rights](#) to explore the role of companies to promote and protect children’s rights and how it aligns with core business (Bangkok, 18 Sep).
- Australian Agency for International Development’s Project Childhood to launch an [awareness-raising campaign for tourists in Southeast Asia on preventing exploitation of children in tourism](#).

Europe & Central Asia

- **Turkey:** [Danone infant milk formula ad campaign accused of misleading mothers and misrepresenting WHO advice on breastfeeding](#). *“The health benefits of breast milk are enormous and mothers must not be pressured into buying formula based on inaccurate advice,”* said the director of a leading pediatric unit. Danone has denied the allegations.
- **UK:** [14-year-old girl killed herself after bullying posts on Latvian social networking site Ask.fm](#). The firm announced changes to make its site safer.
- **UK:** Prime Minister David Cameron announced that [internet providers will be required to introduce default block option of online pornography to protect children](#). Internet search companies will also be required to block pornography searches: *“I have a very clear message for Google, Bing, Yahoo and the rest. You have a duty to act on this - and it is a moral duty,”* said Cameron.

- **UK:** The [UK's national action plan on business and human rights promotes projects to tackle negative business impacts on vulnerable groups, including children](#); lists to Children's Rights & Business Principles as a mechanism for promotion of good corporate behaviour.

Middle East & North Africa

- **Iran:** [80,000 illiterate children a year are forced into labour](#) according to the National Council of Resistance of Iran.
- **Israel/Palestine:** [Palestinian children work in Israeli settlements to help provide for families](#), reportedly earning only 25-50% of wages they are entitled to. *"I want to continue going to school in the future but hopefully... before I become too old to finish"*, says a 16-year-old boy.
- **Jordan:** [Government officials discussed legal amendments on child labour with ILO](#).
- **United Arab Emirates:** [UAE Exchange donated AED 100,000 to UNICEF towards education programmes](#). *"We, at UAE Exchange, never ignored our duties as a responsible corporate citizen and believe that through such initiatives we are able to make a difference to the world, in our own small way"*, said UAE Exchange Chief Operation Officer for Global Operations.
- **United Arab Emirates:** [Majid Al Futtaim Finance aims to provide immunisations for 5,000 children](#) through partnership with GAVI Alliance during month of Ramadan.
- **Yemen:** [Government to set up observatory to safeguard child rights](#), including tackling child labour & trafficking.