Human Rights and Extractives

Integrating human rights considerations in key stages in resource development can help governments and other stakeholders make more robust decisions, by placing people at the heart of decision-making processes.

The Extractives Hub has developed new topic material on Human Rights and Extractives, including an online library of key resources, with the aim of helping stakeholders to interpret and use international standards on business and human rights to formulate legislation and regulation and negotiate appropriate contractual obligations with companies.

This newsletter brings you a selection of latest news, events and resources relevant to human rights and extractives.
A Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights

On the 19 July 2018, the first draft of a UN Business and Human Rights Treaty was published. The aim is to elaborate a “legally binding instrument to regulate, in international human rights law, the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises” within the UN framework. Since 2011, all companies, in all countries, no matter how big or small, have a responsibility to respect human rights recognised by the UN Human Rights Council. The new Hub topic overview provides a synopsis of company responsibilities for human rights in oil, gas and mining projects.

Colombia adopts Human Rights Policy for the mining and energy sector

On 1 August 2018, Colombia became the first country in the world with a sectoral policy that commits to respect Human Rights in a strategic and sustained manner. This pioneering document creates a framework for the sector to strengthen its contribution to the prevention, promotion, protection and guarantee of Human Rights. The experiences of both Governments and business investors point to the advantages of considering human rights risks early, before projects get underway and before adverse impacts occur. In the absence of policy or legislation, there are a number of guidelines that could help the industry manage risks.
Progress on the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark

The Corporate Human Rights Benchmark (CHRB), which ranks 100 of the world’s largest apparel, agriculture and extractives companies on human rights released its progress report in April 2018. More than 5,000 companies have now reported on their public commitments to avoid modern slavery in their supply chain. However, it is reported that companies are, on average, failing to disclose the information that stakeholders need to make informed choices around human rights. The “OECD Due Diligence Guidance” provides practical guidance to mining, oil and gas enterprises in addressing the challenges related to stakeholder engagement.

UN Launches Environment’s Rights Initiative

In March 2018, UN Environment launched its Environmental Rights Initiative, aiming to help people better understand their rights and how to defend them, and assisting governments to better safeguard environmental rights. Integrating considerations for the environment and human rights is fundamentally important for successful oil, gas or mining projects. Our Environmental Management topic overview provides guidance on the design and adoption of sound legislative and regulatory frameworks for environmentally-friendly resource extraction.
A selection of new resources…

UNICEF’s Child Rights and Mining Toolkit is designed to assist stakeholders in the mining sector who are responsible for designing and implementing strategies related to social and environmental performance at a project level.


Remediation Guidelines for Victims of Human Trafficking in Mineral Supply Chains explains why the extractives sector is vulnerable to human trafficking, and provides concrete, operational guidance to downstream companies and their business partners to ensure victims of exploitation are adequately protected and assisted when harm has occurred.

This recorded webinar from ESCR-Net's Working Group on Economic Policy and Human Rights focuses on human rights considerations in relation to infrastructure, energy and extractives projects.

The new Human Rights and Extractives topic overview of the Extractives Hub has a dedicated library and guides which focus on key human rights issues for the oil, gas and mining industries.

Online Human Rights Databases

Have you ever needed to research a company’s human rights record? The Business and Human Rights resource centre (BHRRRC) features a searchable database of human rights allegations against companies.

![Webpage Screenshot](image-url)
The jade industry in Myanmar has traditionally been shrouded in secrecy. The Open Data Portal: Myanmar Jade uses data from transparency initiatives to access and analyse data on this sector. See for example the data tools, which shed light on licences and revenues from the sector.

Mining Licenses Explorer

This dashboard allows you to explore jade and gemstone mining licenses held by companies in Myanmar.

Revenue Flows Explorer

This interactive visualisation shows the flow of revenues from the jade and gemstone sector into the national budget.

Copyright © 2017 Extractives Hub, All rights reserved

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list