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IMPACT FUND FOR CHILDREN

CLIF PRIVATE EQUITY AND DEBT INVESTOR TOOLKIT

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CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 4

INTRODUCTION 6

Who should use this resource? 9

How to use the Toolkit 9

CHILD-LENS TAXONOMY REFLECTION 10

SECTION 1

CHILD-LENS Impact Strategy GUIDE 11

Self-Inventory: Child-Lens Goals and Parameters Exercise 13

Child-lens goals and parameters: Elevar Equity 14

Child-Lens Impact Thesis Template 16

Child-lens impact thesis: Rethink Education 17

"Whole child" worksheet 18

Whole child worksheet: Rethink Education 19

SECTION 2:

CHILD-LENS CONTRIBUTION FRAMEWORK 20

Child-Lens Contribution Worksheet 22

Child-lens contribution worksheet: QBE Insurance 23

SECTION 3

CHILD-LENS Impact and ESG Assessment 24

Child-Lens Risk Due Diligence Questionaire 26

Child-Lens Impact Assessment Framework 27

Child-lens impact assessment framework: Elevar Equity 29

Child-Lens Impact Risk Matrix 31

Child-lens impact risk matrix: Elevar Equity 32

SECTION 4:

CHILD-LENS Measurement Approach 33

Child-Lens Metrics Bank 35

Child-integrated metrics bank: Calvert Impact 36

Child-Lens Measurement Principles 37

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INTRODUCTION

We want the world our children inherit to be defined by the values enshrined in the U.N. Charter: peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance, and Solidarity."

— Antonio Guterres, U.N. Secretary General

A companion to the *Child-Lens Investing Framework (CLIF)*, the *CLIF Private Equity and Debt Investor Toolkit (henceforth referred to as "the Toolkit")* is designed to help private markets asset owners and managers in operationalizing the child lens. Applicable to all capital types, sectors, and geographies, the *Toolkit* may be utilized by private investors to apply the child lens to both new strategies or existing ones. Private markets investors may utilize the *Toolkit* on its own or in combination with other approaches or "impact lenses" (e.g., gender, disability inclusion, racial equity, and refugee) to deepen or differentiate their impact.

The *Toolkit* serves as a foundation on which additional child-lens investing (CLI) infrastructure for the private markets can be built. Investors are invited to tailor its component tools to meet their unique needs, contribute ideas for enhancing them via if-hub@unicef.org, and exchange best practices and lessons learned gathered through their use. It is through the willingness of investors to experiment and collaborate that the CLI field can mature and the impact and financial benefits of adopting a CLI approach can be surfaced for others to follow.

The *Toolkit's* four primary sections – Impact Strategy, Investor contribution, Impact and ESG Assessment, and Measurement Approach – and their underlying tools were designed for alignment with industry-leading impact investing, socially responsible investing (SRI), and child rights standards. The *Toolkit* supports investors to robustly implement five of the nine of the Global Impact Investor Network's (GIIN) *Operating Principles for Impact Management (OPIM)* – a widely adopted standard for integrating impact considerations into investment processes – as well as the *SDG Impact Standards* – a UNDP-led initiative to accelerate private investor contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a child lens. Moreover, core impact investing frameworks from the *Impact Management Project (IMP)* – a global impact investing practitioner community supporting consensus on industry norms – were utilized to structure several tools. Additionally, child rights considerations were drawn from UNICEF, Save the Children, and the UN Global Compact's *Children's Rights and Business Principles,* as well as other derivative standards and frameworks, such as the Global Child Forum's *Children's Rights and Business Workbook*.

FIGURE 1:
Currently aligned standards

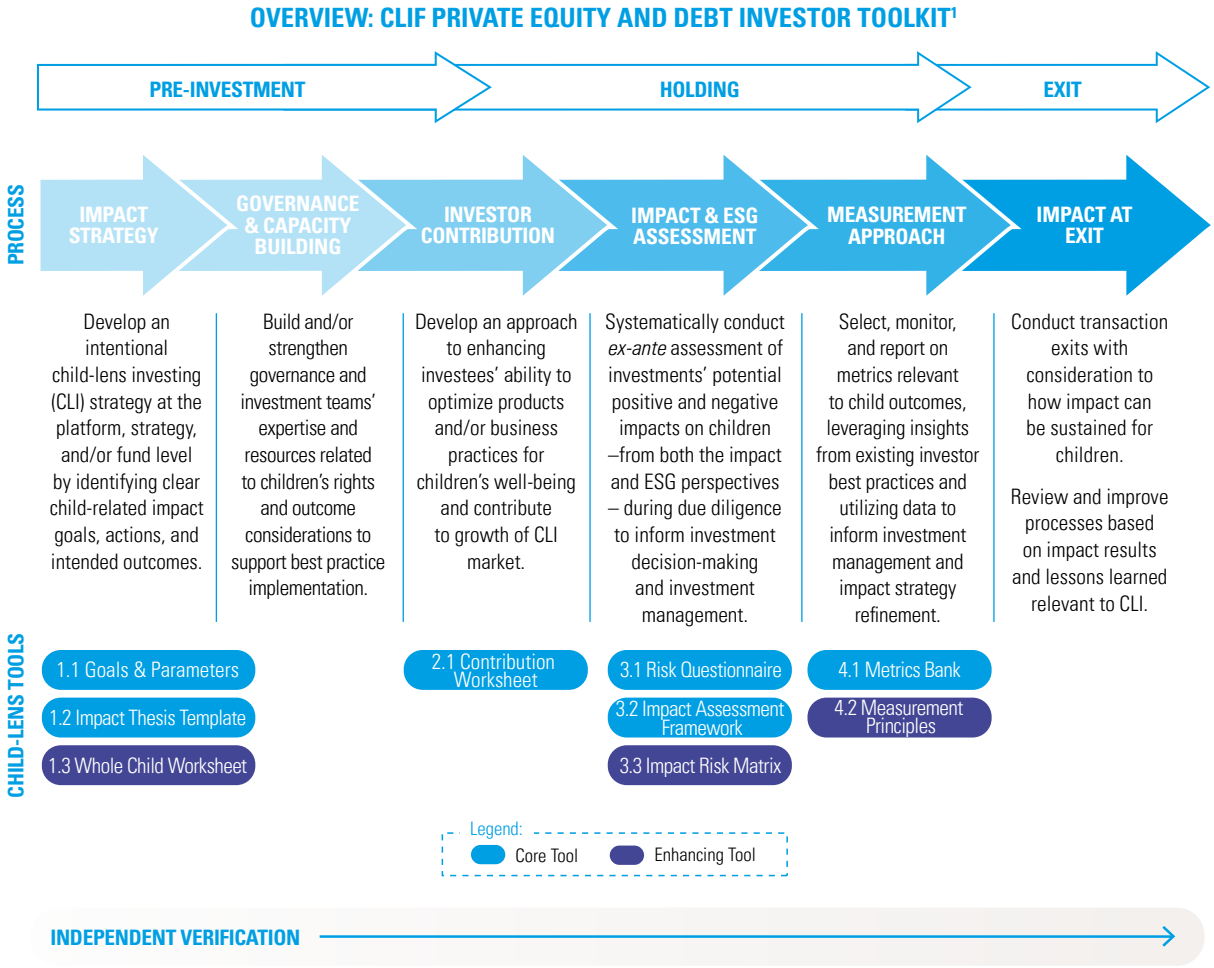
Currently aligned standards*

Operating Principles for Impact Management
SDG Impact
Children's Rights and Business Principles
United Nations Global Compact
PRI Principles for Responsible Investment
IMPACT MANAGEMENT PROJECT
IRIS+
UNITED NATIONS GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS

*The number of standards to which the Toolkit is aligned will likely grow over time, concurrent to the child-lens investing field.

The *Toolkit* was designed to support investors throughout each stage of the investment process. The following provides an overview of the tools associated with each stage of the investment process:

FIGURE 2:
Overview: CLIF Private Equity and Debt Investor Toolkit



*Aligned to the Operating Principles for Impact Management and the SDG Impact Standards. For additional detail on alignment, please refer to Figure [X]: Overview: The Child-Lens Investing Process for Private Markets in the CLIF.

1 The CLIF includes a process for governance, which is intended to capture the internal child-relevant capacity building activities may undertake. However, governance is excluded in the above graphic as this iteration of the *Toolkit* does not feature tools specifically related to governance best practices.

The following table provides a more tactical overview of the *Toolkit*'s primary sections and underlying tools:

TABLE 1:
Overview of the CLIF Private Equity and Debt Toolkit

CHILD-LENS SECTION	COMPONENT TOOLS
CHILD-LENS TAXONOMY REFLECTION	
Guidance supporting investors in reflecting on where they may fall in the child-lens taxonomy	
1. CHILD-LENS IMPACT STRATEGY A sequence of tools to support investors in designing a child-lens investment strategy aligned to their impact goals, capacities, and capabilities	Self-Inventory: Child-Lens Goals and Parameters
	Child-Lens Impact Thesis Template
	"Whole Child" Worksheet
2. CHILD-LENS CONTRIBUTION FRAMEWORK Guide to developing a child-lens investor contribution strategy to enhance investments' efficacy and support the growth of child-lens investing	Child-Lens Contribution Worksheet
3. CHILD-LENS IMPACT AND ESG ASSESSMENT Tools to support investors in conducting rigorous assessments of potential impact for children — inclusive of both ESG and impact risk analysis — during the screening and due diligence phases	Child-Lens Risk Due Diligence Questionnaire (Excel-based)
	Child-Lens Impact Assessment Framework
	Impact Risk Matrix
4. CHILD-LENS MEASUREMENT APPROACH Guide to support investors in selecting, monitoring, and reporting on metrics relevant to measuring their impact on child outcomes during strategy design and all phases of the investment process	Child-Lens Metrics Bank (Excel-based)
	Child-Lens Measurement Principles

Strategy-level tool
Core tool

Transaction-level tool
Enhancing tool

WHO SHOULD USE THIS RESOURCE?

The *Toolkit* was designed for use by both private markets asset owners and managers implementing either direct or intermediary investment strategies that are planned or currently in existence. It broadly applies to strategies spanning the child-lens taxonomy – not just for child-centered investors nor for established practitioners *[See pg. 7]*. The *Toolkit* is thus for all investors who seek to create impact for children by sharpening their intentionality, strengthening their investor contribution, and expanding their capacity for effective measurement.

HOW TO USE THE TOOLKIT

Implementing all four *Toolkit* sections in sequential order enables investors to implement a child lens most robustly. Moreover, note that certain tools are optimized for use at the strategy level, whereas others were designed for transaction-level application.

While full implementation is recommended, the *Toolkit* can also be divided into: 1) a set of "core tools" that, when applied in concert, support a principled CLI practice; and 2) a set of "enhancing tools" that individually enable investors to further deepen their child-lens impact.

Each section of the *Toolkit* is comprised of the following components:

SECTION OVERVIEWS, which summarize underlying tools' purpose, overview standards alignment, and provide additional references.

TOOL PAGES, which introduce the CLI tools and provide accompanying implementation guidance.

CASE STUDIES, which provide concrete examples of how the CLIF and *Toolkit* may be operationalized.[2]

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2 The case studies are derived from UNICEF, UUSA, and Tideline's inaugural CLI Investor Cohort program, during which six participating private markets investors applied the *Toolkit* to their existing investment strategies as a hypothetical case study exercise to test and refine the CLIF. Full case studies can be found in the accompanying *CLI Investor Cohort Case Studies.*

CHILD-LENS TAXONOMY REFLECTION

Before delving into the *Toolkit*, we invite investors to reflect on the various approaches comprising the Child-Lens Taxonomy — child-screened, child-inclusive, and child-centered — in the Child-Lens Taxonomy (the "Taxonomy") to begin thinking through how an existing or new strategy is best positioned to create impact for children. It is important to note that the Taxonomy does not represent a rigid classification system at present, but instead a set of approaches that provide guidance and insight into notable differences between child-lens investment strategies.

The approaches comprising the Taxonomy are organized by their degree of focus on child-related outcomes and how children are framed as beneficiaries (i.e., as direct, indirect, or discrete beneficiaries – or in the case of "child-screened" approaches, affected stakeholders). Preemptively identifying an approach that best suits an investor's overarching impact goals sets a strong foundation for child-lens strategy formation, for calibration of existing strategies to the child lens, and for supporting effective navigation of this *Toolkit*. An in-depth discussion of the Taxonomy can be found in Section II of the CLIF, *What is Child-lens Investing?*

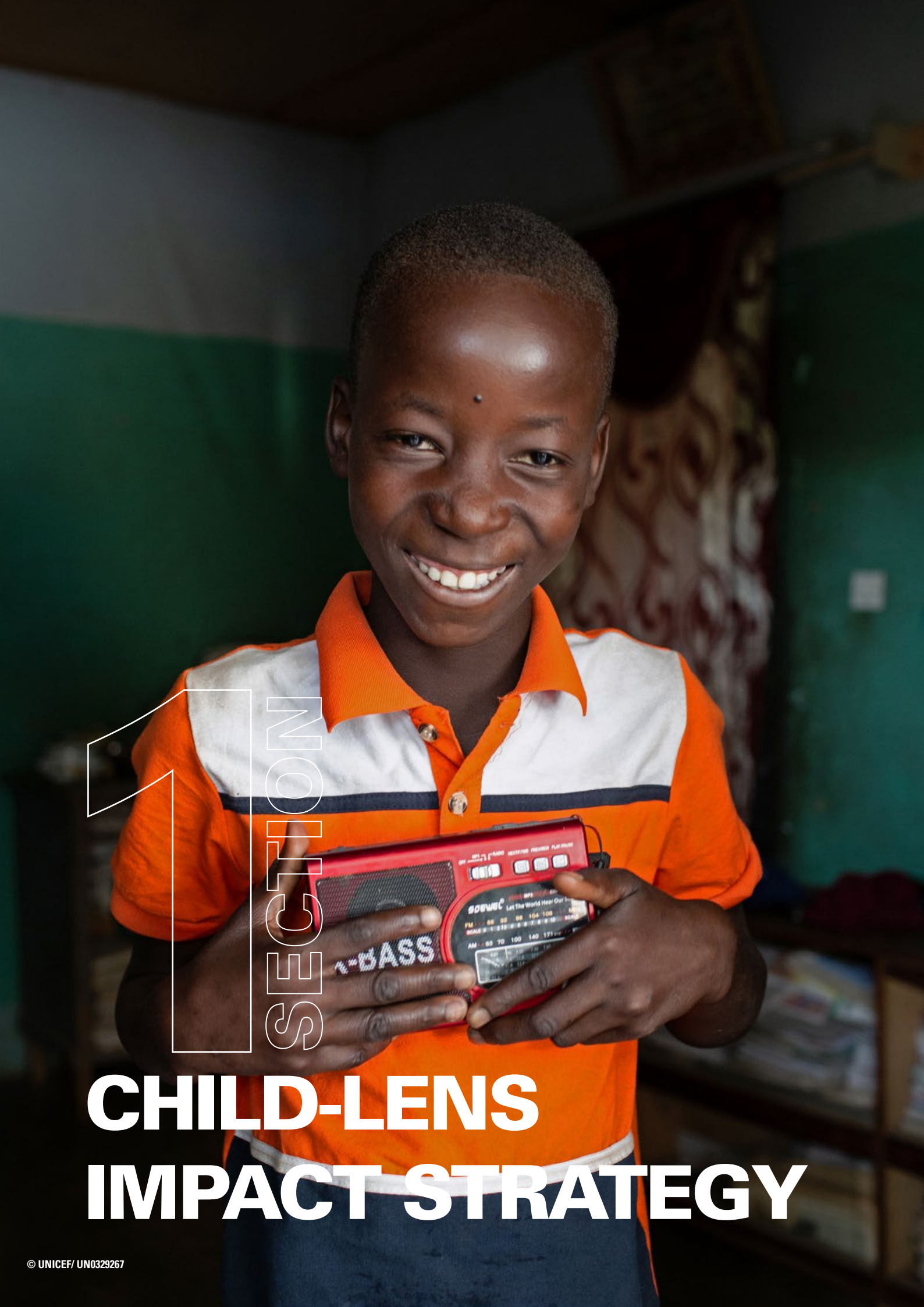
FIGURE 3:
Child-Lens Taxonomy

CHILD-SCREENED CHILDREN AS AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS	CHILD-INCLUSIVE CHILDREN AS INDIRECT OR DISCRETE BENEFICIARIES	CHILD-CENTERED CHILDREN AS PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES
Screening in or active ownership of opportunities based on their current or anticipated performance against child rights and child-related considerations.	Assessing how children are impacted as indirect beneficiaries of investments or including child outcomes as a discrete impact objective among several.	Centering the creation of positive child outcomes as a core strategic intention and designating children as primary beneficiaries.
MINIMIZE OR AVOID CAUSING HARM TO CHILDREN		
ADVANCE CHILDREN'S BEST INTERESTS THROUGH BUSINESS PRACTICE		
	INVEST IN SOLUTIONS FOR CHILDREN	

Additionally, reflecting on the below questions regarding intentionality, contribution, and measurement — widely accepted elements of all impact strategies — as they pertain to children can be useful in clarifying investors' capacity and aspirations to create impact for children.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

INTENTIONALLY	CONTRIBUTION	MEASUREMENT
To what extent do you currently or plan to intentionally consider how children will be affected by your investment approach?	To what extent do you currently or plan to engage with investees or conduct field-/market-building activities to grow your child impact?	To what extent do you currently or plan/have the capacity to monitor and measure your impact on children?



SECTION 1

CHILD-LENS IMPACT STRATEGY

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PURPOSE

To support investors in the development of an intentional strategy for the overarching investment approach at the platform, strategy, and/or fund level. Includes a multi-step process to identify clear child-lens impact goals, actions, and intended outcomes.

COMPONENT TOOLS

(Core Tool) Self-Inventory: Child-Lens Goals and Parameters: Self-inventory comprised of prompts to support investors in articulating impact goals relevant to constructing child-lens impact theses.

Case study examples: Rethink Capital Partners, Rethink Education Fund

(Core Tool) Child-Lens Impact Thesis Template: Template with prompts to support investors' creation of compelling child-lens impact theses.

Case study example: Elevar Equity

(Enhancing Tool) "Whole Child" Worksheet: Supplementary resource to support organization of structured and holistic investment activities.

Case study examples: Rethink Capital Partners, Rethink Education Fund

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- GIIN, "A Guide for Impact Investment Fund Managers: Creating a Strong Investment and Impact Thesis"
- UNICEF, "Engaging Stakeholders on Children's Rights: A Tool for Companies" (2014)
- UNICEF and Global Child Forum, "Child Rights and Business Atlas"
- UNICEF DATA – UNICEF Data Warehouse, "Using Data to Achieve the SDGs for Children"

Aligned standards and frameworks

IMPACT MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Operating Principles for Impact Management

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

IRIS+

SDG Impact

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SELF-INVENTORY: CHILD-LENS GOALS AND PARAMETERS EXERCISE

In preparing to create a child-lens impact thesis, investors should first clarify their impact goals and parameters – answering the core question, "What are the strategy's impact goals and parameters as they pertain to children?" Flowing from the IMP's Five Dimensions of Impact framework, each prompt encourages investors to intentionally consider the impact they wish to create for children, inclusive of how it will be created, which children it will specifically affect, and whether there are any associated risks.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

In establishing a child-lens goal, investors should consider the SMART framework – ensuring that resultant statements are **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant, and **T**ime-bound.

Referencing the Taxonomy and the "Whole Child" Worksheet may support investors in answering the "Proximity" prompt.

Upholding the *Identity* principle of the CLIF, investors should consider the specific context(s) of the children they intend to impact and tailor goals to best serve their specific needs, particularly when considering "Vulnerability."

Responses should be substantiated with data to the extent possible.

WHO

- **Proximity:** How directly will the strategy target children as beneficiaries?[1] What other stakeholders (e.g., families/caregivers, communities, larger social systems) might also be targeted to achieve intended child outcomes?
- **Vulnerability:** How in need are the children that the strategy is targeting vis-à-vis the general child population? What factors- such as those arising from identity or local context- contributes to their vulnerability?

WHAT

- **Urgency:** To what extent is there high-quality evidence substantiating that the targeted impact challenge is considered a pressing need for children in their respective context(s)?
- **Data:** What high-quality evidence is available that validates the intended investment activities' relevance to child outcomes?

HOW MUCH

- **Depth:** What is the degree of change that children should experience as the result of the activities?
- **Scale:** How many children or caregivers/households does the strategy aspire to reach as direct or end- beneficiaries?
- **Duration:** Will the strategy seek to create long-term outcomes for children or meet their shorter-term needs?

CONTRIBUTION

- **Role:** What role does the strategy seek to play in the broader child-lens investing market and ecosystem? **Please refer to Section 2 for additional guidance on child-lens investor contribution.*

RISK

- **Capacity:** What risks might undermine achievement of the impacts sought for children? Is there capacity within the organization/strategy to fully assess and mitigate/manage for these risks?[2]

TIPS

[1]Refer to the Taxonomy for clarity around how "directness" is operationalized in CLI. (E.g., Are children *primary* intended beneficiaries of the Impact Strategy? Are they *indirect* beneficiaries?).

[2]Additional guidance on impact risk can be found in the Impact Management Project's "Five Dimensions of Impact."

SELF-INVENTORY: CHILD-LENS GOALS AND PARAMETERS–ELEVAR EQUITY

ELEVAR EQUITY

FUND OVERVIEW

Elevar Equity ("Elevar") is an emerging markets, impact investment asset manager connecting low-income and underserved communities to the global capital markets. Elevar invests early-growth capital in enterprises that have the potential to deliver essential products and services to millions of underserved customers across India and Latin America. Elevar has a natural gender lens in the way it drives impact, with a majority women leadership and investment teams and a strategy that focuses on solutions that empower households and women throughout the business value chain.

IMPACT THEMES/SECTORS

- Financial health and inclusion of households (HHs) and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- MSME productivity solutions and market linkages.
- Maximizing access to affordable, quality education, skilling, and income-generating opportunities.
- Smallholder farmer and food producer solutions and access to quality, affordable food to end consumers.
- Healthcare access and affordability.

GEOGRAPHIC/DEMOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Target markets include MSMEs, individuals in low-income communities, affordable private schools, and smallholder farmers across India and Latin America, emphasizing solutions that benefit households and, therefore, women and children.

SUMMARY GOAL STATEMENT:

Elevar fuels the economic resilience and vibrancy of underserved customers and low-income communities by investing early-growth capital in entrepreneurs building at the intersection of inclusivity, affordability, and massive scale. Targeting essential products and services, children are either direct or indirect beneficiaries of these business models.

COMMENTARY:

In completing the Goals and Parameters exercise, Elevar was able to clearly articulate the link between their overarching Impact Strategy and child outcomes. In doing so, Elevar laid the foundation for a compelling child-lens impact thesis.

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WHO

- **Proximity:** Underserved and low-income households are the primary targeted beneficiaries, including families and caregivers who are immediately responsible for children (on average, these households comprise 2 to 3 children). Household income levels directly affect child well-being, particularly with health and education outcomes.
- **Vulnerability:** Elevar's focus is on business models that target the needs of these beneficiaries to meet unmet demands and improve household-level outcomes.

WHAT

- **Urgency:** Children are more than 2x as likely to be extremely poor than adults, and nearly half of the children globally do not have access to basic needs (i.e., safe water, dignified shelter, and nutritious food). Children's caregivers and households have the most significant influence on their economic well-being. However, 45% of the global population lacks access to financial services and low-income families typically lack access to income-generating opportunities. Therefore, expanding access to essential products and services to low-income households is an urgent priority to uplift vulnerable children.
- **Data:** Studies show that children in lower-income families have worse cognitive, social-behavioral, and health outcomes; conversely, raising household income can improve child health and education.

HOW MUCH

- **Depth:** Gaining access to essential products and services will have substantial short- and long-term positive effects on household and child well-being.
- **Scale:** Each Elevar Fund targets 10 million households to be reached through the portfolio over the Fund life. Taking the above assumption of 2 to 3 children per household implies impacting ~20 million children.
- **Duration:** The intention is to impact a household's top and/or bottom line by providing access to a critical essential product or service, generating a short-term intervention. In turn, this will build the opportunity for long-term benefits for the household children.

CONTRIBUTION

- **Role:** Elevar leverages expertise/networks/capital to expand into markets serving vulnerable populations, increasing the number of vulnerable children reached. Through this engagement, Elevar can influence companies to consider the needs of children in business decisions, given the large child populations within these low-income communities.

RISK

- **Capacity:** Elevar focuses on ensuring enough capital is secured to build the enterprise, data systems are built to measure impact, and the company is positioned to weather macro-level events and maintain sustainability.

Note: As a participant in the inaugural Child-Lens Investor Cohort, Elevar found the hypothetical exercise of completing the Goals and Parameters useful for supporting the more granular identification of various stakeholders, potential child impacts, and associated child risks. However, they do not currently identify as a child-lens investor.

*Refer to the Taxonomy for clarity around how "directness" is operationalized in CLI. (E.g., Are children primary intended beneficiaries of the impact strategy? Are they indirect beneficiaries?).2 Investors may refer to the IMP's guidance on impact risk to support analysis: https://impactfrontiers.org/norms/five-dimensions-of-impact/impact-risk/

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CHILD-LENS IMPACT THESIS TEMPLATE

The Child-Lens Impact Thesis Template helps investors across the child-lens taxonomy define how their target challenge(s) and activities are linked to child outcomes. It can be used to create a new, standalone child-lens impact thesis or a means of augmenting an existing impact thesis with supplemental child-lens analysis – allowing investors to answer the following questions: "What challenge(s) facing children is the strategy addressing?" "How is it being addressed?" "What outcome(s) for children is the strategy driving?"

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Draw upon responses to the Self-Inventory: Child-Lens Goals and Parameters (pg. 9) to support drafting the goal statement and thesis responses.

Within the "Challenge" section, conduct additional external research to supplement the statement. Within "Activities," investors may also draw upon responses to the "Whole Child" Worksheet (pg. 13) and the Child-Lens Contribution Worksheet *(pg.16)*. Investors may also refer to the Child-Lens Metrics Bank *(pg. 25)*, to identify relevant indicators.

Where children are indirect beneficiaries, investors should articulate how children specifically will benefit from investment activities primarily targeting caregivers, communities, and/or systems. Where children are discrete or primary beneficiaries, investors should identify specific child outcomes that will contribute to broader, portfolio-level objectives.

The Template may also be adapted to analyze the expected impact of a specific investment on children.

GOAL STATEMENT: Define a succinct goal that articulates how your impact objectives and investment strategy integrate child-related factors and outcomes. Within the goal, identify the target child demographic(s), geograph(ies), and theme(s).

CHALLENGE

- Describe how the impact challenge(s) being targeted directly or indirectly affect children's rights and well-being, providing analysis of prevalence and severity and analyzing its long-term and short-term ramifications for children and their wider communities and societies.
- Where applicable, consider how various identities (e.g., gender, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status) and societal contexts influence children's experiences of the challenge and heighten vulnerability.
- Where appropriate, consider augmenting analysis with direct stakeholder engagement with children and caregivers.[1]

ACTIVITIES

- Describe in detail intended investor actions that will be undertaken to achieve the impact goal. Where applicable, specify how the activities contribute to outcomes that likely would not have occurred otherwise.
- Enumerate both the type of investments that will be made and the investor contribution activities that will be undertaken to advance children's best interests and/or augment impact for children.
- Investors seeking to further their analysis may utilize the "Whole Child" Worksheet to articulate how target investments and intented investor contribution activities will achieve impact at the individual child, family, community, and/or society level.

IMPACT

- Outcomes: Identify the sort- and long-term impact outcomes that investor activities can contribute to.
- Outputs: Identify impact outputs relevant to both the identified investor activities and children, drawing upon the Child-Lens Metrics Bank. Investors may list metrics identified in the "Whole Child" Worksheet here, if applicable.
- SDG targets: Identify relevant SDG targets that the identified investor activities contribute to.

SDG Impact

TIPS

[1] Investors may consult UNICEF's "Engaging Stakeholders on Children's Rights: A Tool for Companies" (2014) for guidance on ethical consultation.

For further guidance creating an impact thesis based on a theory of change, see the GIIN's "A Guide for Impact Investment Fund Managers: Creating a Strong Investment and Impact Thesis."

CHILD-LENS IMPACT THESIS: RETHINK EDUCATION

RETHINK EDUCATION

FUND OVERVIEW

Rethink Education invests in early-stage capital in education technology (EdTech) companies focusing on underserved populations to unlock their full human potential. Aiming to effect large-scale systems change, Rethink Education seeks to invest in catalysts that can transform institutions and communities – enabling people to learn in a kinder, more interesting, more effective, and more inclusive way. Embodying their commitment to social equity, Rethink Education implements both racial equity and gender lens approaches – maintaining an 80% Black and 60% female team, as well as a portfolio of 22% Black- and/or Latine-led and 40% woman-led companies.

AREAS OF INVESTMENT	DEMOGRAPHIC/ GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS
› Pre-K-12: Building a foundation for life-long learning and skills development; › Making post-secondary pathways more accessible and outcomes-oriented; and › Workforce + lifelong learning: Upskilling critical workers.	Marginalized or underserved populations; 80% domestic opportunities/20% emerging markets.

GOAL STATEMENT

Rethink Education seeks to unlock the full human potential of people who have been marginalized or underserved by investing in impactful EdTech companies. Children will be direct beneficiaries in pre-K through 12 investments and indirect beneficiaries in higher education, workforce, and life-long learning investments.

CHALLENGE

- There is a systematic mismatch between what students are learning and the skills they need to be successful based on the current education system that focuses on college readiness over critical human skills necessary to navigate the modern world.
- Over 600 million children and adolescents worldwide are unable to attain minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics.[3]
- 48% of employers in the U.S. say that candidates lack the skills needed to fill open jobs.[4] This is likely to worsen with a projected talent shortage of more than 85 million people by 2030 which would lead to $8.5 trillion in unrealized economic value.[5]

ACTIVITIES

- Invest early-stage capital in EdTech companies targeting underserved students and learners.
- Engage actively: Leverage Rethink's extensive network, education market experience, and board seats to help scale portfolio companies while maintaining mission and impact focus.
- Grow undersupplied markets: Provide first institutional investment and/or financing terms otherwise unavailable to companies serving vulnerable populations.
- Field-building: thought leadership through research, articles, and podcasts to augment impact of the EdTech market.

IMPACT

Outcomes:

- Expanded access to education and professional training for the most underserved populations including the bottom billion in emerging markets.
- Improved quality and inclusiveness of education and training globally.

Outputs:

- # of students reached.
- # of low-income learners reached.
- # of communities reached.

SDG targets:

- 4.3 - Ensure equal access to technicla, vocational and tertiary education, including university.
- 4.4 - Increase the number of youths and adults who have relevant skills for decent jobs.

Note: While Rethink originally created the above impact thesis as a hypothetical case study exercise for the inaugural CLI Investor Cohort, Rethink Education intends to integrate some elements of it as part of their overall Impact Strategy materials, moving forward, where additive and complementary, as part of their effort to explicitly identify as a child-lens investor.

3 UNESCO, "More than Half of Children and Youth Worldwide 'Not Learning'" (2017);
4 U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "Closing the Skills Gap" (2020);
5 Korn Ferry, "The $8.5 Trillion Talent Shortage" (2018).

"WHOLE CHILD" WORKSHEET

The "Whole Child" Worksheet supplements the Child-Lens Impact Thesis Template. Grounded in the CLIF's "whole child" principle, this worksheet supports investors in identifying relevant activities – both investments and/or other investor contribution activities – connected to various systems that support children's rights and well-being. It allows investors to answer the question, "How does the strategy contribute to wider ecosystem that influence children's rights and well-being?"

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Investors should identify both potential investible opportunities and investor contribution activities relevant to addressing the impact challenge and achieving the impact goal identified in the Child-Lens Impact Thesis Template *(pg. 11)* at each level of this worksheet. Please refer to the CLIF, *Section II: What is Child-lens Investing?* for detailed analysis of the "whole child" concept.

Please note that investors are **not** expected to address all levels of the worksheet. They are encouraged to address levels in line with their characteristics and capabilities. After identifying activities, list accompanying impact outputs and/or near-term impact outcomes tied to each.

Policy & wider society	Investment or investor contribution creating the economic and policy conditions under which children can equitably access a possibility-rich future.	Identify relevant impact outputs and/or near-term impact outcomes.
Communities & social infrastructure	Investment or investor contribution enhancing community-level social and physical conditions enabling children to survive and thrive.	Identify relevant impact outputs and/or near-term impact outcomes.
Families & caregivers	Investment or investor contribution ensuring that those immediately responsible for children are equipped with conditions, resources, and opportunities necessary to promote and protect their rights and well-being.	Identify relevant impact outputs and/or near-term impact outcomes.
The individual child	Investment or investor contribution facilitating children's ability to safely interact with the world around them and grow into healthy, capable, and autonomous adults.	Identify relevant impact outputs and/or near-term impact outcomes.

*Source: Template adapted from Bruckauf, Z. and Cook, S., "Child-entered Approach to Sustainable Development Goals in High-income Countries: Conceptual Issues and Monitoring Approaches" (2017).

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"WHOLE CHILD" WORKSHEET: RETHINK EDUCATION

RETHINK EDUCATION

Expanding on Rethink Education's Child-Lens Impact Thesis (pg. 12), the "Whole Child" Worksheet enabled deeper assessment of the strategy's impact on the various systems that affect children's rights and well-being. Metrics from the Child-Lens Metrics Bank were used to identify relevant impact outputs and outcomes for each level of the worksheet.

- Please note that while this example demonstrates how a strategy can address each level of the "whole child" – policy and wider society, communities and social infrastructure, families and caregivers, and the individual child – concentrating activities in one to three levels of the worksheet can be equally effective in promoting child outcomes.

LIFE COURSE CONSIDERATIONS: Rethink Education's investments target child outcomes throughout the life course (i.e., early childhood, middle childhood, and adolescence) and therefore require consideration of children's specialized needs at different stages.

	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES
Policy & wider society	Investments in companies that help apply emerging technologies (e.g., generative AI) to the Education context and working on research to advance the field.	Focus on efficacy and outcomes; e.g., measured improvement in learning or outcomes compared to baseline (RCT when possible).
Communities & social infrastructure	Investing in solutions that improve how schools manage resources (budgeting, scheduling, attendance) to improve educational delivery and the quality of teaching. Includes supports for teachers and curricula.	Better education delivery; e.g., $ allocated to direct instruction, learning outcomes.
Families & caregivers	Investing in upskilling and lifelong learning to improve family earnings. Investing in parent engagement tools that keep families invested in learning.	Increased wages for parents and caregivers.
The individual child	Investing in direct education intervention (literacy, numeracy) that helps children gain skills while pursuing their interests and experiencing joy.	Better educated children; pre- and post-assessment.

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SECTION 2

CHILD-LENS CONTRIBUTION FRAMEWORK

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PURPOSE

To support in developing investor contribution approaches intended to enhance the impact of investments on children's rights and well-being and contribute to the growth and success of the CLI market.

COMPONENT TOOLS

(Core Tool) Child-Lens Contribution Worksheet: Tool supporting investors in clarifying their level of and approach to contributing to positive child outcomes and child-lens market-building, including sample investor activities derived from global market landscaping findings.

Case study examples: QBE Insurance, Save the Children Australia Impact Investment Fund (SCA IIF)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Impact Management Project, "Investor Contribution in Public and Private Markets: Discussion Document."
- Impact Management Project, "A Guide to Classifying the Impact of an Investment."
- Brest, P; Gilson, Ronald, Wolfson, M., "How Investors Can (and Can't) Create Social Value" (2018).

Aligned standards and frameworks

Operating Principles for Impact Management | SDG Impact | IMPACT MANAGEMENT PROJECT

*Impact Frontiers is in the process of creating an "Investor Contribution 2.0". Working definitions can be found in "Investor Contribution Definitions & Strategies".

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CHILD-LENS CONTRIBUTION WORKSHEET

Adapted from the Impact Management Platform (IMP)'s four primary investor contribution strategies, this worksheet helps to clarify and organize investor contribution activities.

It supports investors in answering the following question: "How will the investment create positive child outcomes that otherwise would not happen?"

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Child-lens investors' contribution strategies may not address all four strategies described below. Rather they may utilize any combination– drawing from responses to the Self-Inventory: Child-Lens Goals and Parameters. Example activities below were derived from global market landscaping findings covered in the CLIF companion piece and are for illustrative purposes only.

CONTRIBUTION STRATEGY	ACTIVITIES
Signal that impact matters	**Examples:**
Leverage investor influence to socialize and mainstream the financial and impact opportunity in investing in children—contributing to the growth of the CLI market and field.	› Develop and disseminate best practices, lessons learned, and research to build the CLI investing field. › Leveraging institutional influence to advocate for the institution of child- and family-friendly policies at various levels (e.g., enterprise, local, national).
Engage actively	**Examples:**
Leverage investor networks, expertise, and other resources to enhance portfolio investments' child impact outcomes and influence business practices to advance children's best interests.	› Catalyze enterprises to make existing child-relevant solutions more accessible to those most vulnerable. › Provide technical and commercial assistance to emergent entrepreneurs in the development of child-relevant solutions and encourage them to share best practices and lessons learned among themselves. › *[LP-specific]* Encourage investees to implement a child-lens approach, identify as "child-lens investors," and share lessons learned and best practices among themselves.
Grow new or undersupplied markets	**Examples:**
Intentionally invest in companies advancing children's rights and well-being in ways that the market has not previously done.	› *[LP-specific]* Make an anchor investment in a new child-lens fund. › Provide financing with terms/in amounts that a child-focused enterprise or fund would not have otherwise obtained. › Support enterprises developing new solutions to child-relevant challenges overlooked by the market.
Provide flexible capital	**Examples**
Recognize that certain markets or enterprises with relevance to the rights and well-being of the most vulnerable/underserved children require the acceptance of a lower risk-adjusted return.	› Providing concessionary capital to generate evidence of the commercial viability of investing in high-need children. › Leveraging the varying risk-return profiles of different public and private capital providers to bring child-focused solutions to commercial viability. › Supporting the development of new investment products (e.g., bonds and fixed-income products) to mobilize the resources of smaller-scale private investors.

CHILD-LENS CONTRIBUTION WORKSHEET: QBE INSURANCE

Save the Children Australia Impact Investment Fund (SCA IIF)

FUND OVERVIEW
Save the Children Australia Impact Investment Fund (SCA IIF) provides private equity and loans to startups and social enterprises aligned to Save's mission of ensuring that all children can exercise their right to grow up healthy, educated, and safe. Capital, as well as Save's extensive on-the-ground network, is deployed to scale up revenue-generating solutions with positive child impact at the core of their missions. SCA IIF is Save the Children Australia's inaugural impact investing vehicle. Its success has resulted in the launch of several other funds and the formation of Save the Children Global Ventures (SCGV), who are designing their own proprietary child-lens assessment framework and contributed to the refinement of the CLIF.

AREAS OF INVESTMENT	DEMOGRAPHIC/GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS:
EdTech, E-health,[1] and Child Protection.	Global, with an emphasis on Australia (where the fund is domiciled); targeting underserved children and families.

THE ROLE OF QBE INSURANCE:
QBE Insurance is the anchor investor in this first-time, child-centered fund – providing catalytic capital to launch a new child-lens fund. In additional to investing this capital, QBE has taken an active role as an investor in the fund by providing SCA IIF staff commercial investment expertise through an investment committee seat.

[1]E-health refers to healthcare services provided electronically via the internet

COMMENTS

The Contribution Worksheet describes QBE's investor contributions — not Save the Children's — while the illustrative Impact Strategy describes the SCA IIF

Following the results of SCA IIF, Save the Children launched a Global Ventures arm and is currently raising capital for two larger funds. The new funds are supported by the demonstrated commercial viability of SCA II and the outsized impact that can be achieved through emergent child-lens strategies.

CONTRIBUTION STRATEGY	QBE ACTIVITIES
Signal that impact matters	› Investing in a novel fund aiming to support enterprises developing new solutions for underserved children and their families › Releasing press statements to amplify the visibility of SCA IIF in the market and demonstrate its commercial viability
Engage actively	› Providing commercial investment expertise to boost financial return performance through rigorous due diligence › Using investment committee seat to ensure intended positive child outcomes and financial goals are simultaneously achieved
Grow new or undersupplied markets	› Making an anchor investment in a first-time child-lens fund, enabling launch of a second, larger fund › Supplying financing with terms or in amounts that an emergent child- lens enterprise otherwise would not have been likely to obtain
Provide flexible capital	› Providing patient equity to generate evidence of the commercial viability of investing in high-need children

*Source: Contribution strategies derived from the Impact Management Project's "A Guide to Classifying the Impact of an Investment."

SECTION 3

CHILD-LENS Impact and ESG Assessment

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PURPOSE

To enable systematic assessment of an investment's potential impact on children – inclusive of both ESG and impact risk analysis – during the due diligence stage. Investors may use the below tools to diligence transactions, inform portfolio company engagement strategies, and assess their own performance in advancing children's best interests.

Note: While some tools provided include scoring systems, these scores do not represent an absolute judgement on quality. They instead allow investors to more precisely and consistently articulate how an investment contributes to children's rights and well-being.

COMPONENT TOOLS

(Core) Child-Lens Risk Due Diligence Questionnaire (Excel-based): Child-lens due diligence questionnaire that may be used on its own or inserted within larger investor DDQs to support rigorous CLI ESG and impact risk assessment.

(Core) Child-Lens Impact Assessment Framework: Series of prompts with an optional rating system to support robust diligence of prospective investments on how they may produce child outcomes across the Five Dimensions of Impact.

Case study: Elevar Equity

(Enhancing) Child-Lens Impact Risk Matrix: Tool facilitating holistic assessment of transactions' impact risks, as they pertain to children.

Case study: Elevar Equity

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Impact Frontiers, "Norms: Five Dimensions of Impact" and "Five Dimensions of Impact: Risk"
- UNICEF Publications
- The Lancet, Child & Adolescent Health
- Harvard University, Center on the Developing Child
- Sustainalytics, UNICEF, "Investor Guidance on Integrating Children's Rights into Investment Decision Making"
- Global Child Forum, "A Workbook for Businesses: How to Implement a Children's Rights Perspective"
- UN Global Company, UNICEF, "Family-Friendly Workplaces: Policies and Practices to Advance Decent Work in Supply Chains"

Aligned standards and frameworks

Operating Principles for Impact Management | IMPACT MANAGEMENT PROJECT | SDG Impact | United Nations Global Compact | Children's Rights and Business Principles | PRI Principles for Responsible Investment | UNITED NATIONS GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS

CHILD-LENS RISK DUE DILIGENCE QUESTIONAIRE

(Excel-based tool)

The Child-lens Risk Due Diligence Questionnaire (DDQ) supports investors in assessing prospective investments' practices, policies, and procedures as they relate to child outcomes from both the ESG and impact investing perspectives. Designed to be readily appended to investors' existing DDQs, this tool supports investors in answering, "How may the prospective investment positively or negatively contribute to the advancement of child outcomes?" Note that this list is not exhaustive of the full extent of considerations that are material to CLI.

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Investors across the child-lens taxonomy should download the .xls tool and either utilize it as is or append the questions to their existing DDQs. Mark "N/A" for questions that may not be relevant to the prospective investee and consider supporting investees in filling out the remainder of questions with materials that are already on-hand (e.g., investor pitch decks).

Investors may wish to inform prospective investees that "N/A" answers are not grounds for rejection and that they may choose to elaborate on plans to implement relevant policies and procedures if not currently in place.

Used in conjunction with other tools (e.g., the "*Child-lens contribution strategy*," "*Child-lens impact thesis*"), investors may use this tool to develop transaction-specific value-creation plans, enhancing their overall child-lens impact contribution.

Investors seeking to conduct more in-depth assessments of the way their operations and those of their portfolio companies affect child rights may refer to UNICEF's Tool for Investors on Integrating Children's Rights Into ESG Assessment and/or the Global Child Forum Children's Rights and Business Workbook: Working Templates.

CHILD-LENS RISK DUE DILIGENCE QUESTIONNAIRE - Selected examples

Instructions: The following child and caregiver rights questions may be appended to existing investor due diligence questionnaires to support comprehensive child-lens ESG and impact assessment of and active engagement with investees. Note that some questions may only be relevant to certain investees. Therefore, investors may exercise discretion in excluding questions. Investees' inability to answer questions in this questionnaire is not intended to disqualify investment, but instead spur follow-on conversation and the extension of investor support to implement appropriate policies, processes, and procedures promoting positive child outcomes. Additionally, investees can elaborate on plans to implement policies and procesees if not currently in place.

Management strategy, governance, and corporate leadership

1. Does your organization pledge to respect child-related standards or key international conventions and instruments related to children when conducting business and/or investment operations?

2. Has your organization issued a corporate or organizational commitment promoting child rights and well-being?

3. Are children enumerated as key stakeholders in other governance policies (e.g., code of conduct, marketing policies)?

Assessment, management, transparency, and reporting
1. How do your organization's products, services, and/or investment activities benefit children? To what extent are these children vulnerable or underserved?
2. Please describe the ways by which your organization and its operations or investment activities may impact children. What specific stakeholders may be affected, and in what areas?
3. Has your organization formalized an impact policy? If so, then please enumerate the key SDGs (and where possible, SDG targets) that your activities contribute to and explain how.

Family-friendly workplace policies and practices
1. Does your organization offer working conditions consistent with the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Core Conventions and/or the ILO Basic Terms and Conditions of Employment?
2. Has your organization had any compliance issues related to labor practices? If so, please describe whether they have resolved been remediated and whether your organization is currently in compliance.
3. Has your organization adopted any initiatives, policies, or programmes, that contribute to the well-being of your employees' children (e.g., parental policies, day nurseries, and corporate crèches, etc.). Are these policies enforced within your supply chain or investment portfolio?
4. To what extent has your organization integrated child rights and/or family-friendly policies into your supply chain standards

*Sources: Sustainalytics and UNICEF, "Investor Guidance on Integrating Children's Rights into Investment Decision Making"; Global Child Forum, "A Workbook for Businesses: How to Implement a Children's Rights Perspective."

CHILD-LENS IMPACT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

During the due diligence stage, investors may utilize the following Assessment Framework to systematically analyze, and optionally score, how individual transactions may achieve positive child outcomes across the Five Dimensions of Impact. Additionally, the Assessment Framework supports the Child-Lens Risk DDQ in creating a robust investment-level risk mitigation and management plan. Analysis and scoring along each dimension of impact will clarify: "How exactly is the prospective investment creating impact for children?"

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Answer each prompt using available materials (e.g., pitch decks, impact reports) and responses from the Child-Lens Risk DDQ. Supplement analysis with additional research as needed. Once completed, cross-reference responses with the Child-Lens Impact Thesis and Child-Lens Goals and Parameters in Section 1 to ensure the investment's strategic alignment.

If using ratings, prior to assessment investors should define for themselves what characteristics merit a high/medium/low scoring in each dimension and sub-dimension. Investors may decide on minimum aggregate or individual dimension-level thresholds to qualify or disqualify investments.

Investors may aggregate dimension-level scores into a single transaction-level score based on equal or tailored weighting. Provide rationale, supplemented with external evidence, for each score.

	GUIDING PROMPTS	RATING[1]	RATIONALE
WHO	› To what extent does the investment benefit children - either directly or indirectly through its activities? › To what extent are the children who will directly or indirectly benefit from the investment's activities vulnerable?	Low ■ ■ ■ ■ High	**EXAMPLES**: Low: Children may benefit indirectly but are note intentionally considered High: Children are primary beneficiaries
WHAT	› To what extent is there evidence that the investment can enable children to survive and/or thrive? › To what extent does the investment respond to a pressing need for children in their respective context(s)?	Low ■ ■ ■ ■ High	**EXAMPLES**: Low: Limited evidence of the impact on children High: Company core KPIs directly tied to positive child outcomes
HOW MUCH	› What is the degree of impact that the investment is expected to have on children? › To what extent is the investment expected to impact a wide number of children?	Low ■ ■ ■ ■ High	**EXAMPLES**: Low: Small % of children experiencing the challenge will receive marginal benefits High: Large % of children experiencing the challenge will receive substantial benefits
CONTRIBUTION	› To what extent is the investment catalyzing outcomes that would not materialize otherwise? › To what extent can investor capabilities be leveraged to further the investment's positive impact on children?	Low ■ ■ ■ ■ High	**EXAMPLES**: Low: Outcomes would likely materialize regardless High: Investment catalyzes outcomes that would likely not materialize otherwise
RISK	› What is the risk to children that the impact does not occur as expected?	Low ■ ■ ■ ■ High	**EXAMPLES**: Low: Material risks, no mitigation strategy High: Limited risks, robust mitigation strategy

TIPS

[1]Ratings listed here are for illustrative purposes only. While some investors may find the use of ratings by dimension a useful analytical supplement to the qualitative "Rationale," others may opt to only provide qualitative responses.

[2]A deeper child-lens risk assessment is available in Tool 3: Impact Risk Matrix

*Ratings listed here are for illustrative purposes only. While some investors may find the use of ratings by dimension a useful analytical supplement to the qualitative "Rationale," others may opt to only provide qualitative responses.

*A deeper child-lens risk assessment is available in Tool 3: Impact Risk Matrix.

CHILD-LENS IMPACT ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK: ELEVAR EQUITY

ELEVAR EQUITY

Sample transaction from Elevar Equity

COMPANY OVERVIEW	IMPACT THESIS AND STRATEGY
SASB sector classification	**Investment goal**
Services – Education	Empower India by making excellent education accessible and affordable to children in underserved communities through transforming schools with its integrated 'school in a box' solution.
Geography	**Target beneficiaries**
Headquartered and operating in India, LEAD directly impacts the education of 1 million students in 2,500+ schools across India.	Children in underserved communities across India.
Product/service description	**Outcomes**
Provides quality and affordable private school education to children in India with a focus on disruptive school management solutions (e.g., 'school in a box' solution).	Increase Student Confidence Index scores[1]; Improved learning outcomes for students
	Outputs
	Average Student Test Score (IRIS+ PI9024); Educational Resource Financed by Loan Provided to Student Ratio (***Adapted:*** IRIS+ PI4279); School Enrollment: Low Income (IRIS+ PI2173)
	SDG(s) targeted
	4. Quality Education

[1]The Student Confidence Index is LEAD's approach to measuring confidence levels of school students across regions and cities in India, and by various demographics and other variable factors. For additional information, please refer to LEAD's "India's First Student Confidence Index" report.

Sources: Elevar Equity, "Building Impactful & Enduring Companies: 2022 Impact Report;" Elevar Equity, "15 Years of Elevar: Impact Report 2021."

	RATING	RATIONALE
WHO	Low – High	› LEAD currently only targets children in schools deemed affordable private schools. › LEAD segments schools to measure how many of them charge <$500 (INR 40K) per student per annum for tuition. Opportunity to transform 1.5 million schools who currently lack adequate resources to reach potentially 266 million students.
WHAT	Low – High	› The lack of access to reasonable quality education in K-12 continues to impact the development of India's working population, leading to a massive inequity in demand and supply of skilled labor. › LEAD's mission is to ensure that children in underserved communities have access to quality education that is both affordable and accessible. LEAD monitors the annual progress of each child's learning abilities and establishes minimum improvement targets.
HOW MUCH	Low – High	› LEAD's 'school-in-a-box' solution for affordable private schools covers various aspects of school management and aims to empower rather than replace key stakeholders, such as teachers and school owners. Depth can be measured through the retention rate of existing schools in the academic year. › Measure the number of cumulative students reached since initial investment. › 3-year contracts are signed with each school, ensuring that the program is rolled out for all children over a multiple year period.
CONTRIBUTION	Low – High	› Source additional investors to help fund expansion of operations; provide support and guidance in building an effective leadership team; assist with developing an organic and inorganic growth strategy; and help create a child-protection practice to impact all schools served. › The LEAD solution provides a full-stack offering for schools to impact learning outcomes, ensuring more efficiently run schools and the most up-to-date curriculum.

Note: As part of an inaugural CLI Investor Cohort experience tailored to private equity and debt fund managers, Elevar completed a hypothetical case study exercise in which they utilized the Child-Lens Impact Assessment Framework to enhance their existing Impact Measurement Framework – as established with the Elevar Method.

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CHILD-LENS IMPACT RISK MATRIX

The Child-Lens Impact Risk Matrix facilitates disciplined assessment of prospective investments' potential impact risks. Adapted from the IMP's nine types of impact risks, the matrix supports investors in answering, "What is the risk that the investment may not achieve its intended impact on children?"

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Utilizing the responses to the Child-Lens Risk DDQ as well as results from the Child-Lens Impact Assessment Framework and other due diligence activities conducted, rate the likelihood of each of the following seven impact risks materializing as low (immaterial), medium (material but readily mitigated), or high (material with mitigation strategy needed). Provide detailed commentary in support of the risk rating and steps for mitigation for "medium" and "high" scores.

This tool is intended to be adapted to investors specific contexts. Some investors may assess investments for all impact risks, while others may select and/or modify those that are most relevant to their situation.

IMPACT RISK	WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT...	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	COMMENTARY
Alignment	The investment will eventually deviate from producing impacts relevant to child well-being?				Justify the risk rating and mitigation strategy for medium and high scores
Duration	The investment's benefits for children will be unenduring or not administered long enough to be fully realized?				Justify the risk rating and mitigation strategy for medium and high scores
Execution	The investment will not be operationalized effectively to deliver its intended benefits for children?				Justify the risk rating and mitigation strategy for medium and high scores
External	External factors (e.g., political, environmental) disrupting the investment's ability to positively impact children?				Justify the risk rating and mitigation strategy for medium and high scores
Evidence	The investment will not be able to collect sufficiently high-quality data to understand the impact it is having on children?				Justify the risk rating and mitigation strategy for medium and high scores
Stakeholder participation	The investment may not sufficiently consider the perspectives of children, to the extent of its ability?				Justify the risk rating and mitigation strategy for medium and high scores
Unexpected Impact	The investment may produce negative unintended consequences for children?				Justify the risk rating and mitigation strategy for medium and high scores

*Note: Scoring in Matrix is for illustrative purposes only.

*Source: Adapted from Impact Management Project's impact risks. "Endurance" and "drop-off" risk were combined into a single risk category, "duration," in this tool due to their interconnected nature. Additionally, "efficiency" risk was eliminated from this tool to account for practical challenges in determining whether impact can be achieved with fewer resources – particularly for hard-to-reach and/or highly underserved communities.

CHILD-LENS IMPACT RISK MATRIX: ELEVAR EQUITY

ELEVAR EQUITY

Sample transaction from Elevar Equity (continued)

Continuing the sample transaction analyzed in the Child-Lens Impact Assessment Framework on pg. 21, Elevar expands its risk analysis using the Child-Lens Impact Risk Matrix.

IMPACT RISK	WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT...	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	COMMENTARY
Alignment	The investment will eventually deviate from producing impacts relevant to child well- being?	■			Company business model focused on solving educational outcomes for children.
Duration	The investment's benefits for children will be unenduring or not administered long enough to be fully realized?	■			The sustainability of the business model is hinged on the continuation of serving APS.
Execution	The investment will not be operationalized effectively to deliver its intended benefits for children?	■			The founders and management team have been built to scale LEAD to reach millions of children.
External	External factors (e.g., political, environmental) disrupting the investment's ability to positively impact children?		■		There are macro events that could challenge the delivery of education to children.
Evidence	The investment will not be able to collect sufficiently high-quality data to understand the impact it is having on children?	■			The company's SaaS platform embedded within its offerings is continuously measuring the impacts to children as well as measuring the teacher's capabilities.
Stakeholder participation	The investment may not sufficiently consider the perspectives of children, to the extent of its ability?	■			There is continuous data, messaging and engagement with the children, teachers, school owners and parents on children needs and learning capabilities.
Unexpected Impact	The investment may produce negative unintended consequences for children?	■			If there are any anticipated negative consequences, the founders of LEAD are actively thinking about ways to ameliorate these challenges.

Note: Elevar's exercise of applying the Child-Lens Impact Risk Matrix retroactively to portfolio company LEAD demonstrated the opportunity to enhance their current internal risk assessment framework by including children, specifically affected stakeholders, and beneficiaries (direct and/or indirect) for each business model.

SECTION 4

CHILD-LENS Measurement Approach

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PURPOSE

To support investors in selecting, monitoring, and reporting on metrics relevant to measuring their impact on child outcomes – leveraging insights from existing investor best practices and child-focused literature.

COMPONENT TOOLS

(Core Tool) Child-Lens Metrics Bank (Excel-based): Ready-to-use metrics aligned to the SDGs, drawing from existing industry-leading catalogs and leading CLI practitioners.

Note: The Metrics Bank does not comprise an exhaustive or definitive list of relevant metrics. The intention is for UNICEF to update the Metrics Bank on an ongoing basis.

Case study example: Calvert Impact

(Enhancing Tool) Child-Lens Measurement Principles: Overarching key principles for investors to consider in developing a CLI Measurement Approach and custom metrics.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- White, H. and Sabarwal, S., "Developing and Selecting Measures of Child Well-Being"
- UNICEF, "Measuring and Monitoring Child Poverty"
- U.S. Department of State, "A good start with S.M.A.R.T. (indicators)

Aligned standards and frameworks

IMPACT MANAGEMENT PROJECT
Operating Principles for Impact Management
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
SDG Impact
IRIS+

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CHILD-LENS METRICS BANK

(Excel-based)

The Child-Lens Metrics Bank compiles relevant existing metrics from leading impact investing and child advocacy sources, including, CLI practitioners, to support child-lens investors in identifying appropriate key performance indicators (KPIs). While a non-exhaustive list, the *Metrics Bank* serves as a starting point for investors to answer the question, "Are investor activities achieving their targeted child outcomes?"

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE

Investors may refer to the Child-Lens Metrics Bank at various stages of the investment process.
A downloadable .xls is available here.

When constructing a child-lens impact thesis, investors may reference the Metrics Bank to identify indicators that logically flow from the defined investor activities and are connected to the larger impact goal. If utilizing the "Whole Child" Worksheet, identify appropriate indicators calibrated to each activity level.

In the context of investment-level monitoring, collaborate with the prospective investee to identify child-lens indicators that are relevant and measurable, utilizing the Metrics Bank as a reference.

For expanded definitions and usage guidance, please refer to each indicator's respective source(s) and IDs.

CHILD-LENS METRICS BANK - Selected examples

ALIGNED SDG(S)	INDICATOR DESCRIPTION	SOURCE	INDICATOR ID (IF APPLICABLE)
06. Clean water and sanitation	Access to Improved Water/Sanitation	WHO, UNICEF	
02. Zero hunger	Access to Safe and Nutritional Food Products	UN (Adapted)	
05. Gender equality	Adolescent Birth Rate/Access to Contraceptives	UNICEF	
04. Quality education	Amount of Education Loans Provided to Child Learners (by Demographic)	Bespoke	
03. Good health and well-being; 13. Climate action	Amount of Insurance Benefits Distributed for Disaster Relief to Households with Children	Bespoke	
06. Clean water and sanitation	Availability of Basic Services/Facilities	IRIS+	PI0617
01. No poverty	Average Insurance Premium: Client Households (with Children)	IRIS+	PI1934 (Adapted)
04. Quality education	Caregivers Employed:Professionals	IRIS+	P19024

Note: Special thanks to Calvert Impact for their contributions to the Child-Lens Metrics Bank.

CHILD-INTEGRATED METRICS BANK: CALVERT IMPACT

As part of their CLI learning journey, Calvert Impact has added new child-related metrics to their database and has begun collecting more child-relevant data from portfolio partners during their annual data collection process. Drawing from the Child-lens Metrics Bank, Calvert Impact's metrics are primarily derived from the IRIS+ catalog, either in full or adapted, with inclusion of some custom metrics that are specific to Impact's strategy.

METRICS	SOURCE	DEFINITION
Child-lens Investing Strategy: Impact on Children*	Bespoke	Indicates whether the organization implements a strategy that considers or acknowledges child- related factors to advance positive child outcomes while also minimizing child harm. Footnote the details of the strategy, the type of child-related outcomes the organization focuses on, and how the strategy is being implemented.
Client Households: With Children*	IRIS+ P17318 (Adapted)	Number of unique households with children that were clients of the organization during the reporting period.
Number of Beneficiaries: Children*	IRIS+ P14060 (Adapted)	Number of total end users/beneficiaries, who are children, during the reporting period. Can be an estimate.
Number of Children Gaining Access to Improved Drinking Water*	IRIS+ P12822 (Adapted)	Number of children that gained access to improved sources of drinking water as a result of investments during the reporting period.
Number of Children with Improved Access to Clean Energy*	IRIS+ P12822 (Adapted)	Number of children end users with improved access to clean energy as a result of the investment(s) during the reporting period. Note these are new end-users during the reporting period.
Number of Children with New Access to Housing*	IRIS+ P12640 (Adapted)	Number of new children newly housed (affordably or market-rate) or projected to be housed in single- family or multi-family dwellings as a result of new construction, loans, repairs, or remodeling resulting from investments made by the organization during the reporting period.
Area of Schools, Childcare, or Other Educational Facilities Financed (Area of Community Facilities Financed)	IRIS+ P14765	Area of community facilities projected to be constructed or preserved as a result of investments made by the organization during the reporting period.
Non-financial Support or Supportive Services Offered	IRIS+ PD9681	Describes the type of non-financial support the organization offers to clients, if applicable. Examples of services to footnote include support on topics such as: education (in financial literacy, workplace safety, basic health and nutrition, for children and youth, etc.), enterprise services (business development services, enterprise skills development, etc.), female empowerment (women's leadership training, women's rights education and gender equality training, counseling and legal services for female victims of violence, etc.), health (basic medical services, special medical services for women and children, etc.), and other non-financial services.
Number of Community Facilities Financed: Schools, Childcare, or Other Educational Facilities	IRIS+ P18007	Number of schools financed as a result of the organization's investment(s) during the reporting period. (Number of community facilities projected to be built, renovated, or purchased as a result of investments made by the organization during the reporting period.)

*Indicates new child-related metrics requested for impact reporting purposes in 2023.

CHILD-LENS MEASUREMENT PRINCIPLES

Understanding that a range of KPIs may be applicable to diverse child-lens strategies, the following Child-lens Measurement Principles were designed to support selection of appropriate metrics, as well as to develop robust monitoring, measurement, and reporting approaches. These Measurement Principles are supplemental to widely accepted guidance on creating SMART KPIs. They help investors answer the question, "To what extent will the Measurement Approach effectively and ethically measure child outcomes?"

PRINCIPLES	CONSIDERATIONS
Alignment	Investors should prioritize drawing relevant KPIs from widely accepted impact investing (e.g., IRIS+) and UN indicator catalogs (e.g., UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA). Investors should ensure consistency in types of data collected while also remaining adaptive as new child measurement best practices and standards emerge.
Proximity	To the extent possible, investors should establish indicators measuring direct child outcomes. However, recognizing the challenges of child data collection, investors may also select proxy output and outcome measures (e.g., community pollution density, weighted for children) to indirectly capture child impacts.
Transparency	Investors should clearly document data sources and calculation methodologies, including any underlying assumptions, relevant time horizons, and geographic information.
Participation	Investors should prioritize data openness and ethical stakeholder participation – particularly of youth – to overcome barriers to data collection, while simultaneously empowering stakeholder engagement and community responsibility over investment decisions.
Equity and Inclusion	Investors should disaggregate child-related metrics to the extent possible – accounting for geographical, social, ethnic, gender, and other identity and contextually specific factors. Disaggregation is essential to ensure measurement is as objective as possible, pinpoint inequities, and avoid the exclusion of particularly underserved and vulnerable child populations.
Protection	Investors should be particularly sensitive to ensure the safe, confidential, and ethical collection and safeguarding of child data. Investors should take the necessary precautions to set and maintain a high bar for ethical measurement and management.

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