

Working towards a  
**BETTER WORLD**

for all  
children



The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF upholds the Convention on the Rights of the Child and works with governments, corporates, civil society as well as individuals to ensure that children are given the best chance for survival, development and protection globally. Recognising that extractive industry operations may interact with some of the world's most vulnerable children, often with profound and diverse impacts, UNICEF is seeking opportunities to engage the sector on the realisation of children's rights.

One initiative UNICEF has developed is the Children's Rights and Business Principles (Principles) in collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact and Save the Children, building on the Guiding

Principles on Business and Human Rights. Since their release in 2012, the Principles have raised critical awareness of children and youth as vital stakeholders of businesses. UNICEF is working with different sectors including mining to have a better understanding of the application of the principles.

Last year UNICEF worked on a pilot project in the mining sector where initial findings indicated that many mining companies recognize children as 'vulnerable stakeholders'. It also found that institutions had little knowledge on how to define this vulnerability of children who live close to mining areas. Therefore UNICEF looks forward to engaging the mining sector on ways of identifying and addressing the positive and negative impact on children.

**UNICEF and the Corporate Sector**

UNICEF strongly believes in the power of corporate engagement and collaborative efforts in order to advance the rights and the development of children.

The organisation works closely with multi-national corporations, national companies and small- to medium-sized businesses to identify, design and implement alliances that leverage the strengths of the corporate sector on behalf of the world's children. In turn, UNICEF supports companies that aim to strengthen their commitment towards a positive contribution to the world's communities, environment and provide support to achieve their corporate social responsibilities, commitments to children and business objectives.

After all, the corporate sector thrives on what successful development work brings – access to a healthy educated workforce and consumers, as well as societal stability and peace.

**UNICEF in South Africa**

Since the dawn of democracy in South Africa in 1994, UNICEF has had a presence in the country, with offices in both Pretoria and Johannesburg.<sup>1</sup>

UNICEF supports the Government of South Africa in creating sustainable change for children with special focus on early childhood development, ending violence against children and promoting adolescent development through four programmes: (1) Quality Education and Adolescent Development; (2) Health and Nutrition; (3) Child Protection; and (4) Social Policy and Advocacy.

**About UNICEF Globally**

UNICEF is present in over 190 countries, as the world's leading advocate for children. With headquarters in New York and offices in most countries in every region, UNICEF staff are actively involved in promoting children's rights. UNICEF develops and manages child-sensitive and child-driven programmes from birth to early childhood through to adolescence.

The organisation is funded entirely by the voluntary contributions of individuals, businesses, foundations and governments. ♦

For more information on the Children's Rights & Business Principles, please visit: [www.unicef.org/csr](http://www.unicef.org/csr).

To find out about the work of UNICEF South Africa, please visit: [www.unicef.org/southafrica](http://www.unicef.org/southafrica)

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<sup>1</sup> The UNICEF South Africa office falls within the Eastern & Southern Africa region which comprises a total of 21 countries. The countries which are within this region are: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, , Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan (Republic of), Swaziland, Tanzania (United Republic of), Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.